

2009 SRI Bulletin #3

Penalty Enforcement-Kick Out-of-Bounds:

This actually happened.....in Oregon.....

Play: DPI by B34 on touchdown scoring play, followed by UNS flag on B34 for remarks about the call. Personal foul by B43 on Team A's successful try, followed by UNS on Team B's coach. Team A chose to enforce all 4 penalties on the subsequent kickoff, and they were walked off as 15, 15, 15, and 7-1/2 yards (half the distance to the goal.) Team A then tried an onside kick and the ball went out-of-bounds. What options does Team B now have?

Ruling: If because of multiple penalties, the ball is kicked from a spot such that placing the ball 25 yards beyond the previous spot would put the ball in Team R's end zone, that option doesn't exist. The only options are re-kick with a 5-yard penalty or take the ball at the OB spot. Case Book play 6.1.8 Situation H.

Downfield Blocking:

I received an inquiry from a Commissioner who was asked by a Coach about the defense blocking an eligible pass receiver coming towards him beyond the LOS. The Coach was told that a defensive player cannot block the receiver once the receiver leaves the LOS or goes beyond a 5-yard zone.

First of all, there is no "chuck" rule in high school football. Second, remember that the defensive player does not know if that offensive player coming towards him is a blocker or a receiver, so the defense IS ALLOWED to legally ward off that offensive player until he reaches the yard line that the defensive player is on or cuts away from him. As we all know, pass interference restrictions start at the snap for the offense and start when the ball is in the air for the defense. Please review Rules 7-5-8, 7-5-9, 9-2-3d and Case Book play 9.2.3 Situation A.

Scrimmage Kick Formations:

Play: Team A lines up in a scrimmage kick formation for a try. The holder is in a squatting position without a knee on the ground with the kicker in proper position. The kicker goes in motion away from the holder, the ball is snapped, and the holder rises up and continues with the play. Is this a legal scrimmage kick formation?

Ruling: Not a legal scrimmage kick formation.. The holder must have his knee on the ground to qualify as a scrimmage kick formation. Rule 2-14-2a.

Play: Team A lines up in a scrimmage kick formation for a punt. The kicker is ten yards back. A Team A player is lined up behind the snapper with his hands resting on the snappers' waist. In (a) the ball is snapped through his legs to the kicker. In (b) the ball is snapped to him. Are these legal scrimmage kick formations?

Ruling: In (a), a legal scrimmage kick formation. The player behind the snapper has his hands on the snapper's waist. That's not a position in which he can receive a hand-to-hand snap. It makes no difference if the ball is snapped through his legs to a kicker behind him. Rule 2-14-2. In (b), not a scrimmage kick formation. The player has moved his hands so he can receive a hand-to-hand snap. Rule 2-14-2 says that's not a scrimmage kick formation.

Inadvertant Whistle:

Let's try to officiate every play with the whistle out of our mouths until you become the covering official. If you must, while not recommended, wing officials **may** have the whistle in their mouth prior to the snap, but should drop the whistle at the snap. Remember, there is plenty of time to put the whistle in your mouth and shut down dead ball neutral zone infractions (false starts, encroachment, snap infractions.)

Field goal attempts and PAT's by placekick also need to be officiated with the whistle out of the mouth. A blocked FG attempt is a live ball and can be recovered and advanced by either team. Only the Back Judge should blow the whistle when a successful kick goes over the crossbar or an unsuccessful kick breaks the goal line plane. **Crews need to pre-game this mechanic and have a way to remind all crew members to remove the whistle from their mouths on these types of plays.**

Pants:

I am seeing and hearing about teams that are buying long socks or compression pants to cover the knees. Remember, while the knees can be covered with socks or undergarments, **they must also be padded/covered with in-pant pads** to be in compliance with Rule 1-5-1c6e. Wrestling and volleyball knee pads may be used as a **supplemental** pad but these have to be **covered by the pant**. I am also seeing teams wrap tape around the top of the in-pant knee pad to keep the pant from riding up. This is legal.

Kudos:

After observing three weeks of games, Brad is seeing officials do an excellent job dealing with the new rules regarding equipment and sideline management. While these are not the most popular rules for us to enforce, coaches and players are getting the message and are, sometimes slowly, becoming compliant. Keep up the good work; your efforts now will pay dividends as the season progresses. **Remember, we need to be consistent throughout the state in these areas.**