

Visible Apparel Guidance

With the spring season and its inevitable inclement weather, HSSO has had some questions about how to enforce NFHS rules change 4.1.1:

d. If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be a solid color matching the predominant color of the respective garment.

e. Visible arm compression sleeves shall be a similar length, all alike and of a solid color matching the predominant color of the jersey. Visible leg compression sleeves shall be of a similar length, all alike and of a solid color matching the predominant color of the shorts.

In short, this new rule requires players to have the same color undergarments as their sleeves/shorts. If and when this comes up, please remember to apply NFHS rule 4.1.1.

When an illegally uniformed team is unable to correct the situation or cannot verify state association approval of the uniform, the game shall be played. The referee must, however, notify the state association following the game. (Use a supplemental report.)

Referees should also apply NFHS Rule 4.1.1.h in situations where the keeper's socks are the same as the other team or if there is some other 'cosmetic' uniform issue.

BTW, it is a good idea to ask the coach to remedy the situation if they are able. If not, ask them to have it corrected for the next match. In these situations, the referee should NEVER give a yellow card for 'illegal' equipment or send someone off for 'improper' equipment.

Please share this with the officials in your area and have a great season!