**Player Equipment**

"With increased emphasis on player safety, specifically, the use and wearing of proper and legal equipment, the NJFOA (with the endorsement of the NJSIAA) has adopted the following interpretation to Rule 1-5-1 and the 2016 National Federation Points of Emphasis regarding player equipment.

If a player is observed wearing faulty or illegal equipment and the officials notice it prior to the ready for play, they should make every attempt to have it corrected prior to the ready for play without any penalty. Should a player be observed wearing faulty or illegal equipment after the ready for play has been given by the referee, and that team breaks the huddle (offense, defense, K or R), then the officials should immediately signal an official's timeout and instruct the player to leave the game until the equipment is repaired/and or corrected (a minimum of one play).

If the game clock was running when the official's timeout is declared, the 25 second count will be reset and the game clock will start on the snap. If the game clock was not running, the 25 second will be reset and the clock will start on the snap as per rule. The exception to this interpretation occurs when the game clock is running with 2:00 minutes or less to play in a half. In this circumstance, if the game clock is stopped and a player is removed for an equipment violation, the referee will either start the clock on the ready for play or snap, based upon which would be the **least advantageous to the offending team.**

This procedure allows for a consistent approach to handle player equipment violations. Player safety is of the utmost importance. Using this procedure allows officials to protect players without having to seriously penalize the team. A good pre game conference with coaches and a thorough inspection prior to the game will go a long way in preventing equipment violations during the contest."