

DIAA APPROVED POLICIES and PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures were approved by the DIAA Board of Directors and will be in effect for the current school year.

APPEAL OF ONE GAME SUSPENSION [Regulation 1007, 2.3.1]

In some sports, a coach or player can be ejected for a violation of the playing rules that is not sportsmanship related. A rules violation that is technical in nature and does not involve physical or verbal misconduct may not necessarily be a sportsmanship violation. If such an ejection occurs, the President/Incidents Coordinator of the officials' association or the Athletic Director/Principal of the offending school should notify the Executive Director as soon as possible. The Executive Director will investigate the incident and make a concerted effort to resolve the situation prior to the next contest for which the suspended coach or player would ordinarily be eligible. If, however, the Executive Director is unable to make a decision before the next contest, the suspension remains in effect. **Under no circumstances will a suspended coach or player be allowed to participate or even be present at the game site while his/her appeal is being adjudicated. The Executive Director's decision to uphold or rescind the one-game suspension is final.** If the Executive Director is out of town or unavailable to make a ruling, the appeal may be directed to the Chairperson of the DIAA Board of Directors.

BENCH PERSONNEL RULE

Any player who leaves the team bench area and enters the playing field, court, or mat during a fight or other physical confrontation and is identified by the game officials shall be ejected from the contest. Any player who commits such an offense and is ejected by the game officials shall also be ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all contests at any other level of competition in the interim. Additional penalties may be imposed if a player leaving the bench area becomes involved in the altercation.

HEAD COACH ENTERING PLAYING AREA DURING ALTERCATION

If a fight breaks out during the game, each **head coach** may immediately enter the playing area in order to restrain, separate, or remove any of his/her players who are involved in the altercation. **ONLY** the **head coaches** may enter the playing area without being beckoned by the contest officials.

CUMULATIVE UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT RULE

A coach who is guilty of repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct during a season shall be ineligible for the next contest. (at the same level of competition in which the most recent violation occurred and all contests at any other level of competition in the interim) When he/she has been assessed the penalties or committed the infractions listed below.

- Football - three (3) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties
- Soccer* - three (3) yellow cards
- Field Hockey - three (3) yellow cards or any combination of five (5) green & yellow cards.
- Volleyball - three (3) red cards or any combination of five (5) yellow & red cards
- Basketball - three (3) direct technical fouls
- Wrestling - three (3) unsportsmanlike conduct penalties
- Baseball - three (3) bench confinements
- Softball - three (3) bench confinements
- Boys' Lacrosse - three (3) unsportsmanlike conduct fouls; or any combination of five (5) conduct and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls
- Girls' Lacrosse - three (3) yellow cards

*Soccer has adopted a cumulative unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for players. Soccer Officials must report ALL cards (yellow and red) assessed to players & coaches

SCRIMMAGE LIMITS

The DIAA Board of Directors has limited the number of scrimmages to three competitions dates each season. Scrimmages may occur at any time during the sports season. Teams that qualify for a DIAA State Tournament, except football, are permitted a fourth scrimmage date in their sport. The opponent must be another state tournament team or a team that has not used all its allowable scrimmage dates.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF THUNDER AND/OR LIGHTNING POLICY

The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted the NFHS Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances as their official policy. Please refer to your sport specific Rule Book for these Guidelines or from the NFHS website at <http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/guidelines-on-handling-practices-and-contests-during-lightning-or-thunder-disturbances/> The basic premise of this Policy is as follows: The site management or the contest officials, if they have assumed control of the game, will stop the game at the first sound of thunder, or observation of cloud to ground lightning. The playing area will be cleared and all participants and spectators will be advised to seek shelter. The contest will not be resumed until **30 minutes** after the last clap of thunder was heard or flash of lightning was seen.

PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Contest officials shall not use any tobacco products from the time they arrive at the game site until after they depart from the game site when officiating any event sanctioned by the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association. Smoking on all state property (public schools) is prohibited by law.

REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS FOR MEDICAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS

Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage. The school must request a review of the proposed rule accommodation by contacting the DIAA office or that sport's rules interpreter. DIAA will rule on the legality of the accommodation, if approved the school needs to keep the approval letter on file and the Coach needs to take a copy of the approval letter with them to EVERY contest and surrender a copy of the letter to the Game Officials.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE GAME BALL(S) WITH NFHS MARK

Game balls used at the varsity level in all sports for which the NFHS publishes playing rules must be imprinted with the NFHS authenticating mark. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Tennis balls and golf balls are not required to be imprinted with the aforementioned mark.

If the team that is responsible for providing the game ball(s) does not have one that is properly marked, the officials should use the opposing team's ball(s) provided it is properly marked. If neither team has a ball(s) that is properly marked, the officials must allow the game to be played and then contact their Incident Coordinator who must, in turn, contact the DIAA office. Failure to use a ball(s) with the NFHS authenticating mark in a varsity game will result in the offending school being assessed a penalty as determined by the Executive Director.

USE OF INTRA-ORAL TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTOR

The wearing of a protective mouth guard shall be mandatory for anyone participating in the following sports: football, soccer, boy's lacrosse, wrestling, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and girl's lacrosse who is wearing a metal dental appliance such as braces. The intra-oral tooth and mouth protector (mouth guard) shall be of any readily visible color (Please refer to sport specific policies regarding the use of white or clear mouth guards.) It shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) and labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion and cover the posterior teeth with adequate thickness. Simply stated; if an athlete has metal braces, he/she must wear a top and bottom mouth guard.

Revised 11/2017

DIAA Water Break Stoppage Policy for Game Competition

In continuous play sports such as soccer, field hockey, and girls' lacrosse, when the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature [WBGT] reaches 89.6 degrees, or the combination of temperature and humidity equals 160 when added together, a water break shall be given, at the midway point of each half {20 minutes for soccer, 15 minutes for field hockey and 12.5 minutes for Girls' Lacrosse}. These breaks shall be a minimum of a 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes. Referees will retain the right to enact the policy as they feel conditions may warrant.

Stoppages shall be called using the following procedure:

- The Policy will be announced in the Pre-Game Meeting to Coaches so they know to expect the stoppage.
- The stoppage will be called as close to the midway point in time as possible.
- The ball must be in the attacking team's defensive half.
- The team in possession must not be in an attack/scoring situation.
- After a goal would be the optimum time.

Strongly Suggested stoppage points are as follows:

Soccer

- After a goal
- A throw in from the attacking team's defensive half
- Before a goal kick

Field Hockey

- After a goal
- Penalty Corner
- 16yard hit coming out of the circle
- Free hit by Defense in their half of the field

Girls' Lacrosse

- After a goal
- 8 meter free possession
- A throw by the defense in their half of the field
- Free position by the defense in their half of the field

STATE ASSOCIATION (DIAA) ADOPTION OF NFHS PLAYING RULES

DIAA BASKETBALL RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

1-12-1 Note By state high school association adoption, either legal-size ball may be used for boys' junior high school competition.

The DIAA Board of Directors has not taken any action on this provision and consequently, the basketball that is used in boys' high school competition will also be used in boys' middle/junior high school competition.

1-13 Note: Article 1. The location of each team's bench shall be designated by game management. It is recommended that the benches for team members and coaches of both teams be placed along that side of the court on which the scorers' and timers' table is located.

Article 2. The coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorers' and timers' table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line 28 feet from the end line towards the division line. At this point, a line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box going towards the end line. These lines shall be located off the court and be 2 inches wide. The same directions should be followed for the other side of the scorer's and timer's table.

Note: State associations may alter the length and placement of the 28 foot (maximum) coaching box

The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the use of the coaching box for varsity and subvarsity competition. However, if one team's coaching box is not marked or is improperly marked, neither team will be permitted to use the coaching box.

The following guidelines will be in effect for the 2017-2018 season with regards to the placement of the coaching box:

- 1. If the scorers' table is in the center of the court: Measure 14 ft. from the endline and put one line outside the playing surface. Then measure 28 ft. from the endline and put a second line outside the playing surface. See Rule 1-13 above for the required width and color of the lines.*
- 2. If the scorers' table is not in the center of the court: At the end of the court where the scorers' table is located, measure 4 ft. from the end of the table toward the endline and place one line outside the playing surface. Then measure 14 ft. from that line toward the endline and place a second line outside the playing surface. The other end of the court will have a regular coaching box (14 ft. to 28 ft. from the endline).*
- 3. If the team bench is away from the coaching box: A 14-foot coaching box which does not have the regular 14 ft. to 28 ft. boundaries may be placed in front of the team bench. The box cannot be any farther than 28 ft. from the endline or any closer than 4 ft. to the end of the scorers' table. This coaching box exception should be approved by the DIAA Executive Director, the DIAA Interpreter or either IAABO Board.*

2-2-1 Note A state association may permit game or replay officials to use a replay monitor during state championship series contests to determine if a scored goal at the expiration of time in the fourth quarter or any overtime period (0:00 on the game clock) should be counted, and if so, determine if it is a two-point or a three-point goal.

The DIAA Board of Directors has NOT taken any action on this provision, consequently replay devices are NOT authorized for use by officials during state championship series games.

2-4-3 Note A state association may authorize the use of supplementary equipment to aid in game administration.

The DIAA Board of Directors has NOT taken any action on this provision, consequently the use of supplementary equipment is NOT approved for use by officials.

3-4-2 c By state association adoption, one commemorative/memorial patch may be worn on the jersey. The patch shall not exceed 4 square inches on the front and not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in width excluding the border.

Requests to wear a commemorative or memorial patch on the jersey must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.

3-5-1 Note Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter (Layne Drexel) or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a game with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each game in which the player is in uniform.

3-5-4 Exception: State associations may on an individual basis permit a player to participate while wearing a head covering if it meets the following criteria:

a. For medical or cosmetic reasons - In the event a participant is required by a licensed medical physician to cover his/her head with a covering or wrap, the physician's statement is required before the state association can approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play.

If a student is required to wear a head covering for medical or cosmetic reasons, the student's athletic director should forward the physician's statement to the Executive Director after which the same procedure described in Rule 3-5-1 Note above will be initiated.

b. For religious reasons - In the event there is documented evidence provided to the state association that a participant may not expose his/her uncovered head, the state association may approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play.

If a student desires to wear a head covering for religious reasons, the student's athletic director should forward a written request to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director approves the request, the same procedure used in Rule 3-5-1 Note above will be initiated.

5-5 Note: A state association by adoption may institute a running clock when a specified point differential is reached at a specified time in the game.

The DIAA Board has authorized the use of a running clock when at the end of the third quarter, or at any time during the fourth quarter, one team is ahead by 35 points or more, the remainder of the game shall be played with a running clock, stopping only for timeouts, injuries, technical

fouls, and disqualifications. If the losing team reduces the score to 25 or fewer points, the clock will be stopped in the usual manner unless a 35 point differential occurs again, at which time the clock will again run. This rule governs all regular season school games at all levels, middle school through high school varsity. This rule will NOT be used during the DIAA State Tournament.

5-11-1 Note: State associations may determine the number of electronic media time-outs for games which are transmitted and may reduce the number of charged time-outs.

The DIAA Board of Directors has NOT authorized the reduction of charged time-outs due to the scheduling of television/radio time-outs during either regular season or state tournament games. Therefore, television/radio time-outs are permitted only if each team receives the number of full-length and 30-second time-outs stipulated in Rule 5-11-1.

DIAA SWIMMING AND DIVING RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

- 3-1-2(d) Unless state association policy determines otherwise, unlimited team entries shall be permitted at invitational, triangular and non-varsity meets. However, the individual entry rule shall be followed(3-2-1) .

There is no DIAA policy that prohibits unlimited team entries at invitational and subvarsity meets.

- 3-2-1 Unless state association policy determines otherwise:
(a) exhibition competitors are permitted. An exhibition swim/dive shall count as one of the four allowed entries, does not score points, but may count as a qualifying time and is subject to disqualification;
(b) pentathlon-type meets may be conducted with unlimited individual entries.

There is no DIAA policy that prohibits exhibition competitors or unlimited individual entries in pentathlon meets.

- 3-2-3 Note: By state association adoption, schools may enter their relay teams without individual names. It shall not count as an entry unless the competitor actually competes in the event. Any individual on the team may swim in the prelims, swim-offs and/or finals provided he/she does not exceed the permitted entries for the meet.

The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action on this provision. Consequently, coaches must designate the individuals (maximum of eight) who may be competing as members of a relay team.

- 3-3-4 Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing ruled to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter (Fred Killian) or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a meet with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each meet in which the player is competing.

- 5-1-1 Note: By state association adoption:
(a) these events may only be modified for junior varsity and invitational competition;
(b) order of events may be modified for state championships.

The DIAA Board of Directors has taken no action on this provision. Therefore, the order of events specified in Rule 5-1-1 may not be modified for junior varsity, invitational, or state championship competition.

- 5-1-3 In championship meets, by state association adoption, the diving event may be the first event with a brief warmup in the water prior to the medley relay. Prior to the 100 yard butterfly, there shall be a break of at least 15 minutes with at least 10 minutes warmup in the water.

The DIAA Board of Directors has authorized the DIAA Swimming and Diving Committee to conduct the diving preliminaries prior to the swimming preliminaries in the boys' and girls' state meets.

7-2-4 When a meet is suspended due to power failure or other unforeseen circumstances, it may be resumed from the point of suspension unless state association rules determine otherwise. Resumed meets start from the point of suspension with the score and entries the same as they were at the time the meet was suspended.

The meet will be resumed from the point of interruption unless the opposing coaches mutually agree it should be considered a completed meet. The suspended meet should be completed on the next available date and will be treated as a postponed contest with regards to DIAA Reg 1009 4.3 Maximum Game Schedules and Designated Sports Season.

9-4-6 Note: For interstate competition, the voluntary dive group of the week shall follow the schedule of the host school's state unless state association policy determines otherwise.

When competing out of state, DIAA member schools will follow the schedule of the host school's state association with regards to the voluntary dive group of the week.

DIAA WRESTLING RULES ADOPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

1-1-2 Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athletes/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

The DIAA Board has established the following procedure for schools to request an accommodation based on disability, and/or a special need. The athletic director must contact either the DIAA State Rules Interpreter (Ross Thompson) or the Executive Director in order to obtain clearance for the player to participate in a scrimmage or a match with the accommodation. The State Rules Interpreter or the Executive Director will inspect the accommodation. If, in their opinion the accommodation meets the rule above, it will be approved for use. The Executive Director will forward a letter to that effect to the player's athletic director. A copy of the letter should then be provided to the officials before each match in which the player is competing.

1-5 Weight-Control Program

The DIAA Board of Directors has adopted a weight-control program which requires each wrestler to be tested to determine their minimum weight prior to competition in their first match. Each wrestler will be tested to determine if they are properly hydrated (specific gravity of 1.025 or less) and then test for body composition. The minimum wrestling weight will be calculated using a minimum body fat of 7% for males and 12% for females. Wrestlers shall not lose more than 1.5% of their body weight per week.

2-4-2 The accuracy of these scales shall be certified annually, in accordance with guidelines established by the state association.

The DIAA Board of Directors has not established any guidelines for certifying the accuracy of scales other than to require that scales be certified prior to the start of each wrestling season. In the absence of any state association approved guidelines, schools should follow the guidelines established by their respective conferences.

3-2-1 By state high school association adoption, an assistant referee may be used during competition. The use of an assistant referee is designed to minimize human error in matters of rule application and judgment.

The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the use of an assistant referee. Tournament directors and/or host schools in dual-meet competition are permitted to utilize the services of an assistant referee. In addition, a conference could mandate the use of an assistant referee for regular season competition and/or the conference championships.

4-1-2 Note One American flag, not to exceed 2 by 3 inches may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.

The DIAA Board of Directors has approved the placement of an American flag meeting the stated specifications on the wrestler's and official's uniforms. Requests to wear a commemorative or memorial patch on the jersey must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director who will evaluate each request on its merits and respond in writing.

10-1-1 Tournaments conducted by state high school associations for qualification to the state high school championships and the championships themselves will be determined by the individual

organization. Each state high school association is privileged to conduct those tournaments as best suits its needs. This authorization applies to Rule 10 and 11 only.

Regulations governing the conduct of the dual-meet state championships and the individual state championships will be approved by the DIAA Wrestling Committee. The tournament format, the selection criteria and procedures, and the seeding criteria and procedures must also be approved by the DIAA Board of Directors.