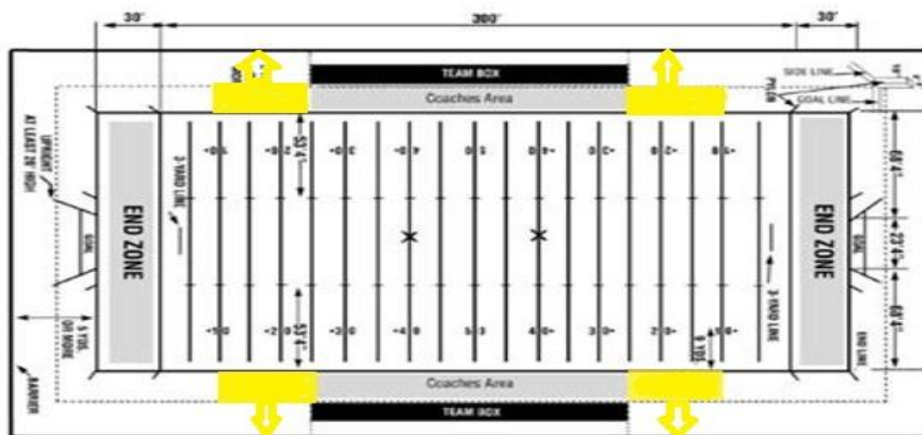


As week one began, the question came up about coaches and the restricted area. This was addressed back in 2023, but I will attempt to add some clarity. During Covid the Football Committee implemented a change to the coach's box. The change was that the Coaches and Team Box was extended to the 10-yard line. In 2023 there was a change which moved the Team Box back to the 25 but allowed the coaches box to remain at the 10 for one coach. However, 9-8-3 still applies. When the ball is made ready for play, the coach must be outside the restricted area. The highlighted area shows where the coaches may go. Allowing the coach to remain at the 10 outside the coaches is a courtesy. If it becomes an issue then the coach, once the ball has been made ready for play, must return to the team box. Please share this with your schools.



Another question I was asked was in reference to instant replay. Although the NFHS does allow states to use instant replay, the MPSSAA does not currently allow instant replay.

The Football Committee held a meeting on 9/9/25. There was more discussion on the issue of bands playing or artificial noise being played while the opposing team was on offense. This has been tabled until next season so that they can consult with other areas that have such a policy in place. As of now The MPSSAA has no policy that gives

us the authority to order a band to stop playing or the use of artificial noise being played. The only thing we can do is “request” via the site administrator that it be stopped.

Sportsmanship – After week one there were 30 ejection reports received for all fall sports. 17 of them were football related. Let’s continue to stress sportsmanship to the coaches during the coaches’ conference as well as the team captains during the coin toss. The MPSSAA is also requesting that we all participate in the Sportsmanship Survey. Please complete the survey after each contest.

Sportsmanship Experience Survey: The MPSSAA is also asking officials to report on their experience with schools they officiate. Officials should report both positive and negative experiences. Please use the link below.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7cbb29ba5c264276bc87a1f16dcb350a>

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Respect

The Game