

# **New York State Association of Certified Football Officials, Inc.**

## **2023 Girls Flag Football Rules Clarifications**

On March 14, 2023, the NYSPHSAA provided the following interpretations for the 2023 Girls Flag Football Rules:

- The maximum yardage penalty is 10 yards.
- All Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls are 10 yards enforced from the succeeding spot. (NYSPHSAA wants this to be administered consistent with NFHS Football Rules.)
- The ball size is one size smaller than the standard size ball used for NFHS varsity football. (Manufacturers are not consistent in their marketing of a “junior” sized ball.)
- The ball is spotted in the middle of the field for all plays.
- Forward handoffs are only permitted behind the Line of Scrimmage. Backward handoffs can occur anywhere on the field.
- **PATs cannot be returned by the defense.** (NYSPHSAA wants this to be consistent with NFHS Football Rules.)
- Illegal substitution is a 5-yard penalty. Illegal Participation is a 10-yard penalty. (NYSPHSAA wants this to be administered consistent with NFHS Football Rules.)
- A punt is dead once it touches the ground or a player. After a punt by K, R will always retain possession of the ball at either the spot the ball first touched the ground or first touches a player, whichever occurs first.
- Under Running and Flag Removal, the penalty for illegal flag tampering is a warning followed by an Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul. This is consistent with a defensive player intentionally pulling a flag belt from an offensive player without the ball.
- The bench area is 20-yard line to 20-yard line.
- Coach-Referee Conference (NYSPHSAA wants this to be consistent with NFHS Football Rules.)
  - If a team requests a charged time-out for a CRC and the conference results in the referee altering the ruling, the time-out reverts to an official’s time-out.
  - If a team has used all its permissible charged time-outs and requests a CRC, if the conference results in the referee not altering the ruling, a delay of game foul is assessed.
- With the new running clock rule, officials should be diligent in enforcing the 25-second play clock rule.
- For regional playoffs, state semi-final and state final games, a recommendation will be made to the NYSPHSAA Competition Committee to use 4 officials.
- As a general guideline, unless otherwise specified in the rules or interpretations provided by the NYSPHSAA, the officials should revert to NFHS Football rules.