1. Welcome, introductions, purpose

2. Review agenda and verify completion of expense vouchers

3. Approval of December 10, 2018 OAC meeting minutes

4. Review recommendations of the following sport committees
   a. Football – Frank Beasley
      1) Recommendations
         a. Game Clock Exception on Free Kick Following a Fair Catch
         b. Eliminating Pink Flags
         c. Playoff Chain Crews
         d. Playoff 25/40 clock operators
      2) Discussion
         a. Playoff Mileage Reimbursement
         b. Playoff Assignments
   b. Swimming & Diving – Kellie Doucette
      1) Recommendations
      2) Discussion
   c. Volleyball – Robbie Lindeman
      1) Recommendations
      2) Discussion

5. General recommendations

6. Open Agenda (discussion only)
   a. Officials Compensation
   b. Exam Window

7. Adjournment
Football Committee Meeting
(Please only one item per page. Duplicate form if necessary)

Recommendation Form – Agenda Items

Site: Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building, Gainesville
Date: November 5, 2019

Rule Reference(s):
Rule 2-24-7; 3-4-3; 8-4-1a

Action: ✓

Discussion:

Item: Game Clock Exception on a Free Kick Following a Fair Catch

Background Information:
While rare, a team may attempt a 3-point field goal (2-24-7, 8-4-1a) on a FREE KICK FOLLOWING A FAIR CATCH. The rules are a bit ambiguous when it comes to clock management in this situation. There is no direct reference to clock status on this particular play, Rule 3-4-3 states, “The game clock shall start with the snap or when any free kick is touched.” Since there might not be any “touching” of a free kick following a fair catch, the clock will never start. In essence it becomes an untimed down. The Case Book is a bit clearer in 3.4.3A During a scrimmage kick: (a) R1 signals for and makes a fair catch; or (b) R2 is contacted by K1 before he can attempt to catch the kick. RULING: In (a), the game clock was stopped because of the fair catch. It will start when the ball is snapped, or if put in play by a free kick, when the ball is touched other than first touching by K. This does not seem equitable since it could very well decide the outcome of a game. College does not have this rule, but the NFL does have it and it was discussed in a recent pre-game conference with an NFL Side Judge. There is an exception to NFL timing rules that states on a Free Kick following a Fair Catch the game clock will start on the KICK.

Recommendation:
Include the Game Clock Exception for a Free Kick following a Fair Catch by having the game clock start on the kick of the ball.

Rationale:
A Free Kick following a Fair Catch is part of the game. It should be a timed down. In rare instances, it could determine the outcome of a game with only a few seconds remaining. While I do not advocate adopting many NFL rules, this exception to the timing rules seems equitable and allows the down to be timed as any normal down is timed. If a team is close enough to attempt a Free Kick following a Fair Catch, chances are the ball will most likely be a touchback or a field goal. When the ball breaks the plane of the goal line, or goes between the uprights, the clock will be stopped. In the even rarer instance that the kicked ball never makes it to the goal line, the receiving team will recover or catch a live ball with the clock running until the end of the run. If it’s three seconds, or four seconds, or five seconds, that time should be accounted for on the game clock.

Alternative to Recommendation: If the requested change is denied, make a specific reference in the rule book in Rules 2-24-7; 3-4-3; 8-4-1a where a Free Kick following a Fair Catch is mentioned that the clock will not start until it is touched, other than first touching by K.

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Modify the recommendation
3. Deny the recommendation

Committees Voting Summary:
FBAC 1st Rdg:
ADAC 1st Rdg:

Data Source: NFHS Football Rules, FHSAA Officials’ Guidebook

Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):

Dr. Joseph W. Underwood
Name of Committee Member
# Football Committee Meeting

(Please only one item per page. Duplicate form if necessary)

## Recommendation Form – Agenda Items

**Site:** Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building, Gainesville  
**Date:** November 5, 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rule Reference(s):</th>
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<th>Discussion:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rule 1-5-3a</td>
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## Item: Eliminating Pink Officiating Flags for October games

### Background Information:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and many officials, players, and teams want to show their support by wearing PINK. While this is a worthwhile cause, game officials are actually forcing many players to break the rules by using a pink-colored penalty flag.

Rule 1-5-3a, under illegal equipment states: Uniform adornments, with the exception of:

- (a) One moisture-absorbing solid-colored towel that is not ball- or penalty flag-colored;
- FHSAA Guidebook, Dress Code, Football Item 701.04 states: (b.) Proper Equipment: a whistle, penalty marker (light gold flag 15"x15"), blue or white bean bag (all members of the crew should use the same color) [p. 27].

### Recommendation:

We, as officials, have certain guidelines for both uniform and equipment. Our FHSAA Guidebook clearly delineates the type of equipment we are to use and that includes only "light gold flag" as a penalty marker. There are no exceptions listed.

It is recommended that while officials may choose to wear pink wrist bands, pink whistles, pink striped black hats, pink socks, (pink shoe laces also go against FHSAA policy), and pink anything else you can think of... pink flags should not be used. Officials shall use only light gold (15"x15") penalty markers.

### Rationale:

Rule 1-5-3 states that players may wear "one moisture-absorbing solid-colored towel. All towels a particular team uses must be of the same color. Many teams choose to use pink towels during October. When a pink towel inevitably falls to the ground during play, it can easily be confused for a pink penalty marker. In addition, if officials are allowed to use pink penalty markers we (officials) are causing players to break the rules since the rules clearly state, "One moisture-absorbing solid-colored towel that is not ball- or penalty flag-colored."

It is hard to justify telling a coach that a player is breaking the rules by using a towel that is the same color as a penalty marker since the officials themselves are breaking the guidelines of the FHSAA.

As a cancer survivor myself (Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma), I completely understand the relevance of breast cancer awareness and have many friends and colleagues who have been affected by that dreaded disease as well as other cancers, but sometimes I think we are going a bit overboard. Reining in the pink penalty markers and sticking with the prescribed gold flags will not affect pink everywhere else.

### Alternative to Recommendation: Keep allowing officials to flaunt the guidelines of the FHSAA.

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Modify the recommendation
3. Deny the recommendation

### Committees Voting Summary:

**FBAC 1st Rdg:**  
**ADAC 1st Rdg:**

### Data Source: NFHS Football Rules, FHSAA Officials’ Guidebook

### Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):

Dr. Joseph W. Underwood  
Name of Committee Member

Signature of Committee Member
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Item:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playoff Chain Crews supplied by the covering Association</td>
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**Background Information:**
Chain Crews are a very important part of the CREW. During the playoffs they become even more so. Nothing can mess up a game quicker than the Clock Operator or Chain Crew. We supply clocks so why not Chain Crews. Visiting teams would feel much better with Officials instead of local boosters!

**Recommendation:**
When assigned a playoff game the covering Association would send out 11 (12 with 25/40) officials. Pay them the same as the clock operators.

**Rationale:** Would present a “FAIR” situation to ALL and one less thing for Visting teams to complain about. Would present a much more “professional look” to each and every game. Going to a Regional Final and looking for a Chain Crew 5 minutes before kickoff is NOT fun. Many times you end up with kids or people who have no business on the field!!

**Alternative to Recommendation:** Leave it alone and keep same trouble as officials face all the time.

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Modify the recommendation
3. Deny the recommendation

**Committees Voting Summary:**
- OAC 1st Rdg
- ADAC 1st Rdg
- OAC 2nd Rdg
- ADAC 2nd Rdg

**Data Source:**

**Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):**

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Charles Arrasmith
Name of Committee Member

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Signature of Committee Member

**Officials Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Recommendation Form – Agenda Items**

**Site:** Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building, Gainesville  **Date:** December 17, 2019

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<tr>
<td>Item: Playoff 25/40 clock operators?</td>
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**Background Information:** Many schools now have 25/40 second clocks which require a certified FHSAA operator. If this is the case the Officials doing the game need to bring a 2nd clock operator. During the playoffs some Associations depend on the local association to cover this and they usually do not make them aware until the last minute.

**Recommendation:** IF your Association is assigned a playoff game at a school with a 25/40 clock then THEY need to bring their own clock operator(s).

**Rationale:** Officials are use to working with their own people and it would save several phone calls and logistical headaches! The Association is sending 8 officials already so they need to be responsible and send 1 more! IF you take game then take the entire game!!!

**Alternative to Recommendation:** Leave it as is, with many extra phone calls, and local associations scrambling to find people along with covering their own games.

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Modify the recommendation
3. Deny the recommendation

**Committees Voting Summary:**
- OAC 1st Rdg
- ADAC 1st Rdg
- OAC 2nd Rdg
- ADAC 2nd Rdg

**Data Source:**

**Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):**

Charles Arrasmith  
Name of Committee Member  
Signature of Committee Member
# Football Committee Meeting

(Please only one item per page. Duplicate form if necessary)

**Recommendation Form – Agenda Items**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Playoff Mileage Reimbursement</td>
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**Background Information:**
In the announcement of the 2020-2021 officials pay increase it was stated that "due to the unique travel requirements for region tournament and state tournament contests, the current travel rate of $.89 per mile, one way, will continue to be applied."

**Recommendation:**
Officials traveling to work playoff assignments should be reimbursed at the current IRS rate. As of this date, it would be $1.16 per mile, one-way ($ .58 per mile, each way).

**Rationale:**
Those officials who use their vehicles to transport crew members to playoff assignments should not have to subsidize the cost of travel. It is a generally accepted business practice to reimburse employees and contractors at the IRS rate. It is likely that FHSAA employees are paid at the IRS rate when traveling on company business.

**Alternative to Recommendation:**

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Modify the recommendation
3. Deny the recommendation

**Committees Voting Summary:**
- FBAC 1st Rdg:
- ADAC 1st Rdg:

**Data Source:** NFHS Football Rules, FHSAA Officials’ Guidebook

**Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):**

Dr. Joe Underwood on behalf of Steve Epstein  
Name of Committee Member  
Signature of Committee Member
# Football Committee Meeting

(Please only one item per page. Duplicate form if necessary)

## Recommendation Form – Agenda Items

**Site:** Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building, Gainesville  
**Date:** December 2, 2019

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<thead>
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<td>Playoff Assignments</td>
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## Background Information:

While the FHSAA has sole discretion when it comes to making assignments, the rationale used to make such assignments remains a mystery to the officiating community. The lack of communication regarding which associations received which assignments has become a source of frustration.

## Recommendation:

During previous FHSAA administrations the Sport Administrator for Football would send a composite assignment sheet to all associations during each round of the playoffs. Moreover, associations would be notified once they were no longer under consideration for assignments in future rounds. This practice should be reinstated.

## Rationale:

This practice would help to demystify the process, create a sense of transparency, improve harmony with the officials and reinforce the partnership between the FHSAA and the officiating community.

## Alternative to Recommendation:

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Modify the recommendation
3. Deny the recommendation

## Committees Voting Summary:

FBAC 1st Rdg:
ADAC 1st Rdg:

## Data Source: NFHS Football Rules, FHSAA Officials’ Guidebook

## Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):

Dr. Joe Underwood on behalf of Steve Epstein  
Name of Committee Member

Signature of Committee Member