



# 2024 Football Memo – Pre-Season III

August 14, 2024

## Properly Equipped Athletes

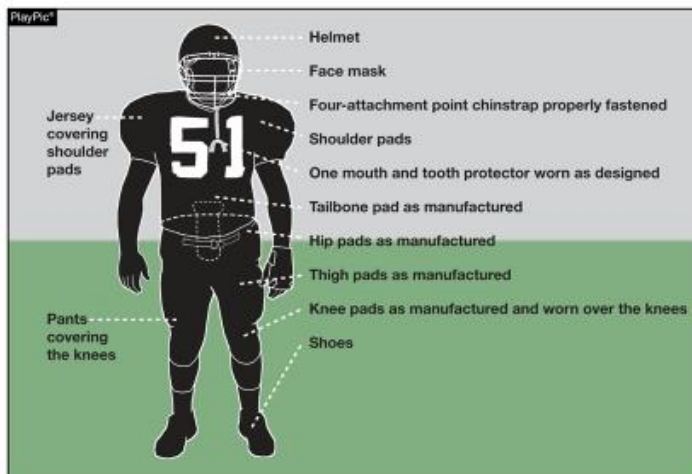
This is a point of emphasis and needs to be addressed by all officials. We should use preventative officiating measures during our pregame responsibilities to observe improperly equipped players and address any corrections prior to the start of the game.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure their athletes are properly equipped. We have had issues in the past with athletes not having their pants cover the athlete's knee and knee pad. The rule clearly states that pants must completely cover the knee, thigh guards, and knee pads and any portion of any knee brace that does not extend below the pants. The images below illustrate both proper and improper use of equipment.

Rule 1-6-4: When any required player equipment is missing or **worn improperly**, an official's time-out shall be declared, If the missing or improperly worn equipment is detected during the down or subsequent dead-ball action related to the down without being directly attributed to a foul by an opponent or if a player is wearing otherwise legal equipment in an illegal manner, **the player shall be replaced for at least one down**, unless halftime intermission or an overtime intermission occurs.

### Points of Emphasis

## PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT



To support the safety of all participants, players must wear equipment and uniforms that are properly fitted and worn as intended by the manufacturer. Before starting each game, the head coach must verify that all players are properly and legally equipped.



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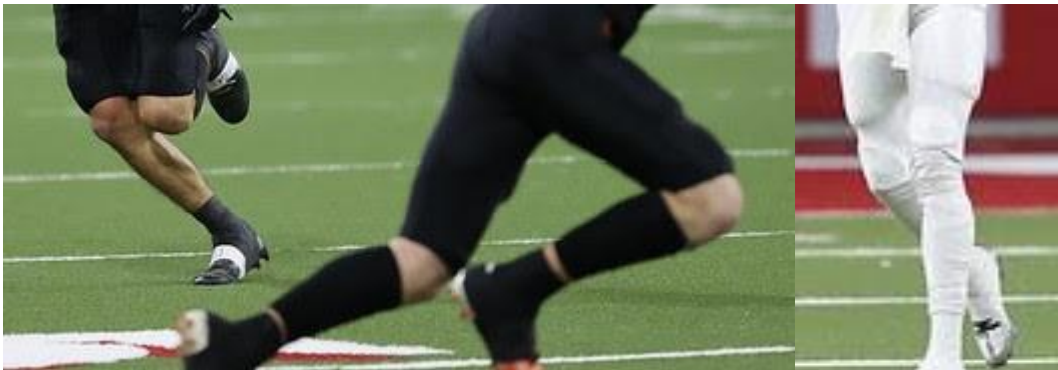


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Here are two examples of properly equipped knee pads and pants:



Here are two examples of improperly worn equipped knee pads and pants:



### Eye Shade

Rule 1-5-c3 - **It is illegal to have:** Eye shade (grease or no-glare strips or stickers) that is not solid strokes or includes words, numbers, logos, or other symbols within the eye shade. Coaches – assist the game with this discipline. Officials make this part of your pre-game routine and correct the situations that need addressing.

**Athletes will be removed from the game until they have corrected the eye shade issue.**



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### Head Linesman and Line Judge Switching Sidelines (SDHSAA only)

**This is a mandatory switch for all games.** We have had some questions about this change. It is important to keep things simple. Here is another approach to help understand this change: the LOS positions would be Chain Wing and Away Wing. This will help with mechanics, keys, positioning, and responsibilities specific to each of LOS positions. Particularly helpful on scrimmage kicks, free kicks, and measurements. Regardless of how the crew designates the positions on “paper”, both LOS officials are expected to know/execute the H responsibilities/mechanics when with the chains and the L responsibilities/mechanics when away from the chains. Using this approach, no other crew mechanics are impacted. The purpose for the change is equal exposure to the coaches/sideline for the contest. Other leagues/divisions/levels have found communication and consistency with coaches have improved. There has been a benefit when we have officials work in front the team for equal or mostly equal game time.

Best of luck for a safe and successful  
2024 SDHSAA football season

Remember, MIBT = Make it be there

<b>For suggestions, feedback, and comments, please feel free to contact.</b>		
<b>SDHSAA Officiating Coordinator</b>		
Justin Ingalls	coordinator@sdhsaa.com	605-201-9721
<b>Football Officiating Team Captains</b>		
Mark Smith	mrsmith57501@gmail.com	605-222-0281
Todd Landsman	toddmlandsman@gmail.com	605-310-1366
Jason McGough	jmcgough1974@gmail.com	605-390-2853