

OSAA Football

2010 SRI Bulletin 10

Monday, November 01, 2010

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Coin Toss:

Question: (From a Parent) "My son is a senior and one of 3 captains of his football team (3A). He tore his ACL and is unable to play but is still at every practice and game and working with the team. Last week when he went out for the coin toss the official said he couldn't be out there unless he was in uniform."

Answer: Rule 3-2-2 says not more than four captains may be present at the coin toss. There is no requirement that team captains be in uniform.

Illegal Use of Hands:

Question: A coach asked if NFHS rules cover a play where a defensive player pushes his teammate from behind during a PAT or field goal attempt.

Answer: This situation is covered by Rule 9-2-3 and results in a 10-yard penalty for Illegal Use of Hands.

Penalty Enforcement:

Play: Team A scores a touchdown and false starts on the PAT. The PAT is then attempted from the B-8. A throws a completed pass to the end zone, but is flagged for having an ineligible downfield. Team A is then backed up to the B-13 and prior to the ready for play, Team A's coach is flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct. Does Team B have the option to carry over the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to the kickoff?

Ruling: No matter how much "junk" occurs between the initial RFP on the try and the end of the try, you are still replaying the original try. Dead ball fouls after the initial RFP can only be enforced on the try. The try will now be attempted from the 28-yard line following enforcement of the 15-yard Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty.

Defensive Holding:

Play: (From an Official) QB threw a pass that was tipped up high in the air 10-yards downfield. A defensive player grabbed an offensive player to keep him from getting to the ball. My Line Judge called defensive holding, not DPI since the ball was tipped. I know you can pull an opponent away from a fumble but frankly wasn't sure about a pass still in the air.

Ruling: Rule 2-3-5b says a defensive player can push, pull or ward off an opponent in an actual attempt to get to a loose ball. Rule 2-1-3 defines a loose ball as one that is still in flight. So.....your tipped ball is a loose ball by definition. BUT, when does a pull or a grab become a hold? To me, a pull is a "grab and release," while a hold is "continuous grabbing...not letting go." I would penalize a hold, but pass on a pull or grab. Without seeing the play, I can't comment on the correctness of the call.

Lots of judgment on this one!

Measurements:

When measuring for a first down, officials should rotate the ball so the long axis is parallel to the sidelines, keeping the front nose of the ball at the foremost point of forward progress. Do not measure with the ball in any other position as was observed/reported by an Athletic Director.

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