

OSAA Football

2010 SRI Bulletin 5

Monday, September 27, 2010

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False Starts:

Question: We have a team that shifts from pads to the ground on "set." The shift is quick, not slow and deliberate and borders on a false start more often than not. If the defense jumps, but doesn't encroach, and causes Team A to false start, are we rewarding the defense for jumping and not playing the ball by not calling a false start? We are also having the same problem on a scrimmage kick formation when the shift is from an upright stance to bending and hitting the pads on "set."

To me the easy answer is to call a false start, but because the intensity of the shift varies from play to play, is any quick movement that draws the defense a foul on the offense?

Answer: Let's keep this simple. Read Rules 7-1-7 and 7-1-8. ANY action by the offense that simulates action at the snap is a false start. The defense DOES NOT have to react or encroach into the neutral zone; the only thing we're concerned about is what Team A does. Same on scrimmage kicks.

As you suggest, there are various degrees of movement, but the rule doesn't change. Some officials are less likely to throw the flag when there is no defensive reaction, but that doesn't get Team A off the hook. Officials have to read the intent of A's movement, and that's what 7-1-7a and b are all about. Let's all work to be consistent with this.

Eye Shade:

Comment: (From an Official) "When I came on the field last night I noticed that many of the players on one of the teams were wearing black patches under their eyes. The eye shade/patches had letters, symbol, or numbers written on them."

Response: Illegal Equipment. Case Book 1.5.3 Comment. Eye shade/patches must be solid black.

Penalty Enforcement:

Play: The umpire and wing official both had flags prior to the snap. The umpire flagged an offensive lineman for a false start and the wing official called encroachment on the defense. Neither official would budge so the referee offset the penalties and replayed the down.

Comment: The calling officials have to figure out which foul happened first. That's the one that gets penalized. The other foul is ignored. If the offense false started, causing the defense to jump into the neutral zone, penalize Team A 5-yards for the false start. If B enters the NZ causing the offense to react and false start, penalize the defense 5-yards for encroachment. Rule 7-1-8.

Free-Kick Lines:

Play: Team K requests to kick off from the 37 yard line.

Ruling: Illegal. Unless moved by penalty, K's free-kick line is the 40-yard line for a free kick. Rules 6-1-1a and 6-1-2.

Field Goal/PAT Mechanics:

Just to clarify and remind: with a 5-person crew, on field goal attempts and PAT's by place kick, the Referee's position is facing the holder. The wing official that is looking at the back of the Referee, (or at the front of the holder) is who goes under an upright with the Back Judge

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