

GISA OT Mercy Rule, Ball, and Number Exception Policy

Wilson is the Official Ball used by the GISA. Please do not approve any other ball. Wilson balls must be used at all times during all playoff games.

The following rules are GISA rules that take precedent over NFHS rules:

1. The tie-breaking procedure for all region and state playoffs is as follows: a. The winner of the coin toss will have the option to be on offense or defense first. b. All play will take place on one end of the field as determined by the officials. c. The ball will be placed on the 25-yard line and each team will have a series of plays on offense and defense. Teams may make first-downs and will retain possession of the ball until a score is made, the team loses the ball, or the ball goes over on downs. If there is not a winner, the teams alternate choice of being on offense and defense first and each team has another series of downs from the 25-yard line. d. After each team has had two possessions and there is still not a winner, the ball will be placed on the 10 yard line and the teams will continue to alternate choice of offense or defense first. The playoff will continue this process from the 10-yard line until a winner is determined.
2. Football fans must be kept at least five (5) yards behind the end zone lines. If this amount of space is not available fans will not be allowed to stand behind the end zone lines.
3. The recommendation by NFHS pertaining to the numbering system of football jerseys is waived.
4. GISA FOOTBALL MERCY RULE: If a team is trailing by 30 or more points at halftime, the coach of the trailing team may choose to play the second half with a running clock. Quarters will remain at 12 minutes. If the coach does not exercise the option, the entire third quarter will be played with regulation timing. If a team is trailing by 30 or more points at the end of the third quarter, a running clock is mandated for the entire fourth quarter. A running clock means the clock will be stopped only after a score until the ball is kicked off, during deliberations or penalty administration, and during charged or official's timeouts.