

OSAA considers new 40-second play clock proposal for high school football

The State High School Association Football Rules Committee recently approved the move

In an effort to establish a more consistent time period between downs in high school football, the play clock will start at 40 seconds instead of 25 seconds in many cases beginning with the 2019 season.

This change was one of seven rules revisions recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Football Rules Committee at its Jan. 13-15 meeting in Indianapolis, which were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The play clock will continue to start at 25 seconds (a) prior to a try following a score, (b) to start a period or overtime series, (c) following administration of an inadvertent whistle, (d) following a charged time-out, (e) following an official's time-out, with a few exceptions, and (f) following the stoppage of the play clock by the referee for any other reason.

In all other cases, 40 seconds will be placed on the play clock and start when the ball is declared dead by a game official.

Previously, the ball was marked ready-for-play when, after it had been placed for a down, the referee gave the ready-for-play signal and the 25-second count began. Beginning next season, in addition to the above situations when the 25-second count is used, the ball will also be ready for play when, starting immediately after the ball has been

ruled dead by a game official after a down, the ball has been placed on the ground by the game official and the game official has stepped away to position.

"The entire committee needs to be commended for its thorough discussion regarding the move to a 40-second play clock, except in specific situations that will still have a 25-second play clock to show play is ready to begin," said Todd Tharp, assistant director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and chair of the NFHS Football Rules Committee. "This is one of the most substantial game administration rules changes to be approved in the past 10 years, and without detailed experimentation from several state associations over the past three years, along with cooperation of the NFHS Football Game Officials Manual Committee, all the elements needed to approve this proposal would not have been in place."

Another significant change approved by the committee was the addition of a note to Rule 1-3-7 to permit state associations to create instant-replay procedures for state postseason contests only. This revision would allow game or replay officials to use a replay monitor during state postseason contests to review decisions by the on-field game officials.

Use of a replay monitor would be on a state-by-state adoption basis,

and the methodology for reviewing calls would be determined by the applicable state association.

"The ultimate goal of each game official and each officiating crew is to get the call correct," Tharp said. "Each state association, by individual adoption, can now use replay or video monitoring during its respective postseason contests to review decisions by the on-field game officials. Each state association, if it adopts this rules revision, will also create the parameters and scope of the replay."

With regard to uniforms, the NFHS Football Rules Committee clarified the size requirements for numbers on jerseys through the 2023 season and added a new requirement effective with the 2024 season. Clarifications to Rule 1-5-1c (in bold) that are in effect through the 2023 state that the numbers, inclusive of any border, shall be centered horizontally at least 8 inches and 10 inches high on front and back, respectively. In addition, the entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) exclusive of any border(s) shall be approximately 1½-inches wide. Finally, through the 2023 season, the body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) shall be either: (a) a continuous color(s) contrasting with the jersey color; or (b) the same color(s) as the jersey with a

minimum of one border that is at least ¼-inch in width of a single solid contrasting color.

Effective with the 2024 season, the entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) of the number shall be a single solid color that clearly contrasts with the body color of the jersey.

"The purpose of numbers on jerseys is to provide clear identification of players," said Bob Colgate, NFHS director of sports and sports medicine and staff liaison to the NFHS Football Rules Committee. "In order to enhance the ability to easily identify players, the committee has clarified the size requirements for jersey numbers through the 2023 season and added a new requirement for the 2024 season."

Two changes were approved by the committee in an effort to reduce the risk of injury in high school football. First, tripping the runner is now prohibited. Beginning next season, it will be a foul to intentionally use the lower leg or foot to obstruct a runner below the knees. Previously, a runner was not included in the definition of tripping. Second, in Rule 9-4-3k, the "horse-collar" foul was expanded to include the name-plate area, which is directly below the back collar. Colgate said grabbing the name-plate area of the runner's jersey, directly below the back collar, and pulling the run-

ner to the ground is now an illegal personal contact foul.

A change in the definition of a legal scrimmage formation was approved. A legal scrimmage formation now requires at least five offensive players on their line of scrimmage (instead of seven) with no more than four backs. The committee noted that this change will make it easier to identify legal and illegal offensive formations.

The final change approved by the NFHS Football Rules Committee for the 2019 season was a reduction in the penalty for illegally kicking or batting the ball from 15 yards to 10 yards.

A complete listing of the football rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Football."

According to the 2017-18 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, 11-player football is the most popular high school sport for boys with 1,036,842 participants in 14,079 schools nationwide. In addition, there were almost 30,000 boys who participated in 6-, 8- and 9-player football, along with approximately 2,500 girls who played the sport for a grand total of 1,068,870.

State from 1B

and bump Horrillo into the match for third place. Horrillo was able to take the bout in overtime to

secure third place and a trip to state.

In the 152-lb. division, Ryan Jennings went 3-2 and finished fourth, but qualified for state after winning his wrestleback match.

"That was a special win because Ryan had dislocated his knee a week ago," said Wartnik. "It wasn't even clear if he would be able to compete at district." Riley Jennings went 4-2 at

170 lbs., placing fourth and qualifying for state because he had already defeated the fifth-place wrestler earlier in the tournament — eliminating the need for a wrestleback match.

Wrestleback matches are held when a fourth-place finisher has not beaten the fifth-place finisher earlier in the tournament. All four wrestlers will return to the mats for the

final time this season during the OSAA 4A State Wrestling Tournament at Veterans Memorial Coliseum Feb. 22-23 in Portland.

Siuslaw from 1B

Unfortunately, both players fouled out late in the game as the Lady Pirates hammered the scoreboard with two players in double-digits. Marshfield opened the game with 21-8 scoring run in the first quarter, then out-

scored the Viks 17-2 in the second period for a 38-10 lead by halftime.

In the third quarter, Marshfield struck for the first 12 of the half's 14 points to secure a 50-12 lead to start the final period.

The win essentially secured the league title for Marshfield, which holds first place at 8-0 (as of Monday),

followed by Marist (6-2), Cottage Grove (5-3), Junction City (4-4), Elmira (1-7) and Siuslaw.

Last night (after press deadlines), the Viks hosted Elmira during the final home game of the season — and last home game for seniors Madison Reynolds, Alyssa Richards and Lillian Wenham.

Thursday, the Viks will wrap up the season on the road at Junction City, in a game originally scheduled to be played on Friday.

Tip-off for Thursday's game is set for 5:45 p.m., followed by the boys' game at 7:15 p.m.

Vikings from 1B

Though the Pirates continued to gain momentum, Siuslaw countered with an 8-0 run to end the third quarter to re-main within 8 points to start the fourth

quarter, 40-32. However, the Pirates had the final volley, on a 13-0 scoring run toward an eventual 56-43 win.

Senior guard Dylan Wynn led Siuslaw with 13 points, along with 11 points from freshman Braydon

Thornton. Last night, Siuslaw hosted Elmira (after press deadlines) for the final home game of the senior, where seniors Jordan Taniguchi, Nick Swift and Wynn were recognized. Thursday, Siuslaw will

finish the season on the road at Junction City in a game that was originally scheduled for Friday.

The Viking boys will tip off against the Tigers at 7:15 p.m., following the girls' game, which tips off at 5:45 p.m.

Fishing from 1B

casting lures are good techniques to catch a Siuslaw winter steelhead.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

ALSEA RIVER: *Winter steelhead*

Winter steelhead fishing has slowed down on the Alsea with the low and clear water conditions. Numbers entering the Alsea hatchery trap have slowed down as well.

A few fish are still being caught everyday but it will improve with the next shot of rain. The extended forecasts look cold and dry which will continue to the low and clear conditions.

These conditions slow migration and congregate the fish that are trying to move upriver in the lower portions of the Alsea River. There is an old saying "when the water is low fish low, when the water is high fish high."

Smaller presentations and lighter line will work best in the lower water conditions.

The numbers of later returning right maxillary clipped fish should increase with each rain event for the rest of February through March. The earlier returning

left maxillary clipped fish are past peak and will continue to decrease for the rest of the season.

The Alsea still gets a good amount of the early returning stock that peaks in December and January, as well as a later stock that peaks in February and March.

Expect more fish to show up with each rise in the river level from now through April. Bobber fishing with jigs/bait, drift fishing, and casting lures are all effective ways to catch these hard fighting fish.

Trout fishing in streams will reopen May 22, 2019.

SALMON RIVER: Winter steelhead

Winter steelhead will continue to enter the Salmon River system through the month of February as the later returning wild fish start to show up from now through March. The Salmon River has no hatchery releases and is entirely a wild run. These fish will start to enter the system in December but the peak is January through March. Bobber fishing with jigs/bait and casting lures are great techniques to catch a Salmon River winter steelhead.

Trout fishing in streams

will reopen May 22, 2019.

SILETZ RIVER: *Winter steelhead*

Winter steelhead continues to be fair on the Siletz. The low and clear water conditions have slowed migration and made the fishing more challenging. A mix of hatchery and wild fish are still being caught everyday by boaters and bank anglers. With the extended forecast showing no signs of considerable rain, expect more of the

same conditions for the next week. The numbers of wild and hatchery fish should continue to improve, as we get closer to the peak of the run in February and March.

Anglers are starting to catch more wild fish in the basin as well, remember to handle these wild fish with care and immediately release them back into the river. January is typically when things heat up and continue through March/April.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK ▶▶



ERIN MICHAEL
SENIOR
BASKETBALL



HIGHLIGHT:

Congratulations to Mapleton senior basketball player **Erin Michael** as this week's Athlete of the Week. In last Thursday's win against Eddyville Charter Erin scored 22 points in the 48-23 win Lady Sailor's win. Coach Melissa Duffy said this was one of Michael's best if not the best performance this year.

Honorable Mention: **Gracie Freudenthal - Siuslaw Basketball**

Highlight:
Honorable mention goes to Siuslaw Basketball player **Gracie Freudenthal** who had a great defensive effort against Marshfield with 12 rebounds and held Marshfield's premiere scorer Hailey Browning to just 4 points in Friday night's loss.

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