

# 2013 MSHSAA FOOTBALL RULES MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **APPROVAL OF OFFICIALS** – MSHSAA By-Law 6.1.1 – officials shall be agreed upon by both schools at least 30 days before each contest. The host school is responsible for making certain game officials are registered with the MSHSAA and to initiate the agreement on officials with the visiting school. However, if the visiting school has not been provided the opportunity to approve the game officials, contact should be made with the host school to arrange for approval. Approval by both schools is to be obtained prior to employing officials. Officials shall be engaged by a written contract.
2. **COACHES and OFFICIALS** – We need your continued help in recruiting new officials and providing them with opportunities to work so they can improve their skills. Coaches can help by encouraging graduating seniors to become officials. Officials should be encouraging all young officials to continue to study, develop and remain patient for varsity level experiences.
3. **RULES INTERPRETERS** – Football Rules Interpreters are available to coaches and officials for game rule interpretations. (Emry Dilday (South West), Jim Rosen (STL), George Bays (South East), Terry Barmann (KC), Bob Lade (North West) & Chuck Snow (Central). Please contact your local rules interpreter with rules questions prior to contacting the MSHSAA office. If further clarification is needed, the interpreters shall contact the MSHSAA Office.
4. **RULES MEETINGS REQUIREMENT** –  
**Coaches:** Coaches are required to complete the Football Online Rules Meeting. The online rules meeting may be completed online through the MSHSAA website from (August 5 – September 6). The rules meeting for coaches can be located by logging on to your school's homepage of the MSHSAA website and selecting the "Online Rules Reviews" link located under the Education category.  
**Officials:** must complete the rules meeting requirement by **September 6, 2013**. The rules meeting may be completed online through the MSHSAA website from (August 5– September 6). The rules meetings for officials can be located by logging on to your official's page/account and selecting "Online Rules Reviews" link listed under the Correspondence category. Some areas of the state will have face to face rules meetings that have been organized/approved through the MSHSAA office by local officials associations. These times are posted on the MSHSAA website. Officials will be credited by completing either the online rules meeting or the face to face rules meeting in your area. If you want your attendance or completion verified to another bordering state association, please notify Pam Martin at the MSHSAA office.
5. **MSHSAA GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL** – Officials are reminded to study the MSHSAA Game Officials Manual located on the MSHSAA web site under the Official's Tab. It contains information you will need to be familiar with such as registration procedures, minimum renewal standards, instructions for game protests, etc. **Please note that the renewal deadline for football officials is July 1 of each year. This renewal deadline applies to all fall sports.**
6. **OFFICIALS RATING PROCEDURES** – Each head coach shall submit a rating for each official working his/her SENIOR HIGH VARSITY REGULAR SEASON CONTESTS (home and away). Officials are not rated in the post season contests. Schools are required to submit their ratings to renew their membership for the succeeding year. It is recommended that coaches wait 24 hours after the game, but no longer than 48 hours to rate officials. Ratings shall be entered on the MSHSAA Web Site. **Coaches, please submit your official's ratings online throughout the season (week by week) and not wait until the season has concluded.** Rate each official every time he/she officiates for you. If you play a nine game schedule you are responsible for 45 evaluations of officials (5 per game). Officials must give coaches their correct registration number. The MSHSAA Board of Directors requires the High School Athletic Director to verify that his/her school's fall sports officials ratings have been completed accurately by the respective head coaches. If a 5 rating has been given to an official, the head coach shall provide an explanation as to why that rating was necessary. Failure to submit ratings for a sport shall result in the school's program, for that sport(s), being placed on probation and could lead to a team not being assigned to participate in the MSHSAA district and state playoff series. Deadline for the submission of ratings is **Nov. 15, 2013**. Schools that fail to submit the required official's ratings by the established deadline shall be issued a **\$25.00** late penalty fee and sent a reminder letter to the principal, giving the school until the end of the month to submit the required official's ratings. Schools that fail to submit the required official's ratings by the end of the month shall be placed on probation in the sport concerned by the MSHSAA Board of Directors and assessed a penalty fee of **\$100.00. (Total Fine \$125.00)**
7. **OFFICIALS: PART II FOOTBALL TEST** – Tests will be available through the MSHSAA website **August 19, 2013**. The test is a open-book examination. **All officials are required to complete the Part II Test by September 16, 2013.** All officials must take the test even though they might not officiate any contests or they will be automatically placed on probation beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>. **Any official that scores less than 75% on the NFHS Part II Rules Test will be placed on probation.**
8. **SPECIAL REPORT FORMS** – Special Report forms are located and submitted through the MSHSAA Web Site. They are to be used to report matters such as officiating procedures, game administration, unsportsmanlike conduct, etc., that need immediate attention. The report may be a complimentary report as well as one to call attention to problems. Officials SHALL penalize and file a special report for all unsportsmanlike conduct, within 48 hours of when the act occurs. Unsportsmanlike special reports must be filed for all levels of play (junior high, freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity contest). Under MSHSAA Board of Directors policy, action will be taken against officials who fail to file a report of unsportsmanlike conduct. When unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct occurs, the school shall forthwith take appropriate action to correct or resolve the matter. Both schools and officials are strongly encouraged to take the time to submit positive reports on outstanding officiating, game administration and good sportsmanship. **Note: All special reports will be filled out by logging onto the MSHSAA Web Site ([www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)) and filling out the appropriate special report form.**
9. **COACHES' AND OFFICIALS' RESPONSIBILITIES** – **Referee and Umpire are to conduct a pre-game meeting with each head coach at the locker room of each team prior to taking the field for warm-up. Coaches have a responsibility to make themselves available to the R/U for this meeting 1 hour before game time or earlier.** Both coaches and officials are expected to be professional and business-like toward each other. This type of behavior is to prevail at all times, especially during and after the game. Regardless of the outcome of the game, there is no justification for coaches to ridicule officials. Host schools are to provide security for officials to ensure their safety and well-being. There is to be no admittance to officials' dressing rooms before, during or after games unless by designated school authorities who are there on official business to carry out their assigned duties. Mutual respect and courtesy shown by both coaches and officials are the keys to providing the proper example and environment for our athletes, students and fans. If a school is dissatisfied with the work of some official(s), don't hassle them -- simply do not rehire them.

10. **OFFICIALS FOR DISTRICT AND STATE PLAYOFFS** – Officials for football contest taking place during weeks 1–9 will be contracted by the host school and should have approval from the visiting school. Week 10 (district–first round) officials thru the state championship games will be selected and assigned through the MSHSAA office. It is important that each school completes the officials recommendation form on the MSHSAA Website under district entries for football by **October 7**. Please recommend officials by name of the Referee/Crew Chief. Each school may choose to “not recommend” up to three (3) crews of which they prefer to not have assigned to a post season game. **\*The Referee of each crew shall complete the Postseason Form for Football on the MSHSAA Website by September 7, 2013 in order for the crew to be eligible for post season selection. NOTE: Post Season Selection will include Week 10–1st Rd District.**
11. **NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK** – All game balls used for interscholastic competition shall possess the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Game officials shall inspect all balls provided for competition for the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Should the host school be unable to provide conforming balls, the official will put into play conforming balls provided by the visiting school. Contest officials are required to notify the MSHSAA office in writing regarding the failure of any host school to provide the marked balls. No contest shall be cancelled and no contest penalties shall be assessed for nonconforming balls.
12. **MSHSAA RULES ADOPTIONS:**
- A. **LENGTH OF QUARTERS FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES** : 7th grade only – 8 minutes; 8th grade only – 8 minutes; 9th grade only – 9 minutes; teams of mixed grades – the limit for the lower grade shall apply (MSHSAA By–Law 3.29.9).
- B. **RUNNING CLOCK:** The point differential applies to all football contests. The National Federation's Football Rules permit state associations to adopt a "running clock" when a point differential is attained. The Football Advisory Committee, with approval of the Board of Directors has approved the following plan for all football playing schools for all levels: After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, for 11–man and 45 points or more for 8–man, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will be stopped: The clock will be stopped when:
1. An official's time–out is called, except:
    - a) when a first down is declared
    - b) following a change of team possession
    - c) to dry or change the game ball
  2. A charged time–out is called;
  3. At the end of a period;
  4. A score occurs.
- NOTE:** The clock will continue to run in all other situations.  
**NOTE:** The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 3–1–3 which reads: "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."
- C. **TIE–BREAKING PROCEDURE (Regular Season, Including District Games, and State Playoff Series):** For ALL varsity high school games (regular season and playoff contests) that end in a tie, at the end of regulation, play shall follow a "25–yard Overtime Procedure" to determine the winner. The procedure, as outlined in the National Federation Football Rules Book, will be followed with the following exceptions:
1. The ball will be placed on the 25–yard line.
  2. First and tens may be obtained to maintain possession. Once the line–to–gain has not been achieved the ball will be turned over to the defense.
- Lower Level Contests: Games contested below the senior high school varsity level (Junior Varsity, Freshman) that end in a tie at the end of regulation play, may utilize one (1) overtime period to break the tie if both coaches agree before the game. If a tie remains at the end of the one overtime period, then the contest will remain a tie. Combined 8th and 9th grade contests that end in a tie will remain a tie.
- D. **TRY DURING REGULAR SEASON GAMES (Week 1–9):** NFHS Rule 8–3–1 EXCEPTION states "If a touchdown is scored during the last down of the 4th period, the try shall not be attempted unless the point(s) would affect the outcome of the game or playoff qualifying." **During games for Week 1 through 9 the TRY shall be attempted if the score–difference is 12 or less points when the winning team scores. It shall also be attempted if the score–difference is 14 or less points when the losing team scores. NOTE: This applies only to the 4th quarter, not to any overtime periods.**
- E. **SUSPENDED GAME:** If a game is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible authority (weather, lights, etc.), the game by rule shall be continued from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree to terminate the game with the existing score (a winner must be determined under this option).
- F. **EXPLOSIVE DEVICES at CONTESTS:** The use of any explosive device is prohibited within the vicinity of any contest (districts through finals) that may pose a possible hazard to spectators or participants.
- G. **ANY PLAYER OR COACH DISQUALIFIED (ejected) from an interscholastic football contest under NFHS Football Rule 9–4, 9–5 & 9–8:** A player who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall at a minimum be prohibited from playing in the next interscholastic contest at that same level. A coach who is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall at a minimum be prohibited from coaching and attending the next interscholastic contest for that team.
- H. **STAR SPANGLED BANNER:** If played, it shall be completed prior to the required coin toss (3 minutes prior to the kickoff) and the area between the 40 yard lines must be vacated by all non–toss participants at the same time.
- I. **COIN TOSS – All games:** The head coach and captain(s) (NO MORE THAN 4 PLAYERS IN GAME UNIFORM) shall attend the actual or simulated coin toss at the three minute mark at midfield. Honorary captains as approved by school administration are permitted at the coin toss. All other team personnel must remain outside the field of play (NFHS Rule 3–2–2). This does not preclude having an early toss off the field followed by a simulation on the field three minutes prior to kickoff.
- J. **TEAM BENCHES for Week 10 through Semifinal playoff contests:** Team's fans will be located behind their team's bench. If spectator bleachers are available on only one side of the field, the visitors may have the option to be placed on the side away from the spectator bleachers.
- K. **RECOGNITION AND EVALUATION OF THE ATHLETE WITH A CONCUSSION:**
1. Recognition of the signs and symptoms of a concussion is important. Every member of the team-athlete, teammates, coaches, parents or guardians, officials, athletic trainers, and team physicians have a duty to report a suspected concussion. Not all school districts have medical personnel available to cover every practice and competition; therefore, the coach is the person in the best position to protect the player and must be aware that not all student athletes will be forthcoming about their injury.
  2. An official shall not be responsible for making the diagnosis of a concussion. The official can assist coaches and medical staff by recognizing signs and symptoms of a concussion and informing the coach and medical staff of their concerns.
- L. **COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL PATCH:** A commorative/memorial patch is allowed.

# 2013 MECHANICS AND PROCEDURES

## (Per the 2012–13 NFHS game officials manual)

This section is to clarify areas of football mechanics and procedures where vague or no specific direction is presented by the NFHS.

- 1. MEETING WITH HEAD COACHES** – The Referee and Umpire, dressed in game uniform, should visit each head coach in their team’s dressing room. Visit with the home team coach one hour prior to game time and then visit with the visiting coach thereafter.
- 2. WARM-UP JACKET, SHORTS, BLACK PANTS** – The vertically striped black and white jacket may be worn prior to the game and at half time but shall not be worn during the game. The players are not allowed to play in warm-ups and the officials should not wear their warm-up jackets during the game. Officiating shorts shall not be worn by officials during interscholastic contests at any level. **All officials are permitted to wear a sport wrist watch for the synchronizing of correct time, so long as it is black in color and made of a non-metal, non-abrasive material.** Towels of reasonable size should be worn only when needed due to field conditions.  
  
Black Football Officiating Pants: Full lengthed, lined, black football officiating pants with a single 1 ¼” white stripe down each leg may be worn in place of the traditional knickers if worn by the entire crew.
- 3. ENTERING THE FIELD (NEW in 2012) – Pre-game:** The officiating crew should enter the field together at least 30 minutes before game time. All officials are to perform their assigned duties in a business-like manner. As the crew enters the field they should proceed around the field with the Referee and the Line Judge proceeding down the sideline opposite the press box. The Umpire, Linesman and Back Judge should go down the sideline on the press box side. As the officials circle the field each crew member should perform the duties assigned in the NFHS Officials Manual. After circling the field and performing their assigned duties officials should go to the sideline they will be on for the coin toss. Stretching and warm-ups should be done in the dressing room. **Halftime:** At five minutes prior to the end of halftime, officials shall report to the field and remain as a crew on the endline of the endzone of which they enter the field in the case of needed communication relating to potentially starting the second half with a penalty. At the moment both teams have re-entered the field of play (whether before or after the starting of the 3 minute warm-up clock) the crew will proceed down their assigned sideline to the assigned positions for beginning the second half choice procedure. If a team has reported to the field late, and after the crew has taken their positions for the second half choice, the Referee or Umpire (depending on team being penalized) will throw a penalty flag approximately 2–4 yards in front of them indicating the second half beginning with a penalty. The Referee will then give the appropriate signal indicating the penalty followed by the procedure for second half choices as listed below in #4.
- 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Choice Procedure(NEW in 2012)**– Per the 2012–2013 NFHS Football Game Officials Manual, there will no longer be an escorting of team captains to the center of the field for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half choice. Missouri 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Mechanic Adoption: After completing the “Entering The Field” procedure after halftime(as explained in #3 above), the crew will be located in their same positions as they were for the coin toss to start the game. Communication regarding the second half choice will be done by the Referee and Umpire at the fifty yard line from their sidelines. The Referee or Umpire, depending on which team has the second half choice, will confer with the “Head Coach” of the second half choosing team as to their choice to begin the second half. After securing the second half choice from the head coach, the Referee/Umpire will give a subtle signal of the choice selected to the Referee/Umpire on the opposite sideline. The Referee/Umpire will then relay to the opposing coach the choice selected by the second half choosing coach, at this time the opposing coach will decide on his choice that remains. The Referee/Umpire will then relay back to the Referee/Umpire a subtle signal of the option selected by the opposing coach. Begin second half.
- 5. GAME BALL/BALL BOYS/MANAGERS** – After the game balls from each team are approved by the Referee, the Line Judge is to secure the ball with the ball boys. It is preferred that ball boys from both teams are placed on the judges side line, however, it is permissible to use one on each side. Ball boys and managers should never be on the field of play. Managers or ball boys shall not be allowed to retrieve the kicking tee.
- 6. COIN TOSS** – The coin toss or simulated coin toss will take place in the center of the field **3 minutes** prior to game time, with not more than four team members in game uniform(captains) from each team. Honorary personnel, approved by the school administration, may be present at the start of the coin toss procedures but must leave the field at the time the coaches are dismissed. If both teams agree to an early coin toss it shall not take place on the playing field and will then be simulated in the center of the field 3 minutes prior to game time. The Referee, Umpire, Line Judge, and Back Judge shall escort the team captains and head coaches toward the center of the field starting from the sideline at 3 minutes prior to game time, with Line Judge and Back Judge stopping at hashmarks and facing the sidelines. The Referee should have his back to the clock during the coin toss. The captains should be closest to the Referee with the head coaches closest to the Umpire. The coin should be tossed, caught and displayed without again turning the coin over on to the wrist. The coin shall not be allowed to hit the ground. **If the winner of the toss defers, signal #10 is given prior to asking the other captain his “choice”.** Since “defer” is an option and not a choice, if the captain winning the toss defers, the other team’s captain becomes the “first choosing captain”. The Referee concludes the coin toss by signaling only the choice of the first choosing captain.
- 7. TAKING POSITIONS FOR KICK-OFF OF EACH HALF** – Following the coin toss and after second half choices are determined, all officials should simultaneously “fan out” and  Jog directly to their positions for the kick-off. The Back Judge handles the ball for the kick. **Note: the LJ and U have now switched positions and alignment and coverage areas for kick-off coverage have been adjusted beginning with the 2012 season. Refer to 2012–2013 NFHS Football Game Officials Manual (page 24–27).**
- 8. BETWEEN PERIODS** – Prior to moving the chains the Referee, Umpire and Linesman should confer at the ball and record down, distance, yardline, etc. **The entire crew should follow the mechanics in the NFHS Football Game Officials Manual (page 80).**
- 9. AT THE END OF THE FIRST HALF WHEN LEAVING THE FIELD** – When both teams dressing rooms are situated in close proximity, and opposing teams are leaving the field together, the Line Judge and Linesman should accompany the teams on the way to their dressing rooms to insure no unsportsmanlike conduct occurs. **If facilities require teams to enter/exit the field at the same location, the L and LJ shall permit the visiting team to exit first.** The Umpire and the Back Judge should stay with the Referee while he insures that the correct timing for the halftime interval starts at the proper time.
- 10. UMPIRE POSITION PRIOR TO SNAP** – The Umpire should always spot the ball. Once the ball has been spotted the Umpire should remain over the ball facing the Referee on all downs until the Referee gives the ready-for-play signal or until the referee signals him to move on a quick snap.

11. **WING OFFICIALS SCRIMMAGE POSITION/NEXT DOWN** – Straddle the yard line that the ball is on with next down indicated on the chest. It is your responsibility to keep the coaches in the team box and not on the field. Crews must make it a priority to keep the restricted free of players and coaches by NFHS Rule. At the conclusion of each down the wing officials should get forward progress. As they hold forward progress, with both feet perpendicular to the sideline they should signal the number of the next down to the Referee on their chest. Once the Referee signals the next down the wing officials should extend one hand above the head with the number of the down indicated with fingers (fist for fourth down) and check down marker number. Use extended arm signal, until the snap, to indicate closest A player is off the line of scrimmage.

12. **Tobacco/Alcohol** – Schools are tobacco/alcohol free. Officials shall not use or possess tobacco/alcohol anywhere on school property.

## COMMENTS ON THE 2013 FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

**SOLID-COLORED TOWELS NOW LEGAL (1-5-3a(5)a):** The committee modified the rule regarding the authorized wearing of a moisture-absorbing towel. Towels that are one solid color may now be worn, as long as they are not the color of the football or penalty flag. The towel cannot have no more than one visible manufacturer's logo/trademark, which cannot exceed 2 ¼ square inches in any dimension. Towels worn by teammates must be the same color. Previously, the towel could only be white and unmarked.

**USE OF COMMUNICATION DEVICES EXPANDED (1-6):** The committee has expanded use of communication devices to allow, coaches, players and nonplayers to use any form of available communication technology during authorized conferences outside the 9-yard marks (7-yard marks in nine-, eight- and six-player competition), on the sidelines and during the halftime intermission period. Use of communication devices by players except during conferences outside the 9-yard marks continues to be prohibited.

**DEFINITION OF A CATCH CLARIFIED (2-4-1):** The committee clarified the definition of a catch. An airborne player who has forward progress stopped inbounds and is carried out of bounds by an opponent before contacting the ground is awarded a catch at the spot of forward progress.

**LOSS OF HELMET AFTER THE DOWN (3-5-10d):** The committee clarified that if the helmet comes completely off during subsequent dead-ball action related to the down, and is not directly attributable to a foul by the opponent, the player must leave the game for at least one down (unless half-time or overtime intermission occurs). An official's time-out shall be called.

**KICK-CATCHING INTERFERENCE (6-5-6 PENALTY; 2-9-2; 5-2-1; 5-2-2; 6-5-4; 10-4-2b):**

The committee added a 15-yard penalty to the existing option of accepting an awarded fair catch for kick-catch interference. The option to try a scoring free kick after an awarded fair catch remains.

**PASS INTERFERENCE PENALTIES REVISED (7-5-10 PENALTY; Table 7-5):** This rule change removes the automatic first down for defensive pass interference and the loss of down for offensive pass interference. The 15-yard penalty provision remains for both fouls.

**CLARIFICATION ON SCORE ON A TRY (8-3-3):** The committee clarified that the touchdown scoring team is the only team that can score on a try.

**BLOCKING ON FREE KICKS REVISED (9-3-8c NEW):** A new provision added to the existing rule stipulates the kicking team may initiate contact once the receiving team has initiated a block within the neutral zone.

**INITIATING CONTACT WITH A HELMET-LESS OPPONENT (9-4-31 NEW):** In the interest of minimizing risk, the committee added a new illegal personal contact foul. This foul is charged to any player who initiates contact with an opposing player whose helmet has come completely off.

**ILLEGAL PARTICIPATION FOR PLAYERS CONTINUING TO PLAY WITHOUT A HELMET (9-6-4g NEW):** Continuing with focus on risk minimization, the committee determined that a helmet-less player shall not block, tackle or otherwise participate beyond the immediate action in which the player is engaged when the helmet came completely off. The penalty would be a live-ball, basic-spot foul.

## **BOARD POLICY FOR ON-SITE PROTESTS OF ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

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The Board of Directors adopted the following Policy, March, 1997, to address protests. The Board acknowledges that mistakes are made by officials in judgment and even sometimes in misapplication of game rules. However, the decisions rendered by officials at the contest site are to be final and any further process other than the one outlined below would not truly serve a useful purpose in the overall scope of high school athletics.

1. Within the procedures established within each individual sport rule code, the head coach must request a review of an official's application of a rule through appropriate channels.
2. If, after the review is complete, the coach still believes there has been a misapplication of a rule by a contest official(s), the coach shall then file a formal verbal protest with the game officials who will then notify the opposing coach immediately of the protest. A coach shall not protest a decision of judgment.
3. Following this notification of protest, the head coach shall be allowed approximately ten minutes to use his/her National Federation Rules Book, National Federation Case Book, MSHSAA Rules Meeting Announcements and/or MSHSAA Sport Manual to locate and show the game official(s) the appropriate rule reference which clarifies a misapplication of the game rule. If the head coach does not have personal copies of the above mentioned materials at the game site or the specific rule reference(s) or case book play(s) cannot be located within the maximum allowable ten minutes, the protest shall automatically be disallowed and the game shall continue from the point of interruption. If a rule reference(s) or case book play(s) is found that indicates a misapplication of a rule has occurred, the official's decision shall be corrected at that time before any further action occurs, and the contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption after the correction as provided in the contest rules. When appropriate, the game officials may assist the head coach in locating appropriate rule and case book references.
4. All protests shall be resolved at the contest site before any further game action occurs.
5. Protests that are not filed in a timely manner by that sport rule code shall be automatically disallowed.
6. The MSHSAA Board of Directors and/or Staff shall not review contest protests.

### **APPLICATION OF PROTEST PROCEDURE**

- A. **Introduction:** Protests rarely occur and the new protest procedure policy is not intended to increase the frequency of protests. It is however, intended to resolve the protest on site. For this to occur the following must take place:
  1. Coaches and Officials must be professional with each other. This should be a non-confrontational conference.
  2. As stated above, protests involve application of rules only -- not judgment calls. (Examples of items which could be protested: Football -- penalizing 5 yards instead of 15 yards; Wrestling -- allowing 1 minute for injury time instead of 2 minutes; Softball -- allowing only two charged defensive conferences instead of three.) (Examples of items that could not be protested: Football -- pass interference; Wrestling -- stalling; Softball -- out or safe calls.)
  3. **GET IT RIGHT!** If the official has made a mistake; admit it, correct it and move on. Contest officials and the head coach filing the official protest shall notify the MSHSAA Office in writing of any contest in which an official protest has occurred and the resolution of that protest. The MSHSAA Special Report Forms shall be used for this purpose.
- B. **Process.**
  1. Once a head coach has filed a formal verbal protest with the game officials, they shall then notify the opposing head coach of the protest and the playing field, court, mat, etc. shall be cleared of all participants and they shall report to their respective team bench areas.
  2. The head coach shall then be allowed approximately ten minutes to locate specific rule references from the National Federation Rules Book, National Federation Case Book, MSHSAA Rules Meeting Announcements and/or MSHSAA Sport Manual to substantiate the claim that a misapplication of a game rule has occurred. The game officials shall also confer among themselves during the period to address the claim of the coach as to the potential rule misapplication.
  3. If the head coach is able to produce rule evidence from the above mentioned sources to support the claim of a misapplication of a game rule, the officials shall correct the error as provided in the contest rules and the contest shall proceed from the point of interruption. If the head coach cannot produce the evidence, the protest shall be disallowed and the contest shall continue from the point of interruption. The previously mentioned materials must be immediately available for review at the playing field sideline, court-side, mat-side etc. (Time shall not be provided to go to a locker room, team bus, coach's office, etc.)
  4. Once the final decision regarding the protest has been rendered, the game officials shall provide the participants sufficient opportunity to warm-up before the contest is resumed.