

2019 NMAA Football Rules Clinic – Unit 1

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Dear Coaches,

The 2019 fall sports season is finally here and we are all excited for another successful year of high school football across New Mexico. Practice officially starts Monday, August 5th with the ultimate goal of every team being an opportunity to play for the Blue Trophy. As you prepare for the season, this rules clinic will provide valuable information that will help guide you throughout the coming months. Although each item is important, the biggest points of emphasis for 2019 are the practice/contact limitations that were implemented in 2014, the competition period guidelines implemented in 2015, the coach education requirements that were implemented in 2016 for head varsity coaches and for ALL middle & high school coaches starting in 2017, and a recent update to the NMAA's Ejection Policy that increases the suspension for ejections involving "battery". In addition, although there are not many, the playing rule changes as approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations for 2019 will be listed within this Clinic. The biggest change here is the move from a 25-second play clock to a 40-second play clock.

Please remember that coaching is not only about skills and winning. The goal of interscholastic activities is to teach these young student-athletes about life itself. Coaches are true role models for these kids, and remember no matter what the situation, it is the duty of the coach to promote good sportsmanship and foster good character. We encourage all coaches, administrators, student-athletes, and community members to help build a culture within interscholastic activities that promotes the core values of respect, integrity, and responsibility. The NMAA's current sportsmanship initiative is centered on these ideals with the mindset that all individuals involved in high school athletics should **"Compete with Class"**. The 2018 season saw significant increases in ejections when compared to 2017, especially on the coach side where these incidents jumped from 4 to 16. Player ejections also increased by 9 (60 to 69). Our state needs to do better in this area so the NMAA office challenges our football leaders to change this trend and lower the numbers in 2019 as we continue to push the Compete with Class initiative.

Again, you must review all portions of the following units for important information pertaining to the 2019 season. You will need to review each of these units prior to August 15th to receive credit. Your school will be fined should you fail to take this course. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this rules clinic or any other football related issues. Best of luck to you this season!

Sincerely,

Dusty Young
NMAA

*NOTE – If you attended the NMAA Football Rules Clinic that took place during the NMHSCA Clinic and signed in for credit, you need not take this online version.