

## 2014 Football Bulletin III

Aug. 28, 2014

To: Commissioners, Board Interpreters, Curriculum reps, CIAC and league reps, media.

From: Bill Riccio, Jr. State Interpreter

Re: Pre-season reminders

### I. Player equipment

#### A. Legality of knee pad

1. The following question came in this week: Players are starting to wear a knee pad similar to the elbow pads that we see. Are they legal? They are made of the same material as the girdle pads.
2. The answer: **Rule 1-5-1d2 (page 19)** says, "Knee pads which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, which are worn over the knee and under the pants and shall be at least 1/2-inch thick or 3/8-inch thick if made of shock-absorbing material.  
**1-5-1e (Page 20)** says, "Pants, which completely cover the knee, thigh guards and knee pads and any portion of any knee brace that does not extend below the pants.  
**If the pads conform to these rules, they are legal.**

#### B. War Paint

1. Officials are reminded that the rule book only allows for one stroke of sun black or some other substance to be used by players. If they have any more than that, they should be told to wipe it off. Let's not have any flags thrown on it, use good common sense.
2. If they are using commercially manufactured sun blocks, they cannot be the types that have words or numbers. Those are illegal **(1-5-3c3)**.

#### C. Tinted eyewear

A reminder: While eye shields attached to the helmet are supposed to be clear, **1-5-3c4 note** allows for eyewear that is tinted. Sunglasses and tinted goggles are legal.

We had a situation last year in which a player in a youth league got a waiver from the national organization. That's fine. Once a higher authority makes that decision it is out of our hands, legally and otherwise. However, make sure there is documentation on the waiver to cover you.

D. Sweatbands, bicep bands

Sweatbands are to be worn near the wrist, and should not be allowed if they or something else are used on the biceps. Just tell the kids to get rid of them. The rules committee has been very stringent when it comes to "Adornments."

**Note: While the umpire is primary as far as legality of equipment, all officials should be vigilant regarding equipment that is not being worn properly, including mouth guards. If a mouth guard is dangling as the snap becomes imminent, over the last few years we have shut the play down and penalized for failure to wear mandatory equipment. If you don't see it prior to the snap, and see it during the play, don't assume anything.**

## II. Injury timeouts/between plays

- A. Conferring outside the nine-yard marks – Officials are reminded that players can go to the sideline to confer with coaches during an injury timeout. There was some confusion on this last year. Players can stay between the sidelines and the numbers or nine-yard marks while a player is attended.
- B. Between plays – Conferring with the sidelines between plays is fine as well. The restriction against it was stricken from the book 20 years ago. As long as the offense is ready to snap the ball within the 25-second count, we're fine.

## III. Working off the field

- A. Wings are reminded we want you to work off the field in the six-foot area. This prevents an official from getting boxed out. Last year we saw some officials who didn't work off the field and found themselves as extra blockers.
- B. Head Linesmen especially should work off the field because the chain has to be operated six feet off the sidelines. Don't let the chains inch up to the sidelines or we can have a problem.

The scrimmage season is underway, and we're working out the kinks doing things the right way from the start will make the regular season much easier.

That's it for now,

Bill Riccio