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2025-26 NFHS Ice Hockey Rules PowerPoint

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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, 19,800 high schools and 12 million student participants.
 - Writes playing rules for 18 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 activities.



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
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NFHS Publications



- The NFHS writes playing rules for 18 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.
 - Publishes 2 million pieces of materials annually.



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2025-26 NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Changes



Rule 3-8

Electronic devices shall not be used by team personnel or spectators to communicate with on-ice players or goalkeepers during play. No player or goalkeeper shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the game.

PENALTY: First offense, MISCONDUCT. Returning to the game with illegal equipment, GAME MISCONDUCT.

- **Rationale:** No player participating in the game will be allowed to wear any type of audio or video device to record or transmit audio or video.



Rule 5-4

Replace “linesman” with “linesperson” and “linesmen” with “linespeople.”

Rationale: The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules book has already replaced gender-specific language throughout the book. This specific title now needs to be changed as well.

“Linesperson” has transitioned into several of the other rules bodies and hockey organizations and will no longer be gender specific, which now creates consistency in the hockey world.



Rule 9-8-4

ART. 4 . . . A puck on the outside of the goal netting below the crossbar shall be considered in play by both teams. A puck resting on top of the goal netting between the crossbar and goal frame shall be considered unplayable, resulting in an immediate stoppage.

*Note – current Rules 9-8-4 and 5 move to Rule 9-8-5 and 6.

RATIONALE:

A puck on the goal netting is covered in all other rules books. A puck on top of the netting creates too many problematic scenarios if it is considered playable (high stick, closing hand, goalkeeper contact, player in goal crease, etc.).



2025-26 NFHS Ice Hockey Points of Emphasis



2025-26 Points of Emphasis

The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee remains committed to minimizing violent and reckless play — the primary threat to the health and safety of high school hockey. This year's points of emphasis aim to support that goal.



2025-26 Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP

NFHS rules continue to promote respect, integrity and sportsmanship. High school hockey should model positive behavior:

Win with humility. Lose with grace. Compete with dignity. Upholding sportsmanship requires the daily commitment of everyone involved. Coaches, players and goalkeepers must be mindful of their language, as inappropriate or abusive language has no place in high school hockey.



2025-26 Points of Emphasis

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All players and goalkeepers need to be properly equipped, including newly required neck laceration protectors.

Body-checking is intended to gain puck possession — not to punish or intimidate. Boarding and checking from behind remain two of the most dangerous plays. Responsibility lies with the player initiating contact.

The following are illegal and must be eliminated:

- Hits to the head
- Fighting
- Blindside hits
- Late hits and unnecessary contact



2025-26 Points of Emphasis

OFFICIALS: GAME MANAGEMENT

- Faceoffs: Ensure equal opportunity by properly positioning all players and conducting fair drops.
- Icing: Apply the rule correctly — the puck must fully cross the center red line.
- Offsides: Officials must maintain proper positioning. Missing an obvious off- sides call can undermine credibility of the game.



2025-26 NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Reminders

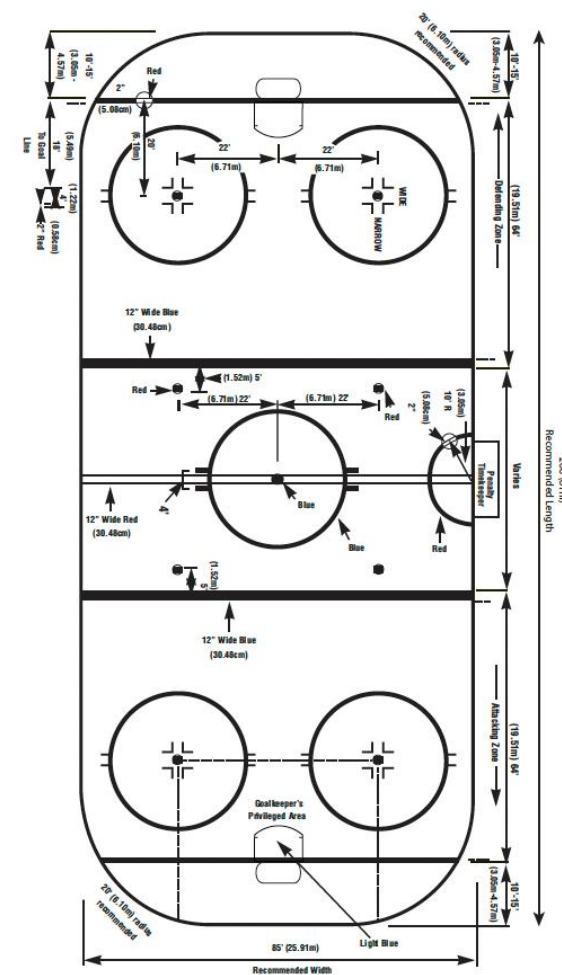


State Association Adoptions

11 state association adoptions are listed on page 77, including the specific rules.

Ice Hockey Rink Diagram

The rink diagrams are located on pages 78 and 79. See Rule 1 for the detail of markings.





Ice Hockey

Old Size



1" THICK
3" DIAMETER

Current Size



1" THICK
3" DIAMETER

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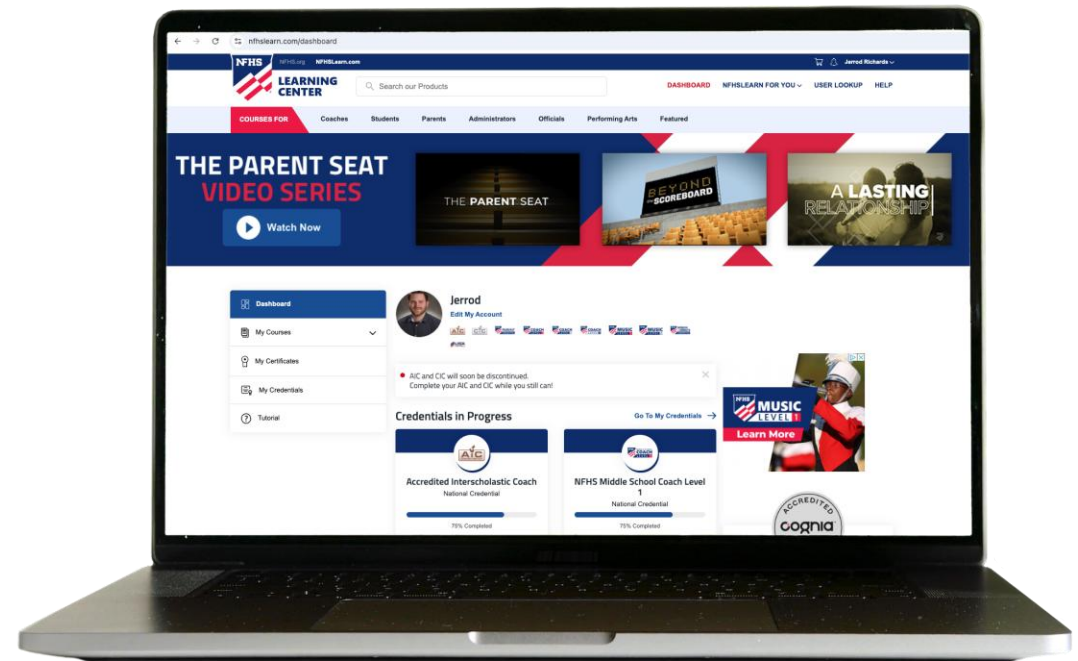


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- Implicit Bias (2021) – 167,000+



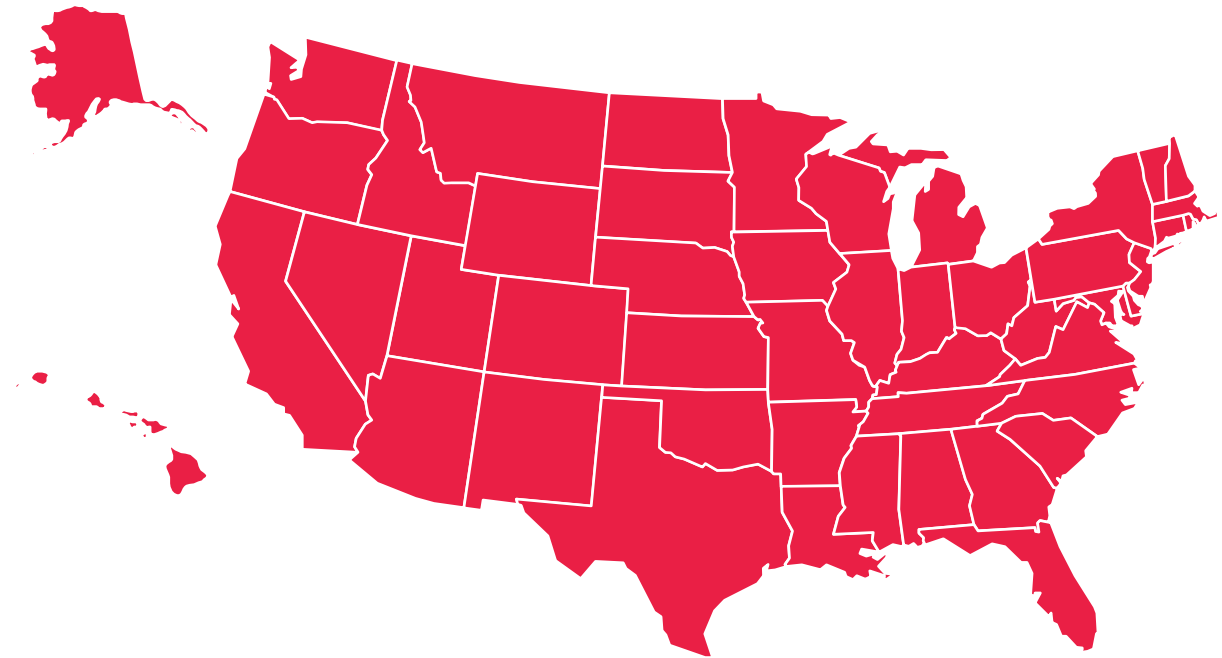


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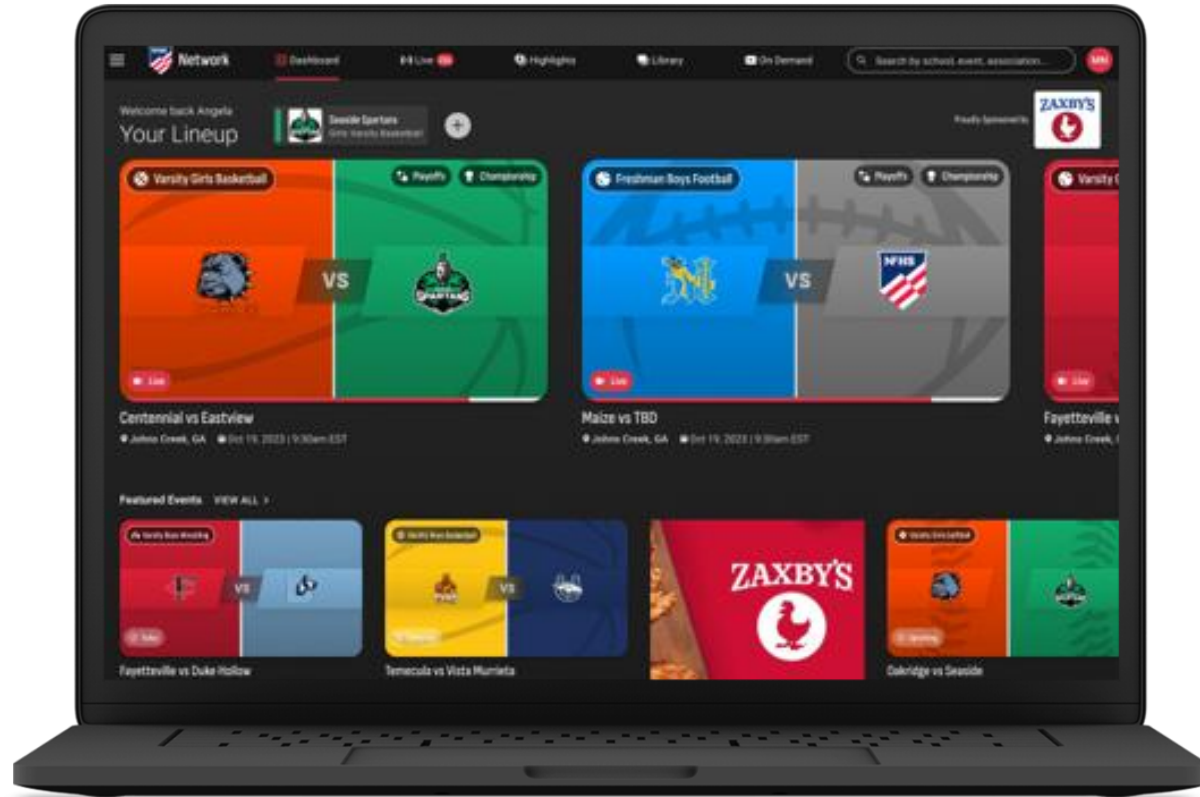
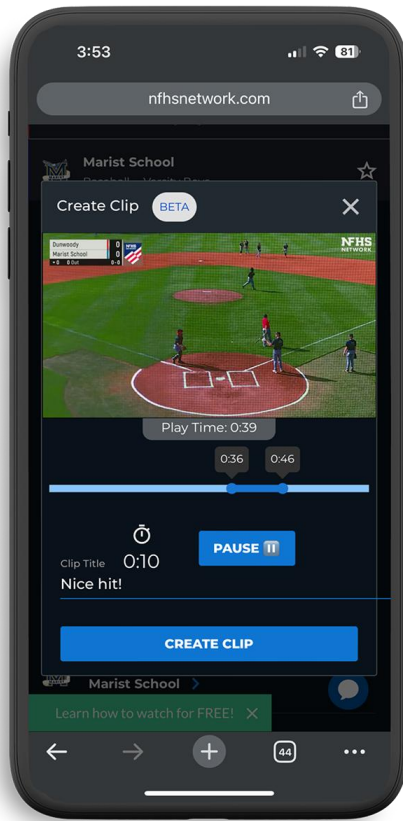
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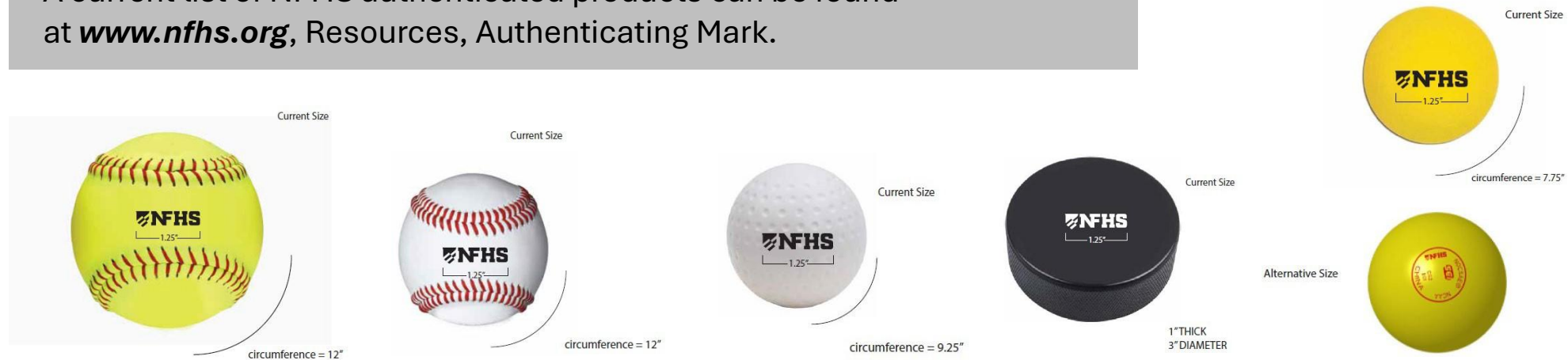
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Thank You

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