

## **OSSAA 2020 Football Rules Considerations**

In support of the NFHS Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Football Editorial Committee offers the document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020 football season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

### **Return to Competition**

#### **1. FOOTBALL RULES CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **•TEAM BOX (Rules 1-2-3g)**

The team box may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines in order for more social-distancing space for the teams.

Maintain social distancing while in the team box.

DO not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment.

##### **BALL (Rule 1-3-2)**

The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest.

The ball holders should maintain social distancing during the contest.

##### **•FACE MASKS (Rule 1-5-a, 1-5-3c {4})**

Cloth face coverings are permissible.

Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest.

##### **•TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS (Rule 1-5-1d {5})**

##### **•GLOVES (Rule 1-5-2b)**

Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rules 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification.

##### **•STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS (Rule 1-7)**

Each state association may adopt other playing/administrative rules for football for the 2020 season that would decrease exposure to respiratory droplets and COVID-19.

##### **•CHARGE TIME-OUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)**

Any charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length.

The authorized conference for the charged time-out may take place between the 9- yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)

Each game official and player should have their own beverage container brought out to them on the field.

##### **•INTERMISSION BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING**

The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick.

## **1. PRE AND POST GAME CONSIDERATIONS**

Susp end pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions.

Susp end postgame protocol of shaking hands.

For any coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team.

Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintain social distancing.

No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.

Maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.

For the overtime procedure, please use the same procedure as used at the start of the contest for the coin toss.

## **1. OTHER ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FOOTBALL**

Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.

Maintain social distancing at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.

Everyone should have their own beverage container that is not shared.

Cloth face coverings are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.

Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.

Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.

If available, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.

**The link to the Football Rules Considerations that the NFHS has compiled to help everyone with the aspects of what this season might look like is on the OSSAA Arbiter Football page.**

## **NFHS 2020 020-21 Officials Considerations for Returning to Officiating**

In support of the Guidance for State Associations to Consider in Re-opening High School Athletics and Other Activities document released last month by the NFHS, the NFHS Officials Advisory Committee offers these considerations for state associations for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment. These considerations are meant to cover officials in all sports while keeping in mind that protocols are different in each sport and adjustments may need to be made.

### **Return to Competition**

#### **1. Uniform**

##### **a. *LEGAL UNIFORM***

- i. Long sleeves are permissible.  
Long pants are permissible.  
Undergarments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team.

##### ***OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT***

- ii. Air horns are permissible.  
Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
  - 1. Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
    - a. Fox 40 Mini  
Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone  
Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange  
Windsor - (3 tone) grey  
Check the market for other choices.
- iii. Cloth face coverings are permissible.  
Gloves are permissible.

**Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues.**

**This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.**

#### **1. Rules Consideration**

##### **a. *PREGAME CONFERENCE***

- i. Limit attendees to one official, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team; or speak with the team representatives in a separate meeting.
  - 1. Use of headsets with other crew members (if applicable).  
Script the conference to ensure consistency with both teams.  
Coin Toss – Head Referee and 2 captains.  
Move the location of the pregame conference to the center of the court/field.  
All individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet.  
Suspend handshakes prior to and following the pregame conference.  
Maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.  
Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet.  
Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the area designated for substituting.

b.

**OFFICIALS TABLE**

- i. Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space available at the table is a variable in determining the number allowed at the officials table.

1. **Pregame and Postgame Ceremony**

- a. Suspend pregame protocol of shaking during introductions.  
Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.

1. **Personal Responsibilities**

a. **TRAINING**

- i. Attend online meetings to review the rules for the coming year.  
Start physical training using online video or complete skills alone. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should be cleared by your medical provider prior to initiating an exercise program.

**COMPETITION**

a.

- i. If you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify the contracted school, your crew members, your assigner and stay at home.
  1. Take temperature in the morning and then again prior to leaving home/work for a contest.
    - a. Notify site administrator immediately if temperature is elevated above 100.3 or a level recommended by your local or state health department.

“Vulnerable individuals” are defined by CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to returning to officiating.

Communicate with school athletic administrator about school/corporation contest expectations.

Upon arrival at site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.

Travel – considerations should be given to travel policies.

Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel and equipment.

Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet while in the locker room and/or on the court/field.

Bring your own beverages.