

Pre-Game Coaches Conference

In order to minimize on-field distractions, and maximize time to repair defective or unapproved player equipment, the Referee, Umpire, and Head Coach meeting will take place off the field, 45-60 minutes before game time.

60 Minutes Prior To Game Time

The home team's head coach will meet with the Referee and Umpire at the official's locker room and the certification of players and pre game conference will be conducted. It is expected that all officials will be present at this time and should be introduced to the head coach.

45 Minutes Prior To Game Time

The visiting team's head coach will meet with the Referee and Umpire at the official's locker room and the certification of players and pre game conference will be conducted. It is expected that all officials will be present at this time and should be introduced to the head coach.

During these meetings, the following topics will be addressed:

- Head Coach's verification of legality of player equipment
- Review and approval of any specific equipment, casts, etc.
 - Remember: Any cast worn on the arm (elbow and below) requires a note from a medical doctor (not trainer) specifically stating the player may participate in football. A copy of the note shall be given to the Referee, attached to the game report and submitted to the NHFOA Commissioner.
 - It will be the coach's responsibility to bring any player who requires equipment inspection to the official's locker room at this time.
- List of game officials names to head coach
- Official time and when captains are expected to be ready for coin-toss
- Review length of half-time
- Review any special pre-game procedures by teams
- Approval of game balls
- Request of ball personnel (ball boys, etc)
- Verification of certified trainer (with home team coach, or AD)
- NHIAA Sportsmanship Review
- Questions or special plays

It will be the game management personnel's responsibility for insuring both head coaches know where the official's locker room is located. Should one or both of these conferences not take place as defined here, the Referee and Umpire will be required to meet with each head coach on the field prior to the game to complete these required activities.

The NHFOA has communicated this procedure to the ADs and head coaches. We've also requested the chain crews arrive on the field no less than 30 minutes prior to game time and timekeeper to meet at the official's locker room at least 35 minutes prior to game time.

On-Field Conduct

The NHFOA takes great pride in being recognized as the most professional and most respected officiating board in the state. Let's make sure we step up and continue this perception. Here are a few suggestions as to how we can do that.

1. Entire crew should enter the field together, as one team.
2. Run or jog onto the field together, don't walk. Nothing looks better than a little hustle from the officials right from the start. Jog to midfield, then break away and conduct your normal pre-game responsibilities
3. Give a little leeway to the camera people near the field. Unless they are clearly in your way or causing disruption, give them some latitude to capture the events of the day. How many times have you watched Friday Night Football to see not just highlights of the game, but to get a look at the officials too?
4. If you must ask media personnel to move, remember to ASK and be courteous and polite about it. If this becomes a problem, talk to the game administrator and have the game administrator address the issue.
5. Never let your emotion get the best of you, regardless of the situation.
6. Be professional in everything you do. Integrity is the key.

Post Game

The end of the game doesn't have to be the end of the day. Many officials will gather after the game to celebrate a good season and the playoff experience. What better way to end the year on a high than to talk playoff football with your brother officials? Enjoy the atmosphere. Reward yourself for a season well done.

And last but certainly not least, enjoy the day and have fun!