



# 2025 NFHS BASEBALL RULES CHANGES AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS



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B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA  
NFHS Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services

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# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- NFHS (located in Indianapolis, IN – Est. 1920):
  - National leader and advocate for high school athletics and performing arts programs.
  - Serves 51 state associations, 19,500 high schools and 12 million student participants.
  - Writes playing rules for 17 high school sports for boys and girls.
  - Offers online education courses for high school coaches, officials, parents, students and others.
  - Ensures that students have opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement and good sportsmanship in education-based athletics.



# NFHS RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

- The NFHS Rules Review Committee is chaired by the chief operating officer and composed of all rules editors. After each committee concludes its deliberations and has adopted its recommended changes for the subsequent year, such revisions will be evaluated by the Rules Review Committee.



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Chief Operating  
Officer



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Lacrosse and  
Volleyball



**Bob Colgate**  
Football and Sports  
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**Elliot Hopkins**  
Baseball and  
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**James Weaver**  
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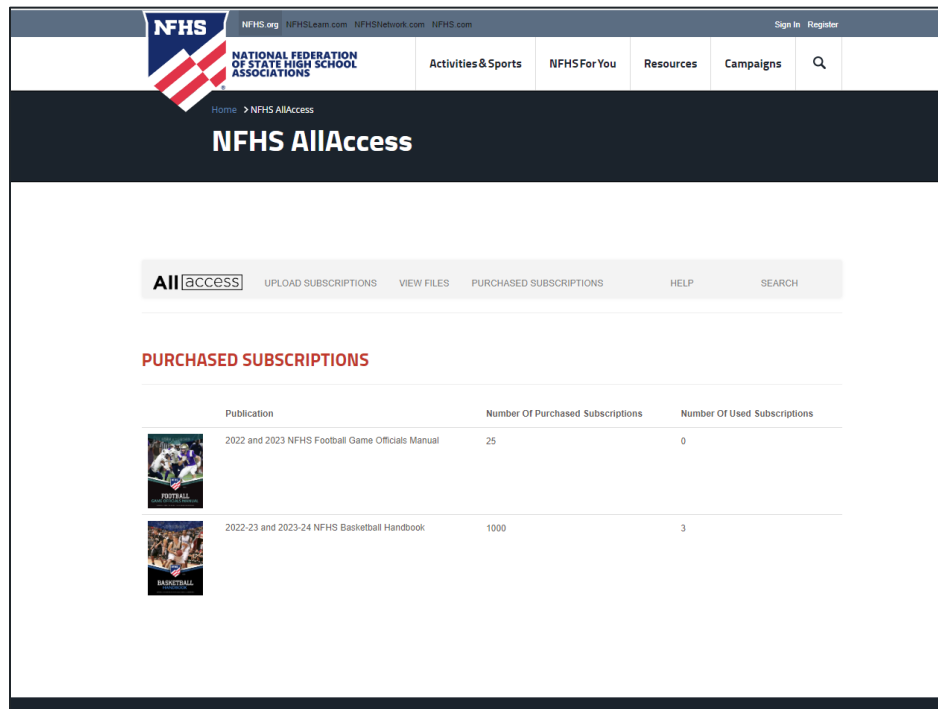
# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.
  - Publishes 4 million pieces of materials annually.



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# NFHS AllAccess – WEBSITE

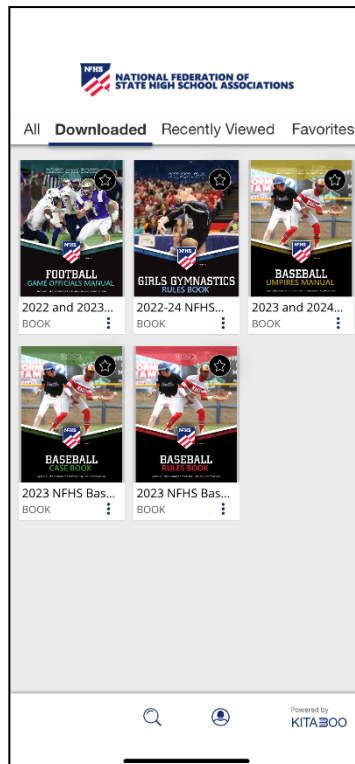


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## 1-3-2c1 BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES



- Resin, pine tar or any drying agent are permitted to enhance the hold on any bat, and it is not to exceed beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob.
- The rule change creates consistency between wood bats and non-wood bats. On non-wood bats, drying agents are no longer permitted on the grip only.





# BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES

## 1-3-2c1

**ART. 2 . . .** The bat shall have the following characteristics and components.

Sub-articles a-b remains the same.

c. Each bat not made of a single piece of wood shall:

1. Have a safety grip made of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic tape) or commercially manufactured composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob.



# BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES

## 1-3-2c1

Slippery tape or similar material shall be prohibited. Resin, pine tar or any drying agent are permitted to enhance the hold on the bat, not to exceed beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob. Molded grips are illegal.

### Rationale:

Risk minimization and consistency. This change allows the batter to have better control over their non-wood bat, so it does not slip out of their hands. It also makes the rule the same for wood bats and non-wood bats.

## 4-4-1c FORFEITED GAME



- A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team delays more than a reasonable amount of time in not obeying an umpire's order to remove a player, coach or team personnel for violation of the rules.



# FORFEITED GAME

## 4-4-1c

- ART. 1 . . .** A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team:
- a. is late in appearing or in beginning play after the umpire calls "Play." State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstance before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams; or
  - b. refuses to continue play after the game has started; or
  - c. delays more than a reasonable amount of time in resuming play, or in not obeying the umpire's order to remove a player, coach or team personnel (3-3-2) for violation of the rules; or
  - d. persists in tactics designed to delay or shorten the game; or
  - e. willfully and persistently violates any of the rules after being warned by the umpire; or...





# FORFEITED GAME

## 4-4-1c

### Rationale:

Clarification. Forfeiture is the result when a coach, player or team personnel does not conform to the instructions of the umpire. An ejection is a serious violation of sportsmanship and game decorum. To aggravate the violation with a game forfeiture is egregious and contrary to the basic premise of education-based athletics.



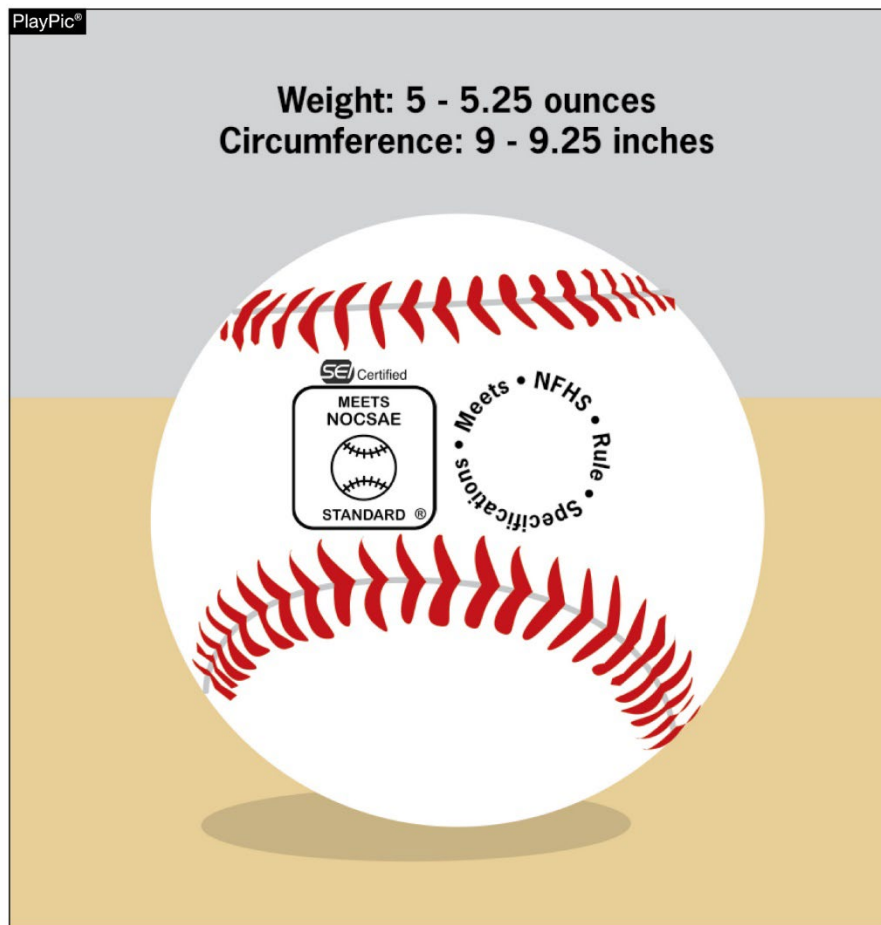
Points of Emphasis

# 2025 NFHS BASEBALL



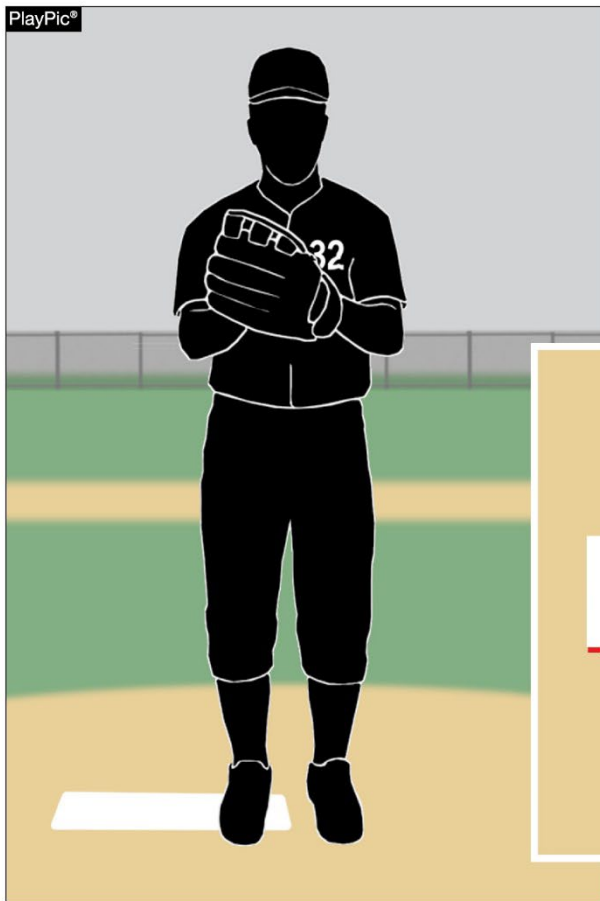
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## USE OF AUTHENTICATED MARK PROGRAM BALLS

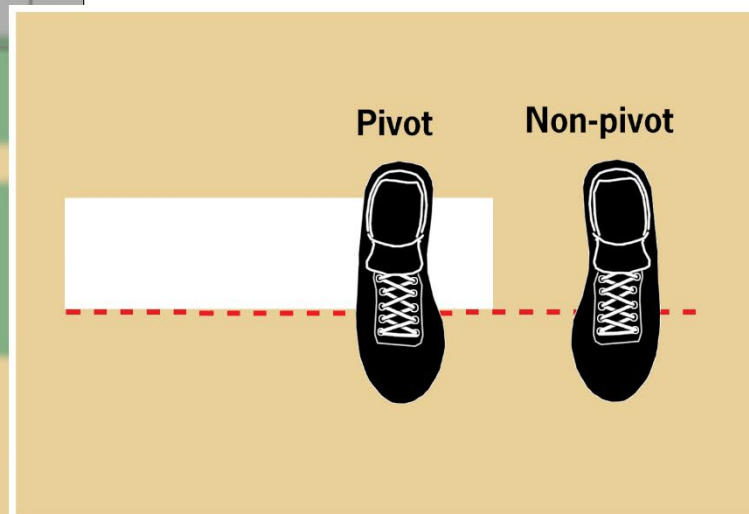


- The use of baseballs that have the Authenticated Mark printed on validates that the baseball meets NFHS rules specifications.
- This program helps promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in the equipment being used. Conforming equipment is essential to the integrity of contests played under NFHS rules.

## PITCHING POSITIONS



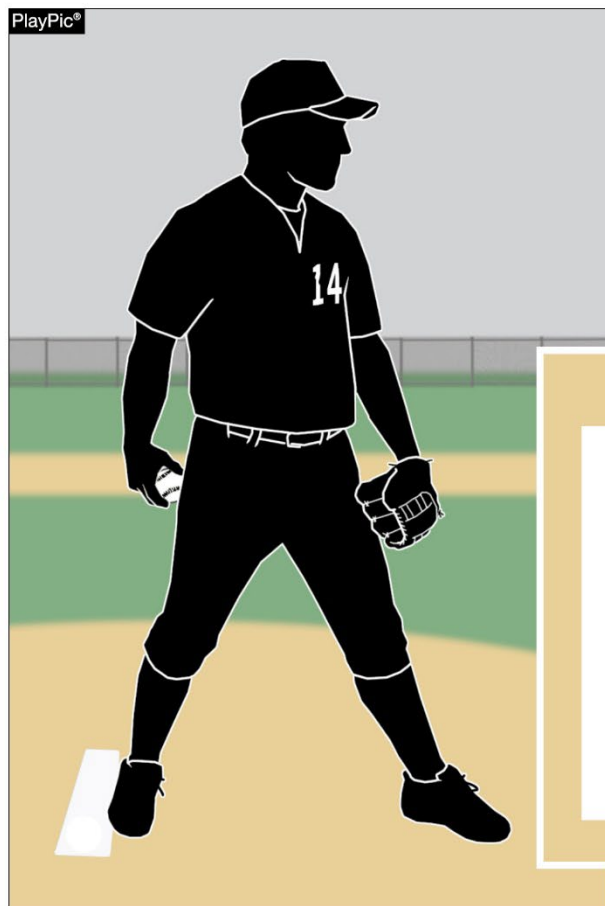
- Pitchers are required to use one of two positions: the wind-up or the set.



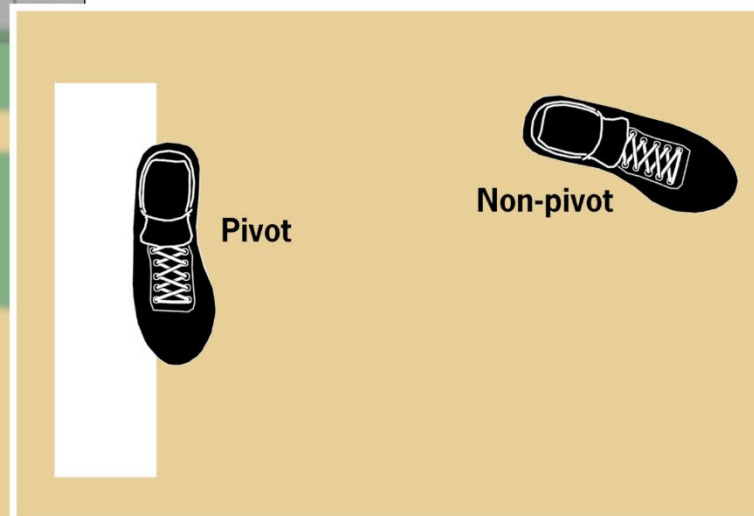
- In the wind-up, the pitcher's pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate and not parallel to it.



# PITCHING POSITIONS



- The position of the pivot foot determines which of the pitching positions is being used.



- In the set position, the pivot foot is in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.
- It is important that umpires, coaches and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play.

## BENCH DECORUM



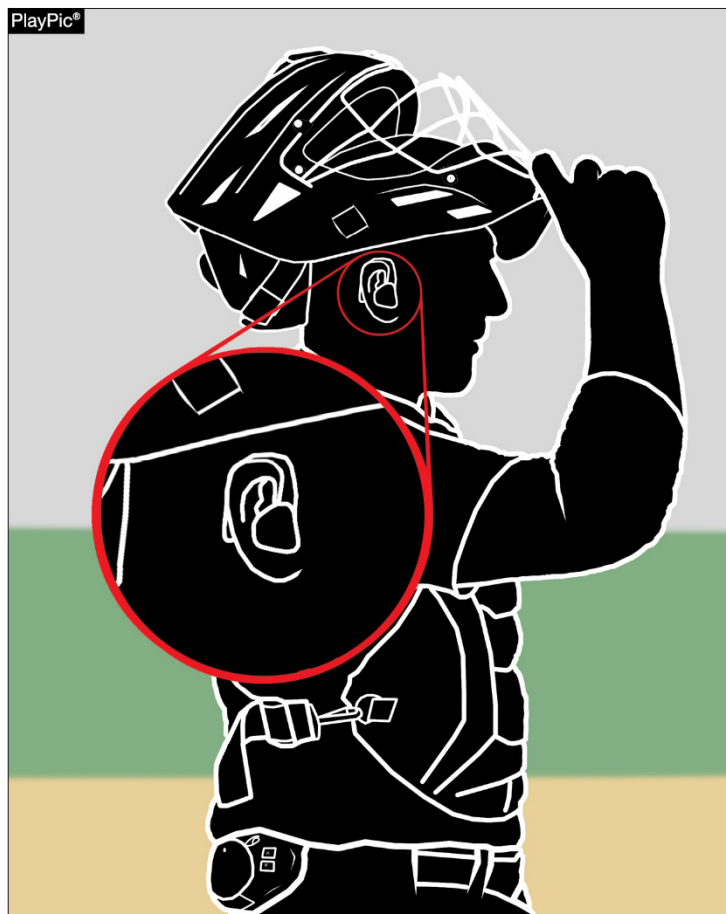
- Coaches set the tone at athletic contests with their display of sportsmanship and respect.
- If coaches act in a positive sportsmanlike manner, they model the appropriate behavior for the players/team personnel in their dugout/bench area. It also establishes a constructive, non-combative tone for players, spectators and others.

## USE OF PROPS



- There is no logical purpose to have props at an education-based athletic event.
- The use of props or any items to demean or embarrass one's opponent is contrary to the ideas and expectations supported by the NFHS, who writes playing rules for high school-age and skilled students.

# IMPROPER USE OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



- The 2024 season was the first year of allowing one-way electronic communication devices from the dugout/bench to the catcher.
- Various technologies, ear-piece style, electronic bands or smart watches could be used, giving schools several options at various costs.



# IMPROPER USE OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



- No other player except the catcher is legally allowed to wear or use an electronic communication device, and the coach is not allowed to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.



# NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION



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*Concussion in  
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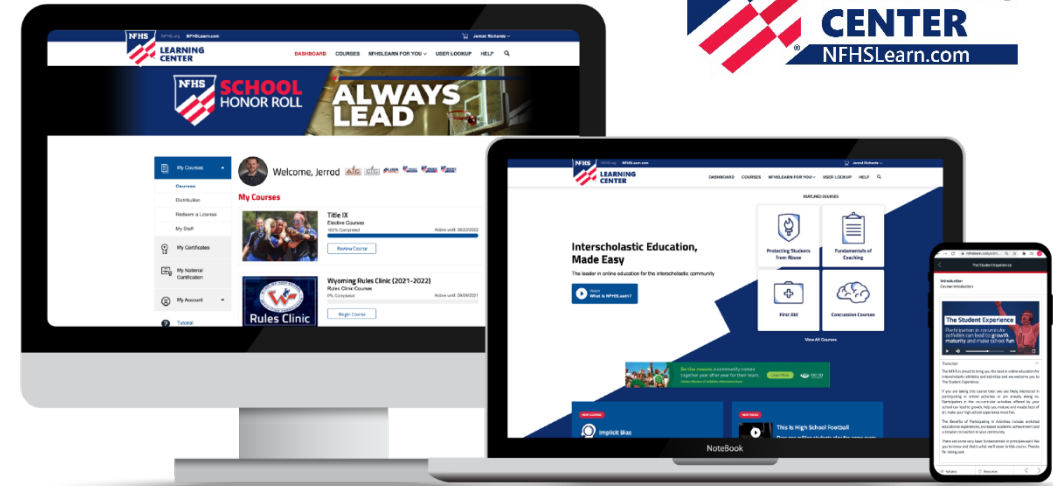
*Sudden Cardiac  
Arrest*



*Protecting Students  
from Abuse*

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- The Collapsed Student (2020) – 67,550+
- CPR & AED Training (2023) – 9,300+
- Sportsmanship – 1M+
- Fundamentals of Coaching – 928,000+
- First Aid, Health and Safety – 418,000+
- Bullying, Hazing and Inappropriate Behaviors – 425,000+
- Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention – 250,000+
- Protecting Students from Abuse – 250,000+
- Implicit Bias (2021) – 96,000+







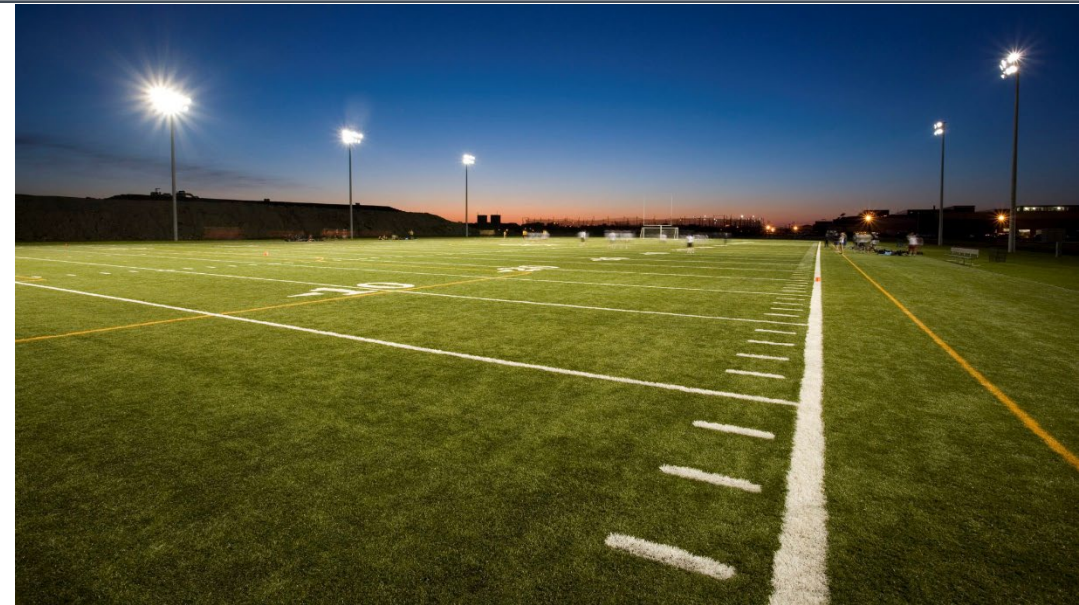
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# NFHS NETWORK

- By 2025, every high school sporting event in America will be streamed live.
- The NFHS Network will be THE DESTINATION for fans to view these broadcasts.
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# THANK YOU

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