

## Attention Coaches and Officials

There has been some confusion regarding “game balls.”

**Article 1...**Balls shall meet the following specifications:

- a. A tan-colored cover consisting of either pebbled-grained, cowhide or approved composition (leather or rubber) case without corrugations other than those formed by the natural seam grooves and the lace on one of the grooves.
- b. One set of either eight or 12 evenly spaced laces. The length of the laces shall be confined to within  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches from each end of the ball.
- c. A 1-inch white or yellow stripe centered 3 to  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches from each end of the ball. The stripes shall be located only on the two panels adjacent to the laces, or continuous solid white or yellow stripes  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide running parallel to and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from each side of each seam from the laces.
- d. Conforms to the shape and dimensions as shown in the diagram in the rule book.
- e. Weighs between 14 and 15 ounces.
- f. Inflated to a pressure of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  pounds or 878.8 to 949.1 grams per square centimeter.
- g. The ball shall include the NFHS Authenticating Mark. The mark can be displayed in either format: A current list of NFHS authenticated products can be found on the Web site, [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

**Article 2...**Each team shall supply at least one legal game ball to the referee at the time the game officials assume authority for the contest. Only legal game balls approved by the referee may be used during the contest. Each team may use any referee-approved ball of its choice to free kick or to start a new series of downs. If a touchdown occurs following a change of possession and the scoring team did not put the ball in play, any referee-approved ball may be used for the try.

**Article 3...**The referee shall decide whether the ball meets specifications. If the field is wet, the referee may order the ball changed between downs.

**Situation A: A: (a) requests a rubber ball on second down after using a leather ball on first down; or (b) on a dry day requests a different leather ball on fourth down; or (c) on the try requests a different leather ball than used during the touchdown play; or (d) recovers on the kickoff and requests a new ball.**

**Ruling: The request is denied in (a), (b) and (c), but approved in (d). A change from leather to rubber or vice versa, or from the longitudinal striping to conventional striping can only be made for a free kick or to start a series. If the weather conditions warrant, a switch can be made by the officials from leather to leather or rubber to rubber within a series.**

**Comment:** If a touchdown is scored during a down in which there is a change of possession, the scoring team may use the approved ball of its choice for the try