



FOOTBALL RULES EQUIPMENT SITUATIONS

September 2025

1. FOOTBALL ARM SLEEVES

Situation: Football game officials in some states have been requiring that the football arm sleeves players have been wearing during the game, needs to be removed because it does not have the new official SFIA seal on it.

Answer: All football arm sleeves do not have to have the official SFIA seal on it until the 2027 football season. A player can wear a football arm sleeve that does not have the official SFIA seal on it yet.

NFHS Football Rule 1-5-2d:

d. **Effective 2027**, arm sleeves, whether attached to a shirt or unattached, manufactured to enhance contact with the football or opponent must meet the SFIA Specification at the time of manufacture. Arm sleeves must have a permanent exact replica of the SFIA arm sleeve seal (meets SFIA Specification) (Figure 1-5-2d), that must be visible and appear legibly on the exterior of the arm sleeve.

2. FOOTBALL STREAMER TYPE TOWELS

Situation: States have been reporting that a lot of players are wearing a football streamer type towel on their pants and have been allowed to continue to play in the game wearing this particular type of towel.

Answer: Illegal Equipment and the football streamer type towel needs to be removed if it does not meet the minimum size specifications (no less than 4 inches in width and 12 inches in length) and the maximum size specifications (no greater than 18 inches in width and 36 inches in length).

NFHS Football Rule 1-5-3a(5)a:

(a) One moisture-absorbing solid-colored towel that:

- (1) is not ball- or penalty flag-colored;
- (2) is no less than 4 inches in width and 12 inches in length;
- (3) is no greater than 18 inches in width and 36 inches in length;
- (4) has no more than one visible manufacturer's logo/trademark reference that does not exceed 2¼ square inches and does not exceed 2¼ inches in any dimension; and
- (5) has no more than one school logo/trademark reference that does not exceed 2¼ square inches and does not exceed 2¼ inches in any dimension.