



2012 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

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SITUATION 1 (3.5.10): Team A has the ball, 1st and 10 at A's 20-yard line. A31 is carrying the ball when B33 lowers his head and strikes A31 helmet to helmet trying to make the tackle. The contact makes the helmets for both A31 and B33 come completely off with A31 in possession of the ball at A's 26-yard line. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately due to the helmet coming off the runner. B33 is penalized 15 yards for illegal helmet contact making it 1st and 10 at A's 41-yard line. A31 may remain in the game due to the opponent foul. B33 must leave the game for one play as A31 did not foul and B33's helmet came off during the down. (3-5-10d; 4-2-2k; 9-4-3i)

**2012 NFHS Football Rules
PowerPoint Clarification
NOTE ON POWERPOINT SLIDE 14
(Illegal Blocking – Rule 9-3-8):**

By interpretation, once R1 initiates contact with the kicking team, the restrictions against the kicking team blocking have ended.

**2012 NFHS Football Case Book
Clarifications**

(Underlining shows additions; ~~strikethrough~~ shows deletions.):

Page 24, 3.4.3 SITUATION C:

Receiver A1 controls a pass while airborne near A's sideline. B1 contacts A1 who then lands out of bounds in possession of the ball. B1 does not drive the receiver backward from his forward progress. The covering official rules the play as an incomplete pass ~~a completed pass because B1's contact caused A1 to land out of bounds~~. **RULING:** The clock is stopped because of the receiver being out of bounds, ~~not due to his forward progress being stopped inbounds~~; therefore, the clock will start with the snap.

Page 35, *4.2.3 SITUATION E:

*NOTE (10-4-2c, 10-4-3): The 2012 NFHS Football Editorial Committee acknowledges a conflict between the wording of Rule 10-4-2c and 10-4-3 on a scrimmage kick which, prior to the kick ending, has an inadvertent whistle, and a penalty occurs prior to the

whistle. For 2012, should this rare play occur, the post-scrimmage kick (PSK) spot would prevail if the foul occurs behind the spot where the scrimmage kick is grounded, and the previous spot would prevail if the whistle prematurely is sounded prior to the hitting the ground or if the foul is not a PSK foul.

Page 55, *7.5 COMMENT: The chart below should help game officials distinguish between the various possible fouls that can occur when an ineligible receiver touches or is touched by the ball, including accidentally striking, muffing or catching, and with basic fouls regarding ineligibility. ENZ refers to expanded neutral zone. Answers are "Is it?".

Page 61, *7.5.13 SITUATION A: Ineligible receiver A2 is behind, in or beyond his neutral zone and has committed no act against a defender that could be considered pass interference when a forward pass by A1: (a) accidentally strikes him in the back; or (b) is muffed by him; or (c) is caught by

Pass Interference (7-5-7, 7-5-10)	Behind Neutral Zone	In (including ENZ)	Beyond ENZ
Accidentally striking ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be interference <u>or 7-5-10b occurs</u> , yes, 15 yards, loss of down. If no interference, No.
Muff by ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be interference <u>or 7-5-10b occurs</u> , yes, 15 yards, loss of down. If no interference, No. Yes, 15 yards, loss of down
Catch by ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be interference <u>or 7-5-10b occurs</u> , yes, 15 yards, loss of down. If no interference, No. Yes, 15 yards, loss of down

him. **RULING:** In (a), there is no foul for illegal touching. In (b) and (c), it is illegal touching. ~~and if beyond the line of scrimmage, would also be offensive pass interference.~~ The acts in both (b) and (c) are intentional and not accidental as in (a). **COMMENT:** Game officials should be very clear in explaining penalty options if the same act constitutes more than one foul as listed above, as each of the fouls has a different penalty.

2012-13 NFHS Football Game Officials Manual Clarifications (Underlining shows additions; strikethrough shows deletions.):

Page 14, II. UMPIRE:

~~B. Second-half choices:~~

~~1. On signal from referee, escort captain(s) to center of field.~~

~~2. Remain with referee and captains and check on options given teams to ensure accuracy.~~

Page 14, III. LINESMAN, LINE JUDGE AND BACK JUDGE:

~~A. Pregame: and start of second-half:~~

Page 14, IV. ALL GAME OFFICIALS:

B. Second-half choices:

~~1. Use same mechanic as used for pregame.~~

1. The game official – escorting the team with the second-half choice – obtains from that team’s head coach its second-half choice and communicates same to the referee.

2. The referee then obtains the opposing team’s response to the second-half choice team’s choice from the game official escorting that team.

~~3. 2.~~ After choices are completed, come together at center of field for any final instructions.

~~4. 3.~~ Hustle to kickoff positions. Linesman, umpire and judge(s) clear sidelines before going to kickoff position.

5. Following the mandatory three-minute warm-up period after the halftime intermission expires, both teams assume their respective free-kick formations.

Page 31, KEYS AND PRIORITY OF KEYS - “STRENGTH TO L’s SIDE” DIAGRAM:

Delete the Diagram on the bottom of the page 31. The text description is correct.

Page 32, KEYS AND PRIORITY OF KEYS - “DOUBLE WING, OR ANY FORMATION WITH TWO RECEIVERS EACH SIDE” DIAGRAM:

Delete the Diagram on the bottom of the page 32. The text description is correct.