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MPSSAA

Football Rules Interpreter.

Hello all. We have just completed week 7 of the season and the playoffs are quickly approaching. Before I go into a few reminders and updates I want to say that unfortunately some officials have suffered some in game injuries. Some of these injuries have ended the season for some and others unfortunately ended careers. I want to thank you for the time and dedication that you have given to your association, the schools you service and the MPSSAA. I wish you all a speedy recovery and hope to see you on the field again.

One of the things that I along with the MPSSAA deals with during the season is questions about ejections. I nor the MPSSAA will overturn an ejection. This is the current MPSSAA Policy:

During the regular season, a player disqualified under National Federation (NF) Rule 12-8-2 can be permitted to play in the next game, depending on the ejection policies of the local school system or conference. Starting with the first region contest and continuing throughout the tournament, a player who is disqualified under NFHS Rule 12-8 (Article 2, 3) shall be barred from participating in the team's next game. For interpretation refer to Misconduct Detrimental to a Tournament, see Rule .07C (11) in the MPSSAA Handbook.

If during the regular season, a team/school reaches out to your organization in reference to an ejection you may give a ruling on the ejection. An example is a player is ejected for throwing a punch. You later find out that the wrong player was ejected you may provide the school with that information. It will be up to them to determine if that player is eligible to participate in the next contest.

With that said, if we must eject a player or coach let's make sure we are 100% sure of our decision. All ejections must be reported to the MPSSAA via the following link,

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d3fb4231030f428598e6379d387f6961>

Mercy/Overtime – The mercy rule is not implemented until the 2 nd half. Once the 35-point differential is reached the clock will only stop in four instances. They are listed below. The Mercy rule will continue to

be in effect for the state tournament.

- a) A player is injured or apparently injured.
- b) A charged (team) time out.
- c) A score that reduces the point differential gets to less than 35 points.
- d) The end of the period.

Be reminded that Rule 3-1-1 allows a period or periods may be shortened by emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement, any remaining period may be shortened at any time, or the game terminated.

The MPSSAA overtime procedures can be found on the MPSSAA website under the officials/MPSSAA Football Interpreter Zone.

Just a few words on some issues/questions that have come up this season.

Targeting/Defenseless Player. We only need to reference Rule 2 and 9 to determine if we have a Targeting/Hit on a defenseless player foul. Determining if a foul is flagrant is in the judgement of the official.

After viewing game footage, I have noticed that we are missing a lot of blocks in the back and blindside blocks on kicking plays. Please reference your association's kicking mechanics so that we get these fouls. Penalty enforcement. There was a time where we wanted to resume the game as soon as possible after a penalty. However, this has resulted in some "mistakes". We must operate under the "Get The Call Right" theory. So, if need to take a little more time to talk yourselves through this please do.

Formations. Let's make sure we are communicating with each other be it verbal or non-verbal. One example is the LOS. How many players are in the backfield. I have received footage of us missing illegal formations (5 players in the backfield).

Lastly, let's continue to stress sportsmanship amongst the coaches and players. Homecoming and rivalry games are coming up. Things can get a little "chippy" during this time.

Let's finish up the regular season strong and good luck. I look forward to seeing you during the tournament.