

## NYSACFO Enforcement of NFHS Rule 1-5-1e

### I. NFHS Rule 1-5-1e

#### **Rule 1:** The Game, Field, Players and Equipment

##### **Section 5:** Player Equipment

**Article 1:** Mandatory Equipment. Each player shall participate while wearing the following pieces of properly fitted equipment, which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered to decrease protection.

- e:** Pants which completely cover the knees, thigh guards and knee pads and any portion of any knee brace that does not extend below the pants

### II. Enforcement Process

- a. Athletic Directors and Coaches will order properly sized pants and outfit players with pants that adhere to rule 1-5-1e. (i.e. “Pants which completely cover the knees”)
- b. Officials during pre-game will remind players that pants must cover the knees or they will not be allowed to participate. Officials will also remind players that pants that are of proper length, must be pulled down to cover the knees or they will not be permitted to participate.
- c. A player entering the game with pants that are too short to cover the knees will be asked to return to the bench and the Head Coach will be assessed an unsportsmanlike penalty for allowing players to use illegal equipment. (Rule 9-8-1h)
- d. A player that has rolled up or tucked his pants in a way that they do not cover the knees will not be permitted to play. Officials will request a player entering the game to return to the sideline and pull his pants down to cover the knees.
- e. Repeated offenses for rolling up or tucking pants above the knees will result in the assessment of an unsportsmanlike penalty on the Head Coach. (Rule 9-8-1h)
- f. A second unsportsmanlike penalty on the Head Coach results in disqualification of the Head Coach. Per the NYSPHSAA Handbook, a coach who receives a disqualification penalty shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest.

### III. NFHS News Letter

- a. Dr. Karissa Niehoff, in NFHS’s January 8, 2025 NFHS News Letter stated the following:

*The other disturbing development at the college level that is becoming more challenging for our membership is the lack of enforcement of uniform rules. The “individual over team” focus of college sports these days is on full display with many players’ pants in football. Pants? Hardly. Call them shorts or cut-offs.*

*Adherence to playing rules must be enforced at the high school level, and being properly dressed is a part of NFHS playing rules in all sports. Again, the focus is on the team, not the individual. There are dress codes that must be followed in the classroom – it should be no different on the football field or basketball court.*