

# OSAA Football

## 2010 SRI Bulletin 9

Monday, October 25, 2010

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#### **Stopping the Clock:**

Play: 1st and 10 at A's 40 and A10 is downed very close to the line to gain. Does the covering official stop the clock or wait for the Referee to come up and stop the clock?

Ruling: If it's THAT close, and I define "close" as within a ball length, then the covering official should stop the clock, especially if time is critical (end of half, end of game.) Once the clock is stopped, you either have to measure or award a first down. Don't get talked into stopping the clock for a measurement when the ball is a yard short of the line-to-gain just because the offense wants/needs to stop the clock to get the next play in if they fail to get a first down.

#### **Penalty Enforcement:**

Play: Team K attempts an onside kick but is guilty of encroachment. The Linesman (in a 3-person crew) throws his flag but allows the play to continue and Team R recovers the ball at the K48 yard line. Can R decline the encroachment penalty and keep the ball?

Ruling: Encroachment is a dead ball foul. The only option is to rekick from the K35 yard line following penalty enforcement.

#### **Bands-Crowd Noise:**

Question: When can a band play during a live ball? During my game, the band would start to play just as the offense was about to snap the ball.

Answer: There are no specific rule book references regarding crowd noise. Rule 9-9-1 is a "catch all" rule covering unfair acts by nonplayers and could be invoked by the Referee in EXTREME situations. Prior to throwing the flag, warn the head coach/game administrator of the team whose band is playing that further playing during a live ball could penalize the team. If the warning is ignored, I'd make it 5-yards for delay of game. If the playing persists, 15-yards for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. The generally accepted policy is that the band should stop playing when the offense breaks the huddle, or in the case of a no-huddle offense, when the snap is imminent.

#### **Equipment:**

I am hearing reports of players wearing Under Armour compression shorts with built-in thigh pads IN PLACE OF the in-pant thigh pad. The NFHS interpretation of 1-5-1c3 is that thigh pads must be worn in-pant, the same as knee pads. Thigh pads built into undergarments, such as the Under Armour shorts or girdle may be worn IN ADDITION TO, but not in place of the in-pant thigh pads.

#### **Snapper Protection:**

Question: Can the offense line up in a scrimmage kick formation on every down (no numbering exceptions) and expect the snapper to be protected?

Answer: Yes, look at Rule 9-4-6 and the 4 Case Book plays under 9-4-6. The player who is in position to receive the long snap is NOT required to receive the snap for the snapper to be protected. So, if the ball is snapped to an "up-back," rather than to "the player 10 or more yards behind the line of scrimmage and in position to receive a long snap," the center would still be protected. In other words, if a team wants to waste a player and put him 10 yards back every play, and snap to an up-back every play, that is certainly their right, and if they do so, the center would be protected on every play.

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