

2009 Pre-Season Bulletin #2

Face Masks: There are no restrictions regarding the color of the facemask. One coach has asked if he could give his captains and/or outstanding players different color facemasks to distinguish them from other team members. This is legal.

Rule 8-2-4: I have received several questions regarding the discrepancy of Rule 8-2-4, when compared to Rules 8-2-2 and 8-2-3.

Under the current rules, non-player and unsportsmanlike fouls committed by the **opponent of the scoring team while the ball is alive** can be enforced on the try, the subsequent kickoff, or the penalty may be declined.

However, and here's the discrepancy.....non-player and unsportsmanlike fouls committed by the **touchdown-scoring team while the ball is alive** can only be enforced on the try.

Play #1: A6 runs for a touchdown. During A6's run, the Head Coach of (a) Team A or (b) Team B is flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Ruling: In (a), the penalty may be declined, or must be enforced on the try; in (b), the penalty may be declined, or enforced either on the try or the subsequent kickoff.

Play #2: B5 intercepts a forward pass and returns 50 yards for a touchdown. During B5's run, B5 taunts a team A player with an obscene gesture, gets flagged, and Team B's coach comes on the field to protest the call and gets a flag for unsportsmanlike conduct. Both fouls occur while the ball is live.

Ruling:

Either or both penalties may be declined, or must be enforced on the try.

Horse-Collar Tackle: Please review the following NFHS interpretation:

Play: A1 is carrying the ball when B1 grabs him by the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey. A1 then (a) fumbles the ball and is THEN brought to the ground by B1; (b) crosses the goal line, scores a touchdown and is THEN brought down by B1, or (c) crosses the sideline and is THEN brought down by B1.

Ruling: The official must judge if a personal foul has occurred, but if called, it cannot be a horse-collar tackle. B1's contact with A1 meets the definition of a horse-collar tackle, however, in (a) when A1 fumbled, he was no longer a runner. In (b) or (c), when A1 crossed the goal line or sideline, the football became dead and A1 was no longer a player in possession of a live ball. In (b) or (c), if a flag is thrown, the foul will be enforced as a dead-ball foul. Rules 2-32-13 and 9-4-3k.