

# 2018 Football

## Newsletter No. 9

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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*

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### **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?

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### **Video Review**

The SDHSAA is excited to bring a new opportunity to help progress football officiating in our state. 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:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIgwNw7SyK8&feature=youtu.be>

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## Forward Pass—Intentionally Ground

### Spiking the Ball

It is okay to “spike” the ball to stop the clock (7-5-2e Exc), but the only time a spike is legal is if it is a “direct hand-to-hand snap” without being muffed, fumbled or otherwise mishandled and it thrown forward immediately.

It cannot be done from the shotgun or pistol formations and thrown to the ground immediately.

The penalty for an illegal forward pass is five yards and loss of down. If the penalty for an illegal forward pass is accepted, measurement is from the spot of the pass. If the penalty is declined, the offended team may have the down count at the spot of the pass.

**PLAY:** Late in the game on first down, A6 takes the snap and immediately throws the ball directly forward and to the ground to stop the clock. A6 received the snap (a) directly on a hand-to-hand transfer, (b) directly on a snap in a shotgun formation, or (c) after muffing the snap with the ball striking the ground.

**RULING:** Legal play in (a), but illegal passes in (b) and (c).

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## Are You Valuable To Your Crew?

Are 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 keys 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?
- 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?

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## Forced Touching

Touching of a scrimmage kick by R is ignored if it is caused by K pushing or blocking R into contact with the ball or it is caused by K legally battling or muffing the ball into R. A catch or recovery by K beyond the neutral zone causes the ball to become dead.

Touching of a scrimmage kick by K is ignored if it is caused by R pushing or blocking K into contact with the ball.

**Rationale:** R should not be penalized if it is making no attempt to recover a kick and action by K causes the ball to contact R. Thus the contact with the ball is ignored if it is caused by K.

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## Eligible Pass Receiver

### 11-man football

A player in order to be an eligible pass receiver must be eligible both by position and by number. It is legal for #55 (for example) to be lined up as a back and carry the ball. **BUT** #55 is not an eligible receiver regardless of where he would line up. If #75 was lined up at the end position on the line, he is not an eligible receiver. Other than for the exception in a scrimmage kick formation, in 11-man football, the offensive team must have at least five (5) players on the line of scrimmage numbered 50-79. They could have more than five on the line of scrimmage; say all seven and all numbered 50-79. That's legal **BUT** in that formation, they don't have any eligible receivers on the line of scrimmage.

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## Momentum Exception

The momentum exception allows Team B or Team R players to make positive plays close to their goal line without fear of giving up a safety.

The momentum exception applies to all types of loose balls. Also, backward passes, fumbles, and muffs need only be recovered—not necessarily caught—for the rule to apply.

It is not a safety when a defensive player intercepts an opponent's forward pass; intercepts or recovers an opponent's fumble or backward pass between his 5-yard line and the goal line, and his original momentum carries him into the end zone where the ball is declared dead in his team's possession or it goes out of bounds in the end zone. In that case, the ball belongs to B at the spot where the pass or fumble was intercepted or recovered (8-5-2a Exception)

It's important for officials to recognize a momentum situation and to beanbag the spot where possession is achieved. For the exception to apply, original momentum must be the cause of the ball entering the end zone. If the covering official judges the player voluntarily carried the ball across the goal line, the regular rules apply and the play may result in a safety.

What happens after the ball enters the end zone is inconsequential, providing the ball never leaves the end zone and Team B or Team R has possession in the end zone. If the player runs around in the end zone but the ball remains in the end zone the exception still applies.

**Play:** Scrimmage kick from R's 40-yard line going in. The ball lands at R's 10-yard line and is bouncing towards R's goal line. K34 sprinting downfield, catches the ball on one of the bounces at the 3-yard line with both feet on the ground and attempts to stop but slides (with both feet on the ground and the ball in his arms) from the 3-yard line into the end zone. Does momentum apply or does R get the ball 1st and 10 on the 20 after a touchback?

**Ruling:** Momentum is not a factor since a K player secured possession of the ball. Rule 8-5-2a Exception. Once the kick is possessed by a team K player, the ball becomes dead. R's ball, 1st and 10 from their 3-yard line.

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## Batting The Ball

Batting is intentionally slapping or striking the ball with the hand or arm. For it to be batting there cannot be an attempt to secure possession.

The following are situations where batting a loose ball is legal:

- Any player eligible to touch a forward pass may bat it in any direction.
- Any player may bat a fumble in flight and the ball has not yet hit the ground.
- A backward pass in flight may be batted in any direction by the defensive team, but the passing team can only legally bat a backward pass toward its own goal line.
- A player may block a low scrimmage kick in the field of play or in the end zone if he is attempting to block it in or behind the expanded neutral zone.
- A Team K player may bat toward his own goal line a grounded scrimmage kick which is beyond the neutral zone.
- A Team K player may bat a scrimmage kick in flight beyond the neutral zone if no Team R player is in position to catch the ball.

It is illegal to bat loose balls (grounded fumbles and grounded backward passes). A loose ball in the end zone may not be batted in any direction. Penalties for illegally kicking or batting a ball are enforced under the “all-but-one” principle and are 15 yards

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## What Signal Are You Sending?

Clear, sharp signals not only help teams and spectators understand what call has been made; they enhance the impression a crew makes. The most important part of signaling is giving the signals from a stationary position.

Just as officials should avoid making calls on the run, referees should avoid “walking through” their penalty signals. Come to a complete stop before signaling.

Once the referee has been told the type of foul that has been called, walk into an area clear of players and other officials, come to a complete stop and give the signal. Look straight ahead. Find a spot halfway up the stands and focus your eyes on that spot.

Neither your signals nor your facial expression should indicate emotion. Avoid jabbing the arm when signaling; it is another sign you are angry or feel a sense of “gotcha” toward the offending team. An over enthusiastic thrust of the arms can enflame an already contentious situation if the penalty involves unsportsmanlike conduct.

Don’t walk through the end of your signal either. Come to a complete stop after signaling and hustle to your next task.

False start, illegal formation, etc. Rotate your arms slowly in front of your chest with your fists clenched and elbows out. Don’t give the signal with open hands. Two or three rolls of the arms are sufficient.

Incomplete pass. There is a tendency for many officials to bend forward at the waist when giving the signal. The official should give the signal while standing erect. At least two strokes are recommended. When the pass falls incomplete in plain view, crossing your arms twice is sufficient. When the call has to be sold, more repetitions are appropriate. A touch you may wish to add is to end the signal by freezing the arms in the open position and then dropping them. Also, remember the stop-the-clock signal does not follow the incomplete signal. DO NOT give the incomplete pass signal while moving, stop watch the ball bounce on the ground at least twice then give the incomplete signal.

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## Illegal Shift or Illegal Motion

Both the illegal shift and illegal motion penalties are live ball offensive fouls created at the snap. This means the officials should permit the play to continue and allow the defense to accept or decline the penalties.

Illegal motion is when

- (1) Two players are in motion at the snap
- (2) A player in motion is moving towards the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped
- (3) When a player that starts on the line of scrimmage is in motion less than 5 yards from the LOS at the snap and before he has established himself by stopping in the backfield for at least one second.

An illegal shift occurs when all 11 players or nine players have not come to a complete stop for at least one second following a huddle or shift to a new set position. A player in motion at the snap is not a shift.

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## Officials Quiz 2018

**Question 1:** A1's fumble is rolling beyond the line, where it is batted toward Team A's goal line by (a) A5, or (b) B8. Do you have a legal bat?

**Question 2:** Team A breaks their huddle and moves to the line. As the quarterback is barking signals, the referee counts 11 Team A players on the field. Suddenly, A42 enters the field and no Team A player departs. Is there a foul?

**Question 3:** With no-time-outs remaining and fourth down with 40 seconds to go in the third period, Team K is preparing to punt into a strong wind. With 20 seconds remaining, K1 commits a false start. When does the clock start after penalty enforcement?

**Question 4:** Fourth and seven, K38, in position to punt while standing at the Team A's 7-yard line, muffs the snap from center. To prevent Team R from recovering the ball, K38 kicks it backward and out of the end zone. Is there a penalty for kicking the muff?

**Question 5:** Player B21 intercepts a pass at Team B's four yard line and his momentum is about to carry him into his end zone. B21 fumbles at the B one yard line and (a) recovers and downs the ball in the end zone, or (b) B45 recovers and downs the ball in the end zone. Does the momentum rule apply?

**Question 6:** Team A has ball fourth and eight. Player A24 gains six yards when he is tackled. After the whistles sounds, R73 is flagged for a late hit. Is the next play first and 10 for Team A?

**Question 7:** Team K is attempting a try. Linebacker R1 runs toward the line of scrimmage and, after the ball is snapped, hurdles snapper K2 and lands on his feet. At no time does R1 make contact with any team K player. The try fails. Has R1 fouled?

**Question 8:** A11 runs straight up the field and after the ball has left the passer's hand (a) B9 illegally blocks A11 and throws him off his pattern. The pass is completed to A10 who was clearly on the opposite side of the field. Do you have pass interference on B9?

**Question 9:** Second and 10 on the Team A's 20 yard line with 6:33 to go in the second period. Quarterback A14 (releases) a forward pass when his passing hand is beyond the neutral zone, but his feet are behind the line. Legal forward pass?

**Question 10:** On first down and 15 yards to go with time running out in the half, A23 gains three yards to the B42 yard line. About to be tackled before he gets out of bounds, A23 deliberately “fumbles” the ball by throwing it forward. Is this a legal play?

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### Football Officials Or Coaches Concerns

- If you have any play situations during your games that officials statewide should know about to help them become better officials, please send plays to be included in weekly bulletins.
- If you have questions about rule interpretation, please forward your concerns to [buck.timmins@k12.sd.us](mailto:buck.timmins@k12.sd.us) --call me at 605-996-1483 (home) or 605-933-1493 (cell).
- If you have any questions or comments about any information you will receive this football season--please forward your concern to me.

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### Quiz Answers

**Ruling 1:** You will have a illegal bat in both (a) and (b). A grounded fumble cannot be batted in any direction.

**Ruling 2:** Team A must be given an opportunity for the replaced player to attempt to depart. Three seconds is allowed. If after that time, no Team A player attempts to depart and the ball has not been snapped, throw the flag and blow the whistle for the dead-ball foul (illegal substitution, five yards). If the snap occurs before the limit is reached, throw the flag (illegal participation, 15 yards), but allow the play to continue.

**Ruling 3:** Penalize Team K 5 yards and start the clock with the snap. Under normal circumstances, the clock would start with the ready-for-play signal, but this would permit the period to end and K could then punt with the wind. K will not be permitted to gain this advantage by committing a foul to consume time.

**Ruling 4:** The result of the play is a safety. It is illegal to kick a loose 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.

**Ruling 5:** Safety in both (a) and (b). The momentum exception does not apply when Team B fumbles in the field of play.

**Ruling 6:** The series for Team A ended short of a first down. A new series is awarded Team B. The penalty for the late hit by R73 will be administered then the line-to-gain chains will be established. First and 10 for Team B.

**Ruling 7:** Yes, R1 is guilty of hurdling. Hurdling is an attempt by a player to jump with one or both feet or knees foremost over an opponent who is still on his feet. That act is considered a personal foul. The 15-yard penalty is enforced from the previous spot.

**Ruling 8:** There is no pass interference call on B9, however, a flag should have been dropped for the illegal block.

**Ruling 9:** Legal forward pass. A passer is beyond the neutral zone when either foot is beyond the neutral zone when the forward pass is released.

**Ruling 10:** This is a illegal forward pass. The five-yard penalty is enforced from the spot of the pass, the B42. Because of the loss of down, it will be second down from the B47 yard line and the clock starts on the ready unless Team B opts to have it started on the snap.

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**We Wish Each Of You  
A Great End To The 2018 Season  
Work Hard, Hustle, Communicate**