

# OSAA Football

## 2010 SRI Bulletin 8

Monday, October 18, 2010

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#### **Timing Error:**

Play: An official had an inadvertent whistle on an anticipated attempted spike by the QB, but the ball never left the QB's grasp. The official's whistle was echoed by the Referee, which stopped play. However, the game clock timer let the clock run down to 4 seconds left in the second quarter. The play began with 20 seconds left in the quarter. After discussion, we put 16 seconds back on the game clock, and replayed the down. Do you put time back on the clock when you are sure that the clock should not have been running? Or does elapsed time stay elapsed?

Ruling: Since the crew had positive knowledge of the game clock time when the play started, reset the game clock to 20 seconds per Rule 3-4-7 and replay the down. The game clock starts on the ready-for-play per Rule 3-4-2c.

#### **False Start:**

Play: Fourth down short yardage field goal attempt. With the snap imminent, kicker A24 makes an approach to the tee and holder as if the ball had been snapped and placed on the tee by the holder. The ball is never snapped; the kicker continues his kicking motion. Left defensive end B87 who cannot see the tee and whose view is blocked by the right footed kicker's approach encroaches into the neutral zone. All of this action takes place within the 25-seconds allowed for a legal snap. Can Team A be penalized for a false start?

Ruling: A24's actions seem suspicious to me. Why would he approach the holder and tee before the ball is snapped other than in an attempt to draw the defense into the neutral zone to gain 5-yards and a first down? I would deem this "simulating action at the snap." Penalize Team A 5-yards for a false start. Rule 7-1-7a,b.

#### **Jewelry:**

Nose rings and lip piercings are considered jewelry and thus illegal equipment. Players may not participate while wearing jewelry. Rule 1-5-3d1.

#### **Disconcerting Signals:**

Play: As Team A players break their huddle and are walking toward the line, Team B players make sounds as if they were barking.

Rule: No foul yet. If Team B players continue barking when Team A players are set and the snap is imminent, 15-yard dead ball foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. Preventive officiating should be utilized to help avoid this foul. Rule 9-5-1d.

**Downed Kicks:** Unlike other levels of play, in high school football, the position of the ball and NOT the position of a player's feet determine whether or not the ball has broken the plane of the goal line.

If the ball DOES NOT break the plane of the goal line, the receiving team can advance the ball or the kicking team can down the kick. This situation is often seen when a K player is trying to down a scrimmage kick before it reaches the end zone which would result in a touchback. The Back Judge on scrimmage kicks or the Referee on kickoffs needs to straddle the goal line to be in the best position to look at this play.

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