



2024 Football Memo – Week 3

September 4th, 2024

Ejections

Officials, in the unlikely event that a coach or player is ejected make sure you submit the form on the SDHSAA website. All ejections shall follow the SDHSAA policy as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, including those ejections for flagrant personal foul acts as outlined in NFHS Rule 9-4-3, sub-sections (a) through (i) and (k) through (o) that carry a reduced penalty. Officials are required to go online and fill out an ejection report by the following day. This form can be located on **Bound>Official Login>Home Icon>Dashboard>Official Account (Bottom of Page)**.

Wind Factors

Pass Direction

Whether a pass is forward or backward is determined by the initial direction the ball is thrown. Quarterback throws forward pass into a stiff wind, but wind blows back the ball, where it hits the ground—**incomplete forward pass**.

Free Kick -- Case Book 6.1.7 Situation B

When a free kick penetrates R's free kick line in flight, it is considered to have gone the required 10 yards. If strong wind blows the ball back past 50-yard line, the ball is still considered to have gone 10 yards.

Scrimmage Kicks

If a Team K's punt is high and a strong wind blows it back in or behind the neutral zone—the ball is deemed to not have crossed the neutral zone. Team K may catch or recover the scrimmage kick in or behind the neutral zone and advance. If the punt touches beyond the neutral zone and rebounds behind the neutral zone untouched by Team R or Team K the ball is deemed not to have been beyond the neutral zone.

Field Goals/Extra-Point Kicks -- Case Book 8.4.1 Situation A

For a scoring kick to be successful, the entire ball must pass completely over the cross bar and completely between the inside edges of the uprights. Once that has been accomplished, the kick is successful even if it is blown back into the end zone. It doesn't matter if the ball comes back above or below the crossbar.



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Blind Side Blocks

- **Penalty:** A blindside block that is not initiated with open hands (example: direct forceable contact with shoulder) results in a 15-yard penalty
- **Location:** A blindside block can be made on the side or front of an opponent, but if it's made in the back, it's considered a block in the back
- **Signal:** The signal for a blindside block is #26, bumping fists together at chest level
- **Enforcement:** The basic spot as determined by the results of the play and location of the foul (page 83, Table 10-4)

Coaches on the Field

The head coach is responsible for the team box; fouls for sideline warnings and team box warnings that are either contact or non-contact are all assessed to the head coach.

Teams whose players and coaches wander outside their designated areas are penalized as follows:

- An official's sideline warning (no yardage)
- A five-yard penalty for the next infraction
- A 15-yard penalty for each additional infraction; this is an unsportsmanlike foul charged to the head coach regardless of whether they were one of persons in the restricted areas
- **Wing Officials identify your "GET BACK" coach in pregame conference and work with them during entire game**

REMINDER: Each of the above situations are where no contact occurs between the official and sideline personnel. If, during a live ball, an official is contacted by a non-player, coach, etc., the first such violation is a 15-yard penalty from the succeeding spot (personal foul, illegal personal contact), and a second such violation is a 15-yard penalty from the succeeding spot AND the disqualification of the head coach, regardless of the offender(s). Again, these are the penalties if contact is made with the official, and can be upgraded to "flagrant" if deemed necessary on the first offense (which includes disqualification). This is the lone situation in the NFHS Rule Book where cumulative Personal Fouls result in an ejection – contacting an official in the restricted area.

Mechanics - Umpire

It is acceptable to go outside of the hash marks to retrieve the football from the wing officials. This mechanic occurs more often in a no-huddle, hurry up offense. Use proper cross field spotting mechanics by observing the opposite side wing official after you turn to run the ball into the hash mark.



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Free Kicks Out of Bounds

We still have some coaches and officials that believe that if a free kick goes out of bounds and the receiving team elects to take the ball 25 yards from the spot of the kick, then they also think they should get five more yards as they believe that is part of taking the ball five yards from the succeeding spot. **This is NOT an option.**

Here are the options by NFHS rule:

1. Penalize five yards and re-kick
2. Place it five yards from the spot where the ball went out of bounds (tack on yardage)
3. Take it at the R35 on a normal kick from the K40 (25 yards from the free kick line)
 - a. If R **does not choose** to re-kick, the ball must be spotted at the inbounds spot
 - b. R **does not have** a choice to place the ball anywhere between the hash marks

Formation Eligibility (11-man)

At the snap, eligible receivers are those in the backfield or on the end of the line with a number 0 to 49 or 80 to 99. Interior linemen (regardless of number) and ends or backs numbered 50 to 79 are ineligible at the snap. **Players numbered 50 to 79 inclusive cannot report to the referee to become eligible receiver.**

Eligibility rules apply **only** to legal forward passes. Eligibility does not arise in the case of an illegal forward pass. If an ineligible player is downfield then an illegal pass is thrown, there is only one foul—for the pass, and not a second foul for the ineligible receiver being downfield. If a pass is caught by an ineligible receiver, the ball remains live and may be advanced. However, the penalty will be accepted, and the play negated, unless a subsequent fumble gives Team B possession of the ball. An ineligible Team A player by number or position can throw a legal forward pass. An ineligible Team A player can catch or recover a **backward pass** behind the neutral zone and advance or throw a forward pass. If an ineligible muffs or catches a forward pass it is illegal touching.

There are no eligibility restrictions on a backward pass. All players are eligible to catch or touch it at any time. If a backward pass is caught, intercepted, or recovered, it remains live and in play, and the ball may be advanced.



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Pass Interference Philosophy

- **Face guarding without contact:** As of 2018 NFHS rule change, face guarding without contact ***is not*** considered a foul, and the pass is incomplete
- **Contact while not looking for the ball:** In most cases, contact while not looking for the ball is a foul
- **Early contact:** If there is a flag, it's usually because of early contact, possibly holding. Make sure you know the status of the ball when flag is tossed

Clock Management and Penalty Enforcement within Two-Minutes of Half

In Rule 3-4-7, any foul committed within the last two minutes of either half will automatically result in the offended team's option to start the game clock on the snap. Prior to this change, the offended team was required to accept its opponent's penalty to gain control of the game clock.

Mechanics Reminder:

Crew must communicate via radios or signals to inform each other of two-minute timing rules.

Remember, MIBT = Make it be there

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