

## **2012 SRI Bulletin 2**

### **Ball Markings**

Question: (From a Coach) "Had an issue in our game Friday where the Referee indicated we would not be allowed to play with the new footballs we presented because we had written school letters on one white stripe with a black marker to indicate they were ours. Can you clarify for me?"

Ruling: Marking game balls with school initials to identify them is not a use of logos or decorations and is not a violation of Rule 1-3-1c. Think about the spirit and intent of the rule!

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct with Ejection**

Question: A team gets a sideline warning, a 5 and a 15-yard penalty all in the first half for multiple sideline management violations. The same team is late coming back on the field after the halftime intermission. Does the second Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul against the Head Coach cause his ejection?

Ruling: A second Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty against the Head Coach results in his ejection for the remainder of the game. Rule 9-8 Penalty.

### **Illegal Shift**

Play: 1/10 @ A20. Team A sets for one second. Back A34 shifts his body slightly but does not simulate the snap. A34 comes to a complete stop and then half a second later the ball is snapped and A20 runs for a 5-yard gain.

Ruling: Illegal shift. A34 has to be stationary for one full second prior to the snap. Once A34 stops, there must be a 1-second interval between his stopping and the snap. Rule 7-2-6.

### **Intentional Grounding and the Clock**

Play: A 1/10 @ B30. 40 seconds remain in the half. A has no timeouts. A9 drops back to pass. No receivers are open, and as A9 is being sacked at the B40 he tosses the ball into an area with no eligible receivers. When does the clock start?

Ruling: Flag A9 for intentional grounding. If the Referee believed A9's intent was to commit the foul to stop the clock, i.e. conserve time, he can start the clock on the ready following penalty enforcement under Rule 3-4-6.

Comment: I think as a Referee, you have to judge the passer's intent...would he have taken the sack and not dumped the ball had he not been under duress, OR was the dump a calculated move to stop the clock when his other option, i.e. an open receiver failed to materialize. Some Referees would argue that the passer ought to get one free shot, one free bite at the apple with the clock starting on the snap. The problem I have with this is the "damage" is already done; he's gotten away with stopping the clock without a "clock" penalty. Then, if he dumps the ball again, his intent is clear; invoke 3-4-6 and start the clock on the ready. In the end, it's all judgment, but I believe if there's a clear intent to stop the clock, invoking 3-4-6 and starting the clock on the ready is appropriate.

## **Horse Collar Tackle**

Question: Would you clarify the wording in Rule 9-4-3k? Does "the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey" mean that the collar of the jersey must be grabbed and not just the jersey. In other words, if a tackler grasps only the back of the ball carrier's jersey near the neck, and his fingers do not grasp inside the collar of the jersey, and the ball carrier is pulled to the ground backwards or sideways, is this not a horse collar tackle?

Answer: Don't get too picky on this one...if the jersey is grabbed at the neck area, officials may not see if the fingers have made it INSIDE the jersey collar. A good rule to use is....if you see jersey above the grab, then it's less likely that the jersey collar was grabbed. If there's no jersey visible above the grab, then the grabber probably got some of the jersey collar. Bottom line, if the finger position is that close, we're going to officiate on the side of safety and call a foul.

## **Return After Halftime**

Play: Both teams have to enter the field through a narrow gate in a fence. With 1 minute left in the halftime intermission, the home team begins their return to the field through the gate. The visiting team is waiting for the home team to clear the gate area so they can also enter the field. By the time the visiting team starts through the gate, the halftime intermission has ended and the start of the three minute warmup is delayed by 1 ½ minutes.

Ruling: No foul. The visiting team was ready to return to the field in plenty of time but the narrow gate and the home team's entry prevented them from doing so. There was no intent to violate Rule 9-8-1g2.

## **Sideline Warning**

Play: The visitors had received their first sideline warning earlier in the game. Then, one of their players intercepted a pass on the B 20-yard line and took off toward A's end zone 80 yards away. An official saw an assistant coach running along the sideline encouraging his player, running with him through the coaching box all the way to the far end zone.

Question: Should a flag be thrown and if so, would the penalty be 5-yards for a second 9-8-1k or 9-8-3 offense?

Ruling: Throw the flag. 5-yard penalty for the second 9-8-1k and/or 9-8-3 violation.

## **Training Videos**

This week's training video features 9 plays regarding holding. The voiceover is by Bill LeMonnier, Big-10 Referee and one of the clinicians at Officiate Oregon Day. Other LeMonnier play situations by topic will be posted to the Central Hub throughout the regular season.

A second training video will be posted to the Central Hub during this week. This video shows 6 plays of dead ball activity after the play is over. Officials must be aware of this action and warn or penalize when these situations are observed.