

CHAIN OF COMMAND: COMMUNICATIONS

Both NHFOA and NHIAA have a communications chain of command that is to be followed.

NHIAA REQUIRES that ALL rule interpretations, complaints or protests by coaches be directed to the NHIAA via the school Athletic Director or Principal. If contacted by a coach, AD or other, please refer the person to either the NHIAA or to the NHFOA Commissioner / Supervisor of Officials. (Please make note of the situation should your input be requested.)

The NHIAA will then forward subject matter to the NHFOA via the Commissioner. The Commissioner will in turn contact the appropriate NHFOA member(s) and respond back through the NHIAA.

This may seem very cumbersome, but based on years of experience and the wisdom of the NHIAA to stay in the loop and keep matters from getting out of control, this is the best policy.

This is not to suggest that game officials should not give explanations of rulings to coaches as allowed by established procedures and game rules. Officials should always do their utmost to effectively communicate with coaches and game personnel.

This does NOT effect the NHFOA policy of varsity game advance confirmations by Referees with Athletic Directors. However, clearly understand that ONLY the Referee should be confirming logistics with the Athletic Director and not other members of the crew. The Referee will convey information to crew members. The same is true of comments about behavior of team personnel, field conditions or locker room conditions. The spokesperson for the crew IS the Referee. The Referee should use discretion in discussions with school administration about areas of concern and should consult the Commissioner.

The proper Chain of Command for communications needs to be upheld by NHFOA officials as well as coaches and school personnel. This is a two-way street.