

Memo



Date: August 17, 2021

To: NMAA Member School Athletic Directors & Football Coaches

From: Dusty Young - NMAA Associate Director, Director of Football

Re: Band Policy During Football Games

Football Coaches and Athletic Directors:

School Administrators and coaches that have active bands should work with and instruct the band directors to be careful when the band is playing that they do not play so loudly that the opposing teams cannot hear their signals. While bands certainly improve the atmosphere of the game, they should not be disruptive to the opposing team.

Please note that although the above policy still applies, there has been a slight change to enforcement of these guidelines for the 2021 fall season.

In previous years, a member of the team on offense could make a request to the officiating crew that the opposing team's band stop playing because of difficulty relaying/hearing signals. This is no longer the case as direct requests from players/coaches can no longer be made.

Discretion now lies strictly with the officiating crew to determine if the band is playing too loudly. If the crew does feel that a band is hindering the ability for the offense to hear signals, NFHS Rule 9-9 (Unfair Acts) may be enforced. The referee has the discretion to initially issue a warning or penalty. The penalty may range from a delay of game (5 yards) to an unsportsmanlike foul (15 yards).

This policy in no way is intended to take away from a band playing and representing your schools during games, but, it is intended to improve sportsmanship where applicable.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, at (505) 923-3268 or dusty@nmact.org.