



October 29, 2025

NFHS Field Hockey Weekly Rule Interpretations

Rule References: 1-2 – Field Inspection / Team Line Placement

Rule Language

Rule 1-2 – *Before the game, officials shall inspect the field to ensure it meets the required dimensions and markings. The team line should be 5 yards from the sideline, if space permits.*

Interpretation

When field space is limited and the team line cannot be placed exactly 5 yards from the sideline; officials should position the line as far from the sideline as reasonably possible. Play may begin even if the team line is not precisely 5 yards from the sideline.

Key Points:

- The pregame inspection is intended to ensure safety and fairness.
 - Officials have discretion to adjust markings when field dimensions do not allow strict compliance.
 - The goal is to maintain a safe distance while allowing the game to proceed.
-

GAME SCENARIO:

During the pregame field inspection, the officials notice that the team line cannot be positioned 5 yards from the sideline due to limited space. The officials agree to start the game with the line placed as far from the sideline as possible. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The game may begin with the team line adjusted for available space.

This interpretation allows flexibility in field setup while maintaining fairness and safety:

- Officials should use common sense when exact measurements are not possible.
 - The adjusted team line ensures players and coaches remain at a reasonable distance from the sideline.
 - Starting the game under these conditions is acceptable.
-

Points of Emphasis for Officials and Coaches

- Always perform a pregame inspection to check field dimensions and markings.
- When space is limited, position the team line as far from the sideline as possible.
- Communicate adjustments to both coaches before the game begins.
- Flexibility in field markings ensures the game can proceed safely and fairly.