



2024 Football Memo – Week 2

August 27, 2024

Communication with Administration

Crew Chiefs – make it a best practice to reach out to the host school and confirm your arrival time, your crew and game time. Make it a habit that by end of day Monday, prior to the scheduled game you email the host school Athletic Director to confirm details of the upcoming contest. We have several games each week that do not start at the traditional 7:00 PM. Do not assume it is a traditional 7:00 PM start. Check and confirm to avoid issues. It is also a great opportunity to state to administration, "I trust coaches have all players properly equipped and they know how to use the equipment properly." This will just reiterate that our officials will be enforcing the rules.

Footballs

We need to be aware of different footballs being used each game. It is the responsibility of the of the Line Judge (crew of 4) or the Back Judge (crew of 5) to keep track of the game balls. Ensure that game balls are kept separate from practice balls; players are not allowed to warm up with game balls. If the game balls are delivered to the game officials' locker room before the game, the air pressure can be checked with a gauge. Air can be removed from balls that are over-inflated; balls that are under-inflated should be returned to game management and correct or not used. If game balls are given to game officials on the field, a visual and touch inspection should be used. Once approved, game balls should be marked (e.g., game official's initials) so only approved balls are used in the game. Also see rule 1-3-1, 1-3-2, and 1-3-3 for further rule clarification on game balls.

This is a legal game ball:





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Guardian Caps

The Guardian Cap is not a violation of the current 2024 NFHS Football Rules. The 2012 NFHS statement (that is still current for 2024) summarizes the position of the NFHS Rules Review Committee on certain helmet attachments/accessories. The Committee, after reviewing materials and information from ProCap (SAFR ProTech), Shockstrip and Guardian Cap, **the NFHS has determined that permissive use of those products is not a violation of NFHS Football Rules.**

The NFHS does not endorse products, so any claim that the NFHS has endorsed a product that goes over a football helmet is not true.

The following is a NOCSAE statement from May 2018 is still current also:

https://nocsae.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NOCSAE-Add-On-Products-Release-5-8-18_.pdf

They are legal but we suggest that your schools check with the football helmet manufacturer to see if they have any concerns with this product being added to their helmet. It may waive the warranty of the helmet.

Automatic 1st down/loss of down penalties

Fouls by Team B that give Team A an automatic first down is roughing the kicker or holder, roughing the passer, or roughing the snapper.

Fouls by Team A that include loss of right to replay a down are illegally handing the ball forward; illegal forward pass; and illegal touching of forward pass by an ineligible receiver.

Offensive pass interference is not a loss of down and defensive pass interference is a not automatic first down!



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Pop up kick/onside kick

Here is a link to a video of this play: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk0tSo_w_Lo

- When an onside kick is imminent, move into position that gives us the best opportunity to cover the kick – Bottom line is we need to be on high alert.

- o B and L on kickers line – watch for offside (breaking the plane – dead ball foul) and the manner in which the ball is kicked off of the tee. We must know if it is kicked directly into the ground or from the tee directly into the air. We must see this action and be ready to rule immediately if a grounded kick goes into the air. I want us to use at least waist high as the guideline for into the air. This is a player safety situation.

- o Kickers must be coached that if the ball is kicked directly into the ground it must bounce or touch the ground more than one time before it pops into the air to not be considered a pop-up kick. Imagine rolling, dribbling, spinning on the ground, not kicked into and immediately bounces up.

- o U and H on the receivers restraining line. Watch for touches, blocks before legally allowed, low blocks (illegal) and help with how the ball is kicked

- o R – positioned deep – you have the entire goal line should the ball be kicked deep – You also have the responsibility of 4 (3 in the 9 man game) on each side of the kicker when the when the ball is kicked

- Rule 6-1-11 – Review as a crew. Pop up kicks are illegal – It is a dead ball foul if a free kick is immediately driven into the ground, strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of the ball being kicked directly off of the tee (pop-up kick) (2-24-10, 6-1-11). If the ball is kicked directly off of the tee and into the air (not grounded) the ball remains alive and the receiving team must be given an unobstructed opportunity to catch the untouched free kick. A fair catch signal can also be used by R and the kick/ball/play is dead immediately when possessed (not simply touched).

- Rule 2-24-10

- o A pop-up kick is a free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately into the ground, the ball strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee

- Rule 6-11-1

- o A pop-up kick is illegal

- Penalty

- o The ball is immediately dead when a pop-up kick is made. Team K is penalized five yards and will re-kick



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Best of luck for a safe and successful
2024 SDHSAA football season

Remember, MIBT = Make it be there

For suggestions, feedback, and comments, please feel free to contact.		
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