



## 2021 Football Memo – Week 8

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### Thank You!!!

The football season is an extremely busy time for every one of you. It takes hard work to become a good official. We appreciate your investment in time and your time spent away from family.

We would like to give you all a heartfelt thank you for the job you are doing as an official.

### Thank You for Making A Difference

### Video Review

The SDHSAA has found that the most effective training tool for promoting consistency and improved officiating is through video review.

With the help of SDHSAA coaches and Mark Smith of Pierre, the SDHSAA is working on compiling a video review of unique plays and situations.

The SDHSAA is hoping the plays will allow discussion areas of mechanics, crew communication, and rules study with football officials on high school mechanics and rules.

The plays are not meant to pick on any one official, crew or team. These plays are meant to be a learning tool to help promote what we all want to see from our officials.

Take ideas from these plays that you find helpful and apply them to your football officiating game. This week's video plays:

UPDATED LINK TO TRAINING VIDEOS: <https://www.sdhsaa.com/football-training-videos/>

### Officials—Challenge Yourself

Officials challenge yourself these last weeks of the SDHSAA football season. Honestly answer to yourself each of the questions below. Be the one to exceed expectations on and off the field these last weeks of the football season

- How do I want to remember this year?
- How do I want to be remembered this year?
- Have I done all the things that has allowed for maximum growth as a person, as an official?
- Have my actions proved I have been committed to my crew mates?
- What are the things I have done to make us a better crew?

### Inadvertent Whistle

If an official blows his whistle while a player has possession of the live ball, the play is dead immediately. The team in possession may:

- Take the ball where it was blown dead, or
- Replay the down at the previous spot.

When the whistle is blown while the live ball is loose following a backward pass, fumble, illegal forward pass or illegal kick, the fumbling or passing team may:



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- Take the ball where the player lost possession, or
- Replay the down at the previous spot

Whenever an inadvertent whistle sounds during a kick or a legal forward pass, there is no option; the ball is returned to the previous spot and the down is replayed.

If during a down, a live ball foul occurs on the play prior to the inadvertent whistle and the penalty is accepted, the penalty is administered, and the inadvertent whistle is ignored. The penalty shall be administered as determined by the basic spot and takes precedence over inadvertent whistle administration (4-2-3d).

- Inadvertent whistle can have a major impact on the outcome of the game—is every official’s nightmare; we are all guilty of having one at some time or another.
- The best way to prevent inadvertent whistles is to know the rules, maintain focus and concentration, instill game awareness, and employ preventative techniques.
- Whether the game is tied or a blowout, all officials must keep their heads in the game.
- It’s important to have short memories, selective hearing, and stay focused on the game.
- The moment you begin thinking about what a coach said to you, whether a call you made earlier in the game was correct or thinking about your trip home there’s a greater chance for an inadvertent whistle.
- Never blow your whistle unless you absolutely see the ball, and only blow your whistle when the ball is in your coverage area.
- A couple of good habits to develop are waiting one second after seeing the ball and letting an incomplete pass bounce twice before sounding the whistle.
- Slow Whistle, Slow Whistle, Slow Whistle
- Remember—the play kills itself—your whistle only indicates the down is over—coaches need to coach players to understand this.
- If you blow an inadvertent whistle—stop play and own up to it.

**See Leather--See Leather--See Leather  
Before Blowing the Whistle!**

### **Snapper: Contacted After Snap**

When at the snap the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation, no defensive player may charge directly into the snapper.

The protection exists until the snapper is able to protect himself, blocks, or otherwise moves to participate in the play. “Protect Himself” means the snapper has time to look up and regain his balance.

If contacted directly while his head is still down and before he has been given a chance to look up, the contact is likely to be a foul. Penalty: Personal foul (roughing the snapper), 15 yards, automatic first down.

The foul occurs during a loose-ball play—the snap. Enforcement will be from the previous spot.

A defensive player may line-up over the snapper. That defensive player may not make direct contact with the snapper until the snapper is able to protect himself. The defensive player may jump through the gap but cannot charge directly into the snapper.

Umpires: before moving to your position in the offensive backfield, remind defensive players to stay off the snapper. The umpire is responsible for the initial action on the snapper.



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The protection exists whether or not there is a kick. The fact Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation is what counts, not whether the kick is actually made.

REMINDER: A scrimmage kick formation is defined as:

- No player is in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap, and, either:
- A player is in position with a knee on the ground 7 yards or more behind the line of scrimmage in position to be the holder and receive the long snap and with another player 3 yards or less behind that player in position to attempt a place kick, OR,
- A player is 10 yards or more behind the line of scrimmage and in position to receive a long snap.
- If neither exists, the formation is not “scrimmage kick” and the snapper is not afforded protections.

### **Weather—Second Half Choices**

With the weather patterns moving across the state, which seems like each Friday, coaches can delay their choice for the second half instead of indicating choice at the end of first half. Wind direction may change during halftime.

Second half choices must be done before the three-minute warm-up period.

Following the mandatory three-minute warm-up period after the halftime intermission expires, both teams assume their respective free-kick formations.

The game officials are responsible for ensuring that there is a 3-minute warm-up period posted on the clock for use by the coaches immediately after the halftime intermission expires. The head coach is responsible for his team being on the field for mandatory warm-up time at the end of the scheduled halftime intermission.

### **Look at Yourself**

Look at yourself to see if there are things you might change to make yourself more valuable to your crew.

#### Running Plays

- Do I anticipate the run and cover appropriately, or do I wait to see and then try to catch up with the run?
- Do I react to key properly and cover appropriately?
- Do I stay wide when the play is coming to my area?
- Do I watch the periphery of the runner or do I watch the runner and miss the illegal action around him?
- If the play ends up opposite me on the far side, do I mop up and do preventative officiating or do I stay camped on my sideline (or back judge spot)?

#### Passing Plays

- Do I communicate with my crew—keys, responsibilities and coverage?
- Do I read my pass keys promptly and anticipate the play or do I only react once the play has developed (and then I’m out of position)?
- Do I really know the rules thoroughly—offensive pass interference/defensive pass interference?
- Do I believe in the philosophy that both defense and offense have an equal right to the ball once it is in the air?



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- As the back judge, do I let the receivers get behind me?
- As umpire, do I fail to regularly read the pass keys and move into position to cover effectively?

### Sideline Plays

When the runner is downed inbounds near a sideline the clock should not be stopped unless there is another reason which would cause the clock to stop. The covering official must give the wind-the-clock signal to keep the clock running.

Is it in or is it out? Clock operators need to know. Your officiating partners need to know. Coaches need to know. When the runner is airborne as he goes over the sideline, the spot is where you judge the ball crossed the sideline, not where the ball is when the runner first touches out of bounds.

Wing officials—concentrate on forward progress spots and sideline clock signals. If a player is downed in-bounds and immediately rolls out of bounds then you should have a wind.

### Blocking In The Back

Blocks that start on the side and subsequently end up in the back are not fouls as long as contact is maintained throughout the block.

It's important to distinguish between contact from the side, which is legal, and illegal blocks in the back, which carry a penalty. A block from the side, even though it results in a player being put on the ground, is not a foul unless for some other reason it is also a personal foul.

If the defender spins on a blocker who is otherwise attempting a legal block, the block is legal. Sometimes the result of the spin is that contact by a blocker shifts to a point on the opponent's back.

If contact was first in front or on the side, the block is legal. It is imperative the official observe such a block in its entirety – *initial contact and follow-through*.

Continuous contact moving from in front of an opponent to behind is also legal.

### Officials Quiz 2021

Question 1: Immediately after A55 snaps from a scrimmage kick formation and before A55 has a chance to look up to defend himself, B24 tries to shoot the gap between A55 and guard A67. In the process, B34 places a hand on and pushes down on A55's right shoulder, causing him to fall. Legal Play?

Question 2: Team A's punt is caught by B37 who runs several yards before an official mistakenly blows his whistle. What are Team B's choices?

Question 3: On second and seven, A29 carries the ball for a four-yard gain and fumbles. The loose ball rolls forward for another nine yards when it is blown dead by an official. What are Team A's choices?

Question 4: It is first and 10 for Team A from its own 20-yard line. A23 carries to Team A's 30-yard line. During the play, Team B's coach is flagged for being outside the restricted area. What is the ruling?

Question 5: While a legal forward pass is in flight: B1 interferes with eligible A1 and then there is an inadvertent whistle. Do you enforce the penalty?



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Question 6: Last play of fourth quarter Team A scores a touchdown to make the score 22-24. On the successful two point try pass attempt B24 is flagged for defensive pass interference. Where is the penalty enforced?

Question 7: Fourth and seven, K38, in position to punt while standing at his own seven-yard line, muffs the snap from center. To prevent Team R from recovering the ball, K38 kicks the ball backwards and out of the end zone. Is there a foul for an illegal kick?

Question 8: Fourth and 10 on Team K's 30-yard line. On Team K's 22-yard line, K89's punt is partially blocked by R29, but the kick carries well downfield. Within a second or so of touching the kick, R29 and R35, who was right next to R29, contact K89, knocking him to the ground. In the referee's judgment, neither R29 nor R35 could avoid the contact with K89. Should the referee have a foul for roughing the kicker?

### Quiz Answers

Ruling 1: Legal play by B24 because he did not play directly through A55.

Ruling 2: Team B has the option of taking the ball where it was blown dead or having the down replayed from the previous spot, with Team A in possession. The whistle was blown during a running play, not during the kick.

Ruling 3: Team A has the option of taking the ball where it was fumbled (four yards beyond the neutral zone) for third down and three or replaying the down second and seven at the previous spot.

Ruling 4: Although the foul occurred while the ball was live, unsportsmanlike conduct is a live-ball foul treated as a dead-ball foul. Team A will undoubtedly accept the penalty, which is enforced from the end of A23's run. The result is first and 10 from Team A's 45-yard line.

Ruling 5: If the coach accepts the penalty for a foul which occurred prior to the inadvertent whistle, the penalty takes precedence. It will be a new series for A, 15 yards in advance of the previous spot.

Ruling 6: If the try is the last play of the game and the score is tied, the succeeding spot for enforcement of the penalty for the foul by B24 would be the start of the overtime procedure. If Team A begins the overtime period on offense, it will snap from Team B's five-yard line. If Team A begins on defense, Team B will snap from Team A's 25-yard line. In either case it will be first and goal.

Ruling 7: The result of the play is a safety (Team R declines penalty). It is illegal to kick a loose ball. If the player muffs the snap and kicks the ball while it is on the ground, you have a backward pass and a foul for illegally kicking the ball. Team R may accept the penalty, which would be enforced half-the-distance to the goal from the spot of the foul with fourth down replayed. If the ball is inadvertently kicked in an attempt to obtain possession, it is a muff and not a foul.



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Ruling 8: This would be a legal play. There are three situations in which contact may not be avoidable: (1) It is not reasonably certain a kick will be made; (2) When the kick is touched; and (3) A defender is blocked into the kicker or holder by a member of the kicking team.

**NEVER, NEVER, NEVER Take Your Eyes Off the Players**

**Take Pride in Being  
GREAT DEAD BALL OFFICIALS**