

2009 Pre-Season Bulletin

Again this year, weekly bulletins will highlight rules and mechanics issues that come to my attention. Please contact me with any unusual play situations that I can share with associations across the State.

Supplemental Manual: For 2009, I have prepared an addendum to last year's OAOA Football Mechanics Manual. The addendum contains information on new rules for 2009, a summary of Oregon-only rules and an interpretation of the knee pad rule. All officials have this addendum in their packets. Remember, when there are differences between the manual and the NFHS Officials Manual.....the Oregon Supplemental Manual prevails.

OSAA Directive: The OSAA has issued a directive for 2009 to all Commissioners and schools reminding folks of the rules regarding sideline management and control, knee pads, casts, eye shields and unsportsmanlike acts. The use of the OSAA Overtime Procedure at the sub-varsity level was also covered. As with last year's directive, **officials and associations that do not abide by this directive run the risk of losing playoff assignments.**

45-Point Rule: No change in classification choices for 2009. 6A schools will use the alternative plan; 5A – 1A schools will use a running clock anytime a 45 point differential is reached at halftime or at anytime thereafter. **This rule applies to ALL levels of competition...varsity and sub-varsity.** Don't let a coach or AD suggest otherwise. In games involving schools from different classifications, the home team's classification choice will be used.

New Rules: In your pre-season league meetings, scrimmages or jamborees, please remind coaches of the new 2009 rules. These include new definitions of scrimmage kick formations and the effect on the numbering exception, the need for teams to be back on the field for the mandatory warm-up period at the conclusion of the halftime intermission and the new foul for grasping the chin strap. Please also discuss the horse-collar tackle rule, and the new enforcement option for dead ball fouls that occur during or after a touchdown scoring play. A few minutes on these topics will (hopefully) make games easier to administrate as the season progresses.

Professionalism: Let's continue to be professional in our contacts with coaches, AD's, players and sideline personnel. Throughout the season, many associations will be working games involving schools outside their normal service area. It is important that we are prepared mentally and physically to officiate these contests. Remember.....

“You Never Get a Second Chance to Make a First Impression.”