



2024 Football Memo – Week 5

September 18, 2024

Legal Equipment

Your efforts are recognized for your work on legal equipment and cleaning up the eye black “smears”. Stay diligent with your efforts of enforcing the NFHS rules of making sure players are properly equipped.



Example of legal eye black or face paint



Example of legal clear visor



Example of legal knee pads



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Horse Collar Tackle – Rule 9-4-3k

It is a foul to grab the inside or side collar, or the name plate area (directly below the back collar) of either the shoulder pads or the jersey of the runner and subsequently pull (backwards or sideward) that opponent to the ground, even if possession is lost. The horse-collar is enforced as a live-ball foul.

Interpretation:

1. A horse-collar tackle does not occur until the solo horse-collar tackle is completed – the runner is taken to the ground in or out of bounds.
2. If the runner is pulled forward to the ground from the front side of the jersey or inside the shoulder pads this would not be considered a horse-collar tackle.
3. If another defender contacts the ball carrier while a horse-collar tackle is in progress (and runner has not been taken to the ground via the solo tackle), it is not considered to be a horse-collar tackle.
4. If a horse collar tackle is not completed until after the runner crosses B's goal line or a sideline, the horse-collar foul should be called, with the penalty enforced as a live ball foul.

For additional information review the following:

2024 Case Book - Six Illegal Horse-Collar Situations M through R pages 84-85

Illegal Blocks Below the Waist Can Apply to the Defense

Blocking below the waist: A block below the waist is illegal unless it occurs in the free-blocking zone, both players are on the line of scrimmage, and the block is the immediate action after the snap.

The rules regarding blocking below the waist **apply equally to both teams**. If a defender goes below the waist outside the free-blocking zone to take out the lead blocker, an illegal block by the defender has occurred.

Chain Wing (CW) and Away Wing (AW) – What Are My Duties (5-man)

Initial Alignment First Half – Line Judge starts as the CW; Linesman starts as the AW

Measurements – AW aligns the CW, CW places clip, walks the chains out, and holds

Scrimmage Kick – CW holds and determines if ball crosses NZ, marks OOB spot as needed

Scrimmage Kick – AW on LOS, delay release and make sure ball is kicked, move downfield after ball crosses NZ, drop bean bag to mark end of kick on a short kick

Free Kick – CW on R30 with the chains, monitor bench, Count R players, signal R

Free Kick – AW on 50-yard line opposite CW, monitor sideline, Count K players, signal R

Free Kick after Safety – CW on 50-yard line with the chains, Count R players, signal R

Free Kick after Safety – AW on K30 opposite CW, monitor sideline, Count K players, signal R

Penalty Enforcements – CW walk with Umpire on step off, AW proceed to succeeding spot

Running or Passing Plays – Accommodate all associated mechanics as required by formation and play



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Ball Positions 1 through 5 – Spot Mechanics

Lateral ball position matters on previous spot penalty enforcements and incomplete passes. Please refer to the following terminology starting with the hash nearest the press box sideline:

1. Near hash
2. Near upright
3. Middle of the field
4. Far upright
5. Far hash

Umpires use a second wrist band on the opposite hand to indicate the position where to step off a previous spot penalty. This technique is also helpful for positioning at the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters.

Run Pass Option (RPO) - Officiating (5-man) Mechanics

Rule 2-28-2....The neutral zone may be expanded following the snap up to a maximum of 2 yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage.

Rule 7-5-12....Ineligible A players may not advance beyond the expanded neutral zone on a legal forward pass play before a legal forward pass that crosses the NZ is in flight. If B touches the pass in or behind the NZ, this restriction is terminated.

Mechanics to cover this play consistently need to be discussed by the crew prior to game time. Training videos can be your best friend in determining your crew's strategy. The following can be used as a conversation starter by position:

Umpire – Read the Guard-Center-Guard for initial movement, get to at least the ENZ

Wings – Read the tackles for “run blocking” and stay on LOS. Offside wing can help the Umpire

Back Judge – May be able to assist with tackles being too far down field depending on receivers

One method to manage IDP as an Umpire is if you see a suspect lineman downfield, note their location and mentally drop a pin on the field where they are when you see the ball in the air.

Run to that spot and compare where you are with the down box or if you memorized the previous LOS yard line. If you are greater than two yards downfield, drop your flag.

Team Box/Restricted Area – Coaches on The Field During Live Play

Rule 9-8-3 states: A nonplayer shall not be outside his team box unless to become a player or return as a replaced player. A maximum of three (3) coaches may be in the restricted area during a dead ball. **No player, nonplayer, or coach shall be in the restricted area when the ball is live. No coach should ever be on the field unless it is during a charged timeout or official's timeout.**



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Stay Focused
2024 SDHSAA playoffs begin in 5 weeks

For suggestions, feedback, and comments, please feel free to contact.		
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Remember, MIBT = Make it be there