

2023-24 NFHS / NJSIAA Basketball Rule Changes & Modifications

IAABO / NFHS Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis Video [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

Pregame Sportsmanship Procedures (NJSIAA All Levels)



Who: All bench personnel (warming-up) plus the head coach.

When / Where: At the conclusion of the designated warm-up period each team will be addressed by one of the officiating crew members near the free-throw restricted circle.

In a crew of 2: The Referee will address the Visiting team and the Umpire will address the Home team. In a crew of 3: The U1 will address the Home Team and the U2 will address the Visiting team.

The following shall be administered in order:

- 1) Verify with the head coach that their team members' uniforms and equipment are legal, and will be worn properly. (NFHS 2-4-5)
- 2) Verify with the head coach that all participants will exhibit proper sporting behavior throughout the contest. (NFHS 2-4-5)
- 3) Identify who will be acting as the on-site administrator for today's contest should any issues arise (i.e. spectator sportsmanship, student-athlete safety, etc)
- 4) Ask if there is an appropriate healthcare professional (athletic trainer / nurse / etc) on site.
- 5) Identify the ONE CAPTAIN who is the representative of their team and may address an official on matters of interpretation or to obtain essential information if it's done in a courteous manner.
Note: That player may (or may not) be a designated starter.
- 6) Read the current NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement to all team members and head coach.
- 7) Ask (and answer) if there are any questions.
- 8) Ask teams to move to their respective bench areas and prepare for the start of the game (or pre-game announcements + national anthem, etc)

Uniform Violations (NJSIAA Modification for NFHS 2-4-5, 10-2)



Situation: After proper verification by the Head Coach (in pre-game) a substitute is beckoned into the game or a player is observed in the game wearing illegal equipment, improperly worn uniforms, or illegal jewelry, and the player is directed to leave the game, the following penalties will be enforced:

Penalty (First Offense): A team "uniform warning" is charged and recorded in the official scorebook.

Penalty: (Second / Subsequent Offenses): A Team Technical Foul (NFHS 10-2) shall be charged to the offending team when it occurs. Since head coaches have previously verified their team members' uniforms and equipment are legal, and will be worn properly, it is their responsibility to maintain this compliance. There is no loss of coaching box for Team Technical Fouls. This does count toward the total team foul count. Previously there was no penalty for repeated violations of the illegal equipment, improperly worn uniforms, or illegal jewelry.

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Uniform Color Modifications (NJSIAA Modification for NFHS 3-4-1c)



Modification: The torso color shall be **WHITE** for the **VISITING** team and a contrasting **DARK COLOR** for the **HOME** team. NFHS 3-4-1c

Rationale: To be consistent with some NFHS states and other NJSIAA sports (football, soccer, etc) to allow member schools in utilizing multiple variations of dark colors for their home events.

Uniform Bottoms / Color (NFHS Rule Change)



3-4-5: Requires uniform bottoms on teammates to be like-colored while allowing different styles of uniform bottoms among teammates.

Rationale: Clarifies that teammates must all wear like-colored uniform bottoms but may wear multiple styles while aligning language with other NFHS rules codes.

Shot Clock Operator (Approved Non-NJSIAA Conferences Only)



Rule Change: 2-1-3 NOTE (NEW): Requires the shot clock operator to sit at the scorer's and timer's table, if using a shot clock.

Rationale: Establishes the placement of the shot clock operator for those states utilizing the shot clock and the growing use of video boards that allow tablet control from anywhere in the gym.

Note: Shot Clock is NOT APPROVED for NJSIAA schools. Some preparatory school leagues utilize the shot clock which this change refers to.

Black Under-Shirts Permitted (NFHS Rule Change / NJSIAA Modification)



3-5-6: Allows undershirts worn under (**NJSIAA HOME / DARK**) team jerseys to be black or a single solid color similar to the torso of the jersey. All teammates wearing undershirts must wear the same solid color.

Rationale: Allows schools with hard-to-find colors to wear black under dark team jerseys while continuing to require all team members to match. Allowing all shirts worn by teammates under the **dark jersey to be black or a single solid color similar to the torso of the jersey** while still requiring all teammates to match. This modification makes it easier for student-athlete compliance in lieu of trying to match dark color jerseys with under-shirts. Also mitigates the necessity of judging whether or not the undershirt is of "similar color" by the officiating crew.

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Bonus Free Throws (NFHS Rule Change)



4-8-1: Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as **two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter.**

Rationale: Improves flow by providing an opportunity for teams to adjust their play by not carrying over fouls from quarters 1 and 3 to quarters 2 and 4 while significantly reducing the opportunity for correctable errors to occur. Minimizes risk of injury by eliminating the one-and-one and reducing opportunities for rough play during rebounding opportunities.

Note: Overtime is an extension of the 4th quarter, thus the team fouls are not reset and handled the same as in previous years.

Head Coaches Rule / Coaching Box Violation (NJSIAA Modification)



Modification: **Removal of the coaching box privileges will be enforced under the following situations. (NFHS 10-6 Penalty)**

Current NFHS Rules (no change):

- Direct Technical Foul charged to the head coach = Loss of Coaching Box
- Indirect Technical Foul charged to the head coach = Loss of Coaching Box

Current Penalty: **Two free-throws awarded to the offended team followed by a throw-in at the division line. The charged head coach loses the coaching box privileges. (no change)**

NJSIAA Modification 2023-24 (new):

- **Officials may rule a "Coaching Box Violation" if the head coach is observed to be positioned and/or coaching with both feet outside the coaching box, regardless of conduct.**

Penalty: **The official shall ask the scorer to record a Coaching Box Violation in the official score book. The charged head coach loses the coaching box privileges.**

As in previous years, an optional warning may be reported for head coach/bench personnel misconduct (or coaching box violation) to the official scorer and then to the head coach of the offended team. (NFHS 2-7-11) As in all situations where removal of the coaching box privileges are enforced the administering official shall instruct the head coach to remain seated except as allowed in 10-5-4.

Rationale: Officials are reluctant to enforce the coaching box using a Technical Foul as the first penalty. Removal of coaching box privileges when coaches are consistently out of the box even if not unsportsmanlike, can be enforced easier.

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Mistake / Wrong Team Throw-In (NFHS Rule Change)



7-6-6: Allows the official administering a throw-in to the wrong team to correct the mistake before the first dead ball after the ball becomes live unless there is a change of possession.

Rationale: Allows for a correction of an official's mistake in a more reasonable timeframe.

Stepping Out of Bounds (NFHS Rule Change)



9-3-3: Establishes that a player may step out of bounds without penalty unless they are the first player to touch the ball after returning to the court or if they left the court to avoid a violation.

Rationale: Allows a player to step out of bounds if they gain no advantage and penalizes a team only if they gain an advantage by leaving the court and returning to avoid a violation or to be the first to touch the ball.

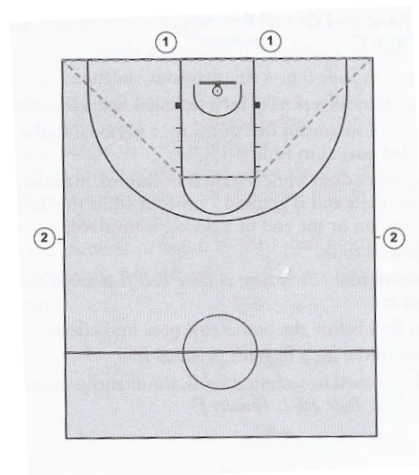
NFHS / IAABO Officiating Mechanics Changes

Frontcourt Throw-In Spots (NFHS Change)



7-5-2 thru 5: Establishes four throw-in spots (the nearest 28-foot mark along each sideline or the nearest spot 3-feet outside the lane line on the end line) when the ball is in team control in the offensive team's frontcourt and the defensive team commits a violation, a common foul prior to the bonus, or the ball becomes dead.

Rationale: Simplifies throw-in procedure when there is team control in the frontcourt and the defensive team commits a violation. Also provides clarity for inbounding (for coaches and officials) which is inline with NCAA mechanics. Permits coaches to run pre-programmed plays easier.



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Crews of 3 and Crews of 2: Foul Reporting - Ruling Official Goes Tableside



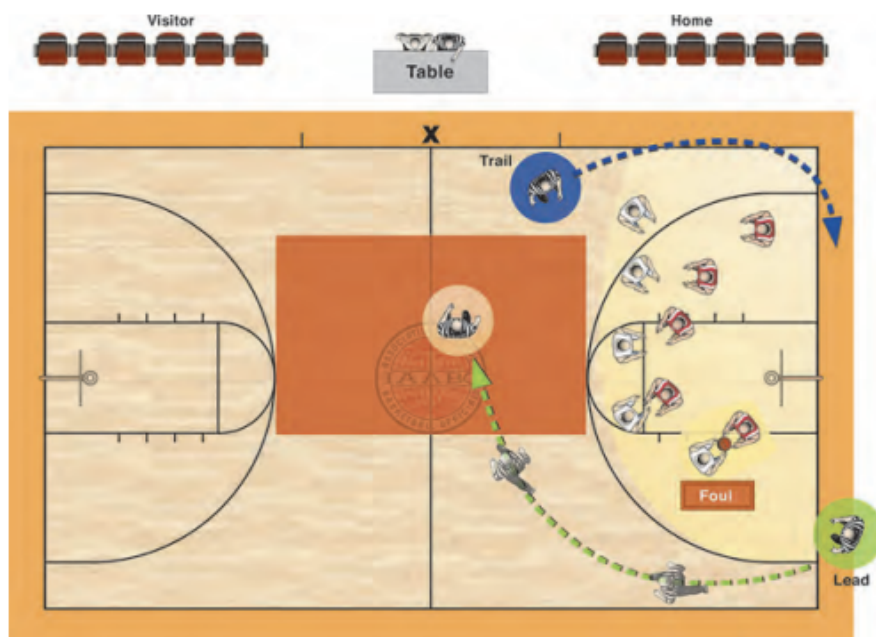
NFHS Mechanic: Starting in 2023-24, NFHS, NCAA Mens, and NCAA Womens will be in alignment with the mechanic of staying tableside after ruling and reporting the foul. This mechanic change will be implemented as well for NJSIAA contests.

Rationale for the Tableside Communication Mechanic change:

- puts the foul-calling official in a better position to communicate with coaches;
- may improve coaching behavior with the official nearby to explain the call, rather than the coach trying to communicate with the official across the floor;
- improves officials' responding skills;
- speeds up the dead-ball period with the calling official moving toward the table.
- See IAABO Manual (Crews of 3) for specifics on tableside mechanics.
- For Crews of 2, table side mechanics apply when free throws are awarded.

*Below: See excerpts from the new graphics being added to the IAABO 2023-24 Manual on pages 171-172 for the clarified **Two Person Mechanics**.*

Report Foul Freeze and Switch



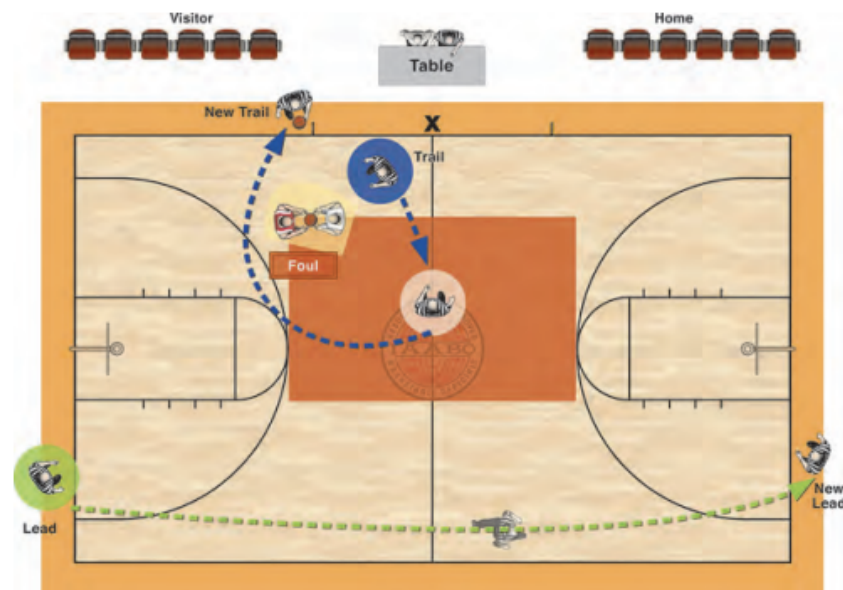
Reporting official moves briskly around the players to the reporting area while observing both benches. Free (non-ruling) official freezes eyes and observes all players while moving to new position.

Tableside Trail Rules Foul, Frontcourt Throw-in, Stays Tableside



Tableside Trail rules a foul, moves to the reporting area and reports the foul, then remains tableside Trail and administers the ensuing throw-in. Opposite side Lead remains the opposite side Lead.

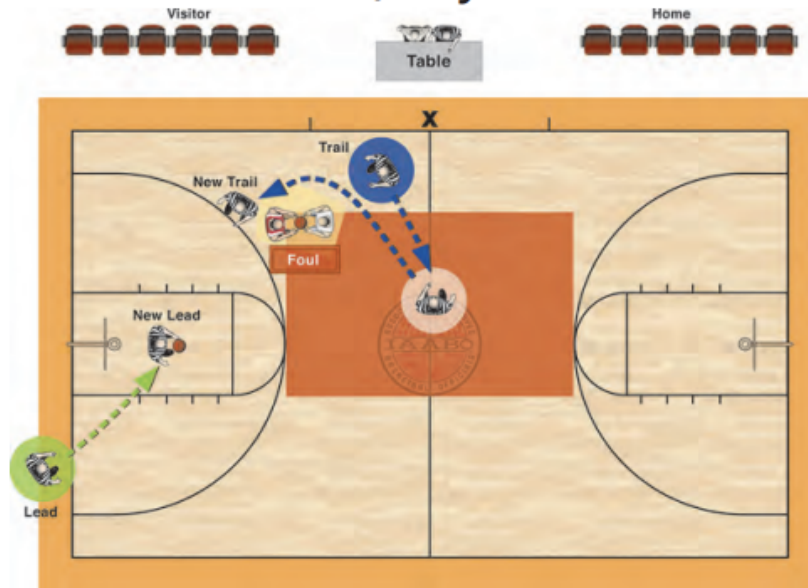
Tableside Trail Rules Foul, Backcourt Throw-in



Tableside Trail rules foul, moves to the reporting area, reports the foul and becomes the tableside Trail in the backcourt and administers the throw-in. The opposite side Lead becomes the opposite side Lead in the frontcourt.

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Tablesides Trail Rules Foul, Free Throws, Stays Tableside



Tablesides Trail rules a foul, moves to the reporting area, reports foul and remains the tableside Trail. The opposite Lead remains the Lead opposite the table and administers the free throws.

Crews of 2 and Crews of 3:

Fouls in Backcourt / Reporting / Optional Switching (NJSIAA Modification)



Modification: When a foul is ruled by the official in the backcourt, and the offended team is not entitled to any free-throws, the administering official MAY move into the reporting area, properly report the foul, and then return to their previous position for the ensuing throw-in.

Rationale: This mechanic change provides a more seamless flow and allows the crew to resume play faster without impacting the game. In situations where free-throws are warranted, normal mechanics of dead-ball switching of officials will apply.

2023-24 NFHS Basketball Points of Emphasis



1. Uniforms, Equipment and Apparel
2. Bench Decorum
3. Throw-Ins – Proper Locations

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NJSIAA Points of Emphasis

Hair Adornment

The NFHS has adopted several rules changes concerning hair adornments, religious items, and jewelry across multiple sports for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. Below is a summary of these changes. It is extremely important that all administrators, coaches, officials, and student-athletes are aware of these rules to ensure everyone's safety and a consistent understanding by all stakeholders. All involved are encouraged to review the full rulebook prior to the season.

The NFHS has updated its rules to allow the use of hair adornments that are made of hard materials if they are securely fastened close to the head and do not present an increased risk to the player, teammates, or opponents.

Hair adornments are defined as anything decorative that could be worn on one's head, regardless if they are used to hold a hairstyle in place. Hair adornments include, but are not limited to, barrettes, beads, and bobby pins. Hair charms are considered jewelry and must follow the jewelry rules below.

Hair adornments are allowed in all sports. If the hair adornment becomes non-compliant during play, then the officials shall allow time to fix the hair adornment. If the hair adornment cannot be fixed immediately, then the student-athlete must leave the game to fix the hair adornment.

Procedures: Prior to the start of the competition, it is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that his or her student-athletes are properly equipped by adhering to all NFHS uniform rules. If an official notices a violation of any NFHS uniform rule, the official should address the violation with the head coach only – the official is not to address the violation with the student-athlete or anyone else associated with the team. The head coach is responsible for working with the student-athlete to remedy the violation to the satisfaction of the official.

Religious Items

The NFHS has updated its rules to allow uniform flexibility to accommodate religious norms, such as the wearing of undergarments, head coverings and religious jewelry. Head covering worn for religious reasons must be made of non-abrasive, soft materials and must fit securely. Religious medals must be taped and worn under the uniform. Other religious jewelry, such as nose rings, are allowed in all sports but must not pose a safety risk to the player, teammates, or opponents. Accommodations should be made to allow religious jewelry to be worn.

The state association shall be notified, after the event, if there is a concern about a head covering, or any other covering, worn for religious reasons.

These changes are consistent with the "Religious Accommodations" section in NJSIAA's Policies & Procedures.

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Transgender Clarification

Pursuant to NJ law and NJSIAA policy, the NJSIAA will approve all reasonable accommodations regarding uniforms as it relates to transgender student-athletes. If there are any questions regarding this on the day of the contest, officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA the following day.

All Accommodations:

- Must not violate the NFHS sports specific uniform rules
- Must match the existing uniform in terms of color and logos.
- Must not create an unsafe environment for all participants.

School Uniform Modifications

Schools may permit modifications of uniforms for hair adornments, cultural/religious reasons, jewelry, and transgender modifications without an approval letter from the NJSIAA.

Any concerns regarding the accommodations must be addressed through the coach, not the athlete.

Officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA if there are concerns the following day. No accommodation may create an unsafe environment for any participant.

State Tournament

Assigning for preliminary rounds will be done by the Local Assignor
Sectionals, Groups, and Finals – By NJSIAA Assignors

Implicit Bias Training

In September 2019, NJSIAA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the NJ Office of the Attorney General – Division of Civil Rights. This Memorandum required NJSIAA to provide implicit bias training to all registered NJSIAA officials.

To accomplish this requirement, NJSIAA will be hosting a series of workshops on implicit bias during the 2023-2024 school year. The workshops will be virtual and will be hosted on the Zoom platform. They should last no longer than one hour.

This workshop is required! No official will be eligible for postseason state tournament assignments without participating in the workshop. Similar workshops, like the NFHS course, will not be accepted. This is a one-time-only requirement - it will not be a seasonal or annual requirement.

All NJSIAA Basketball Officials must complete this requirement. If you are a football official that completed the NFL Implicit Bias Training, you are exempt from this workshop. All other officials will need to take this workshop.

Be alert for ZebraWeb Memos for updated registration links for these workshops.

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Registering as a NJSIAA Official

- All officials, at all levels, must be registered with the NJSIAA. (www.njsiaa.org)
- Email must match with ZebraWeb email
- All officials must complete a background check which is triggered automatically after registration.
- All officials must complete the concussion in sports course on the NFHS Learn website. (After July 1)
- All officials must pay appropriate NJSIAA fees, including the background check fee.
- All officials must be in good standing with their chapter.
- All basketball officials must pass the NJSIAA / IAABO Simulation Refresher. See your local chapter for dates and times.

Registration Reminders

Registration opened on April 15, 2023.

Registration will close on March 31, 2024

All registered officials are covered by the NFHS Liability Insurance.

All eligibility requirements will expire on June 30th of each year.

First Sport is \$65:

Registration = \$55

Background Check = \$10

Each Additional Sport is \$35:

Registration = \$35

Background Check = \$0

Late Registrations Fee (After March 31) = \$10

Basketball Officials Eligibility / Warning Procedure

- The first warning email is sent to all officials that have not completed all eligibility checks three weeks before the NJSIAA opening day of that sport.
- The second warning email is sent two weeks before the NJSIAA opening day of that sport.
- Forfeiture of events will occur one week before the NJSIAA opening day for that sport.
- All officials can be assigned to games up to the forfeiture date
- All officials will turn orange (in ZebraWeb) once they receive a warning email, until they clear all their eligibility requirements.
- Background Check Procedures can be found on the NJSIAA.org website

1 st Warning	2 nd Warning	Removal of Assignments
11/23/2023	11/30/2023	12/07/2023

Conflict of Interest

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The following represent some examples of NJSIAA conflicts of interest.

- Currently employed in the district
- Previous employment in the district within the past 10 years
- A close relative employed in the district
- A child attending any school in the district
- A graduate of school within the past ten years
- Officials that also coach the sport in which they officiate must be extremely aware of a possible conflict of interest

If there is a doubt, officials should contact their Chapter Assignor and / or the NJSIAA Officials Handbook for more information.

Sportsmanship Statement (Updated 2022)

The following is read by officials:

The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash-talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event.

All participants must respect the game, respect the officials, and respect their opponents.

- Must be read at all levels (no choice – this is a New Jersey Attorney General’s Office mandate)
- Must be read in its entirety (no paraphrasing)
- Must be professional in the delivery
- Must be read to all members of the team regardless of the size of the team.
- PA announcers utilize a different version which does NOT replace the reading by officials
- The sportsmanship policy must be adhered to before, during and after the contest.

Disqualification Rule

Any student-athlete or coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike, flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two regularly scheduled contests, except for football which will carry a one game disqualification.

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Basketball Disqualification (5 Personal Fouls)

Definition of a game ejection (disqualification) is any player removed from a game for behavior that is not considered unsportsmanlike, and does not require a DQ report to be filed. In basketball this is the disqualification for committing a 5th personal foul in a game.

DQ Reporting by the Official

- The official must contact the AD by noon of the next day. Acceptable forms of communication are email, talking to the AD at the game, or on the phone. Leaving a message is not acceptable.
- The online report must be sent within 48 hours from the completion of the game
- Contact representatives from your local chapter BEFORE completing the online report for help in preparing this submission. Check with your local chapter to see who this would be.
- Take your time and get it right!
- In certain circumstances, officials are encouraged to use video (if available) to confirm the information is correct before filing the DQ with the NJSIAA.
- Schools will not be penalized for playing a player that eventually was disqualified within the 48-hour period.
- The official must notify the coach before they leave the facility that it was a DQ or in the case where multiple DQ's (fight) is possible, inform the coach and AD DQ's are coming.
- A DQ is a DQ. Officials are not permitted to change their mind after it is called
- DQ appeals will NOT be accepted by the NJSIAA
- Please remember to be signed into the website to enter a DQ

Use of Video (for DQ purposes)

The NJSIAA encourages officials to review any available video to assist in identifying the appropriate student-athlete/s or to correct a previously submitted disqualification.

Video must not be used to change the DQ ruling itself. The NJSIAA reserves the right to review videos of egregious violations of our sportsmanship policy.

Officials Apparel

The NJSIAA is proud to announce our new exclusive supplier of officials' uniforms is Smitty out of Canton, Ohio. Smitty is a nationwide company with an outstanding product, serving many states as well as being the official manufacturer of the NFHS. Their website will help you find all local vendors that will be selling Smitty apparel. Smittyapparel.com. Officials are required to wear Smitty apparel starting July 1, 2023. See the NJSIAA Officials Handbook for details on uniform requirements.