PRE-SEASON BULLETIN ADDENDUM

- Rule 9-2-3 (drop ball inside the penalty area). If when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch by either team was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the **Defending Team’s Goalkeeper** with all opposing players outside the penalty area. In all cases all other players must remain at least 4 yards from the ball until it is in play. I had incorrectly stated that the ball could be dropped to any player on the defending team. The ball **CAN ONLY** be dropped to the defending team’s goalkeeper in the penalty area.

- There was a discussion regarding free kicks taken in the penalty area by the defending team including Goal Kicks. With the new rule change the kick no longer needs to leave the penalty area to be in play. The ball is now in play once it has been kicked and moves. However, 2 things are important to remember; 1- the kicker may not play the ball until it has been touched by another player, and 2- the Goal Keeper **CANNOT** pick up the ball to put it into play (16-1-5). This means that if the ball is kicked and moved the GK can only play the ball with his or her feet and may not pick it up to put it into play. Please be sure to review 13-3-1 Situation C on page 69 in the rule book for additional clarification.

- Scenario: An attacker dribbles the ball into the opposing penalty area takes a shot. The ball hits the referee and stays on the field and rebounds to the same attacker with a clear shot on goal. Do we stop play because there is a promising attack and have a drop ball to the defending goalkeeper or play on because there was a promising attack before the ball hit the ref? In this scenario there would be NO stoppage in play for a drop ball because the ball hit the referee. None of the 3 conditions requiring a drop ball occurred, 1- a goal was not scored, 2- possession did not change, and 3- a promising attack did not develop as a result of the touch. The player taking the shot did not start a promising attack as they never lost possession after hitting the referee.

- Several questions have come up regarding the Sportsmanship Message in the Pre-Season Bulletin. The wording in the bulletin is the standard PIAA message for all sports. Soccer has been approved to use the following language at the pre-game meeting:

  PIAA requires all registered sports’ officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today’s contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the contest official(s) that your contestants will be legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions at the kickoff. Good luck in today’s contest.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COACHES TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETING

1. Obtain school access code from your Athletic Director or Principal
2. Log on to www.piaa.org
3. In the upper right corner of the screen, click LOGIN
4. In the drop down box, click OFFICIALS, SCHOOLS, & MEDIA
5. Enter the access code you were given by your Athletic Director or Principal
6. In ACCOUNT TOOLS, click MAKE UP ONLINE RULES INTERPRETATION MEETING
7. Click the sport you are coaching.

The online rules meetings will be available August 1 - 28 FREE OF CHARGE. August 29 - September 15 will incur a $75 charge.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICIALS TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETING

1. Log on to www.piaa.org
2. In the upper right corner of the screen, click LOGIN
3. In the drop down box, click OFFICIALS, SCHOOLS, & MEDIA
4. Enter your access code. Your access code is the first four letters of your name and the last four numbers of your tax identification number (social security #) - no spaces (example - HART1234)
5. In ACCOUNT TOOLS, click MAKE UP ONLINE RULES INTERPRETATION MEETING
6. Click the sport you are taking the meeting for.

The online rules meetings will be available August 1 - 28 FREE OF CHARGE. August 29 - September 15 will incur a $50 charge.