

2017 NMAA Football Rules Clinic – Unit 1

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Dear Coaches,

The 2017 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, July 31st 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 2017 are the practice/contact limitations that were implemented in 2014, the competition period guidelines implemented in 2015, and the coach education requirements that were implemented in 2016 for head varsity coaches and for ALL middle & high school coaches starting in 2017. The NFHS Football Rules Committee again looked at player safety as an important topic of discussion during its January meeting and some of the new rules adopted for the upcoming season will reflect this. These rule changes and any new NMAA regulations will be listed in detail within this Clinic.

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 2016 season saw a slight increase in player ejections (+8) when compared to 2015, so the NMAA office would like to challenge our football programs to lower this number in 2017.

Again, you must review all portions of the following units for important information pertaining to the 2017 season. You will need to review each of these units prior to August 31st 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.