

- The guidelines for handling matches during lightning or thunder storms are spelled out on pg. 114 of the NFHS handbook. When thunder is heard or a lightning is seen it is assumed that the storm is within striking distance of your playing field. Play is to be suspended for 30 minutes. The “thirty minute rule” immediately goes into effect: you must wait 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play. You, the official are responsible for this 30-minute count AND for watching for any further thunder or lightning. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count : another 30-minute count should begin. Review with administrators, game personnel and coaches whether they want to continue, suspend or postpone the match.

*****In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to resume play, *the official will declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played.* If less than one half has been played the game may be re-scheduled from the start at a later date.**

- **Concussion Responsibility:** if you see any symptoms of a concussion from a player who has gone down during play, you are obligated to have that player removed from the game. It is the coach’s responsibility to have that player examined by a medical professional (trainer, EMT, etc...). If that same player suddenly appears back at midfield looking to re-enter the game, and you suspect that maybe he/she was not examined (?) then you should ask the coach is he/she has been examined. The coach’s answer absolves you of responsibility. If you observe any further concussion symptoms from this player then he/she should be removed and prohibited from further play. It is in the best interest and safety of that player to have them sit out.
- **Goalkeepers:** MUST have a number on their jersey. No exceptions. If you have to caution or DQ a keeper you need to have a number (and corresponding name) to record on the roster and game sheet. Goalkeepers also must be wearing socks that are a different (contrasting) color than the opposing team’s field player socks.
- **Situation:** the coach for Team A decides to sacrifice defense and sends in a field player as a substitute for the goalkeeper in order to keep 11 players on the field. Is this legal? Yes – so long as there is a designated, properly attired goalkeeper on the field. (jersey that is distinctly different in color than that of teammates or opposing

field player, number on jersey, socks distinctly different those of opposing field players). *** Remember that any designated goalkeeper becomes a field player once he/she leave the confines of their own penalty area.

Clock Management:

- Remember that the clock is to be stopped after a goal is scored. Blow your whistle first (so players know that play is stopped), signal time is stopped (two arms crossed above the head), point to midfield to signal the goal and then stop your watch. It is more important to let players and coaches know that a goal was scored than to immediately go to your watch.
- When a game is stopped for an apparent injury, the injured player MUST leave the field. This pertains to field players and goalkeepers. A team may choose to play short but there MUST always be a designated goalkeeper.
- Timeouts should not exceed one minute in length. Blow your whistle at 45 seconds to get things moving. Make sure you know when EITHER team can call a timeout.
- Should the clock be stopped if a ball is lost in the woods and a replacement ball is not available? Your discretion: are there ball holders supplied by the home team? Did the home team provide extra game balls?
- Should you countdown the last 10 seconds of a period of play? NO – this is incorrect procedure. If players ask for time remaining and you are under a minute just say “under a minute”.

Lead & Trail:

- The only re-start whistles that the trail official should be making are goal kicks, kick-offs, throw-ins on his side of field, drop balls (when applicable). *The lead should be whistling all re-starts on corners, penalty kicks, and free kicks regardless of where they are on the field.* The lead must be in position to call offside and the trail cannot be the judge of deciding if the lead is ready. Conversely, the lead should use eye contact with the trail to make sure he is ready too. This is important on corners and free kicks in and around the penalty area where you need a second set of eyes to watch the action. *** *We all need to be consistent on this.*

