

2024 NFHS Football Rules Book Notes

These notes are not going to be comprehensive, but rather for my own preparation for the 2025 season. I'm sure I'll include things that you would not, and that I'll leave out things that you'd include. Feel free to download and edit to your own liking. I plan to make note on a page of the Rule Book about four times each week starting in January 2025.

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Rule 1 – The Game, Field, Players and Equipment

Section 1 - The Game

Art. 2 – Field is 160 feet wide.

Art. 3 – Each team must have 11 players to start the game. A team may continue the game with less than 11.

Art. 5 – The referee is to meet with the head coaches and captains prior to the game and inform them that good sportsmanship is expected.

Art. 6 – “The referee has authority to rule promptly, and in the spirit of good sportsmanship, on any situation not specifically covered in the rules. The referee’s decisions are final in all matters pertaining to the game.” (Note that it says not covered in the rules – not a license to go rogue 😊).

Art. 7 – Officials assume authority 30 minutes prior to start time or earlier as required by state association.

Art. 8 – Officials authority extends through the end of the 4th quarter or overtime. There’s a little more here about clerical authority after that.