

**WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

**2020-21 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES BOOK**

(PLEASE KEEP WITH YOUR RULES BOOK)

**WISCONSIN ADAPTATIONS TO NFHS RULES**

The 25-yard line procedure, as outlined in the WIAA materials, must be used to resolve all senior high contests (varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, and freshmen/sophomore) which are tied at the end of regulation play. (Note: There is no overtime provision for teams with only Grade 9 students.)

The following rule regarding the use of running time must be used: (1) After the first quarter, when the score differential reaches 35 points or more, coaches may mutually agree to implement the use of the running clock. (2) After the first half any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, beginning with the ensuing kickoff the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped.

The clock will run continuously except for the following situations when it will be stopped:

- (a) Timeouts charged to a team.
- (b) After a score.
- (c) Intermission between 3rd and 4th quarters.
- (d) Extended injury time outs.
- (e) Any time officials determine it is necessary for safety reasons.

Note: (a) Normal clock operating procedures resume when a team scores to make the differential less than 35 points in the third quarter. The running clock will be maintained in the fourth quarter even if the score differential goes below 35 points. (b) The use of this rule does not preclude the use of Rule 3-1-3 which reads: "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game may be terminated."

**REQUIRED NUMBER OF OFFICIALS**

- (1) Four WIAA licensed officials are required for all varsity interscholastic competition.
- (2) Four WIAA licensed officials are recommended for all non-varsity contests, but only three are required. NOTE: Five WIAA licensed officials will be used in all playoff games.

**STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS**

- (1) It is the responsibility of the host school to have the playing field and immediate sidelines completely enclosed by permanent or temporary fencing, or by a rope, for purposes of crowd control.
- (2) Non-varsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms which are now unapproved provided participant safety is not jeopardized.

**STATE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that a WIAA licensed official be used on the timepiece if the field clock is official.

**NONVARSITY TEAMS WITH ONLY GRADE 9 STUDENTS** - (1) The maximum length of quarters is twelve minutes. (2) Games must be terminated at the conclusion of regulation (four quarters) play. There is no over-time provision. (3) Four WIAA licensed officials are recommended, only three are required.

**CONCUSSION AND/OR UNCONSCIOUS PARTICIPANT** - No athlete shall return to play or practice on the same day of being diagnosed with a concussion. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day. Any athlete with a concussion must be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. Return to play must follow a step-wise protocol which includes provisions for delaying return to play based upon the return of any signs or symptoms. Any athlete deemed unconscious must have medical evaluation and clearance before being allowed to return to participation.

**COACHES MUST REPORT EJECTIONS** - See Football Season Regulations, Page 13.

**ACCLIMITAZATION RULES** - See Football Season Regulations Page 10-11.

**CONTACT RULES** - See Football Season Regulations Page 11.