

2012 SRI Bulletin 9

Roughing the Kicker – Clarification:

In last week's Bulletin I posted a play involving a quick-kick from a shotgun formation on third down. One of our readers shared the following comments with me which I pass on to you.

- *Although the rules are somewhat fuzzy in defining a kicker, we usually associate it with a legal scrimmage kick formation, which requires that the kicker be 10 yards back and no one in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap.*
- *Even though this quick kick was from a shotgun formation, it still would be considered a normal scrimmage formation.*
- *The purpose of a quick kick is to catch the defense (and officials) flat footed, which would hopefully give the kicking team the advantage of being able to down the ball deep in the opponents territory.*
- *I think it would be difficult to justify calling roughing or running into the kicker. The only call would be a personal foul for unnecessary roughness.*
- *At the snap, the defense is assuming that the play will be a run or pass and will be attempting to tackle whoever received the snap. Therefore, any contact prior, during or immediately after the kick should be ignored.*
- *I don't think you would ever be justified in calling a five yard running into the kicker. If that were the case, teams will starting quick kicking on 3rd and long in hopes of drawing a five or fifteen yard foul and better field position.*
- *I realize that this is a foggy area as the definitions for a runner, passer and kicker all come into play. However, I think we need to be careful in this instance in allowing and/or recommending a five yard running into the kicker foul when K is in a scrimmage formation. Judgment should not be a factor. It's either a personal foul or nothing.*

Please review the following information as playoffs/play-in games start this week.

45-Point (Running Clock) Rule:

The 45-point (running clock) rule will be in effect for 1A through 5A games for **ALL** rounds of the playoffs **INCLUDING PLAY-IN GAMES**. The alternative plan will be used for **ALL** 6A games.

Overtime:

Please review Rule Book pages 87-89 which talk about resolving tied games. In Oregon, the first two series of overtime start from the **25 yard line**; the third and ensuing series begin at the **10 yard line**. Halftime is a good time to review overtime rules and procedures. Remember, you only toss the coin once in overtime, and ends of the field may change with each complete overtime series.

Professionalism:

During the playoffs, we will work games involving teams from outside our normal service areas. It is important to be professional in our contacts with players, coaches, AD's and school administrators. Represent your local association well!

Several associations will travel long distances to work their playoff/play-in games. Allow plenty of time for road and weather conditions. Many crews conduct their pre-game conference in the car on the road to the game site. That's fine, but allow enough time to unwind, change clothes in a relaxed manner and go over last minute details before the opening kickoff.

Uping the Ante:

Playoff/play-in games are more intense as teams look to advance towards championship games. Be confident in your rules and mechanics knowledge. Review your keys for every play situation. Go over your pre-snap routine. Work to put yourself in the right position to apply the philosophies that will help you make a great call or a great no-call.

By this time in the season, a lot of what we do is routine. It's easy to become complacent, like giving the signal for 11 players when you really haven't counted. Stay focused, be prepared mentally and don't take anything for granted.

Be prepared for the unexpected, such as an onside kick on the opening kickoff. Concentration between downs will help you prepare for the next play. Keep calm, don't be influenced by excited coaches, players and fans. People will be looking to see how you respond under pressure. Remember, a calm official has a calming effect on those around you.

I'm not suggesting that you are not going to miss one now and then, but it should not be from lack of effort, improper rules enforcement or poor mechanics. If you prepare yourself, know the game, know how to apply the rules and philosophies, use proper positioning and mechanics and give 100% to every game, you and your crew members can feel proud of the game you have worked. **Finish Your Season Strong!**

And Finally.....

I know some of you will be hanging up your whistle at the end of this season. I want to thank you for the job you have done and the contribution you have made to football officiating in Oregon. Take a moment to look back on the great games you have worked and the friendships you have made. That makes up for those long road trips, games in the mud and rain, and the time you've spent away from your family and friends. Thank you again, and best of luck in your future endeavors.

This will be the last regular season bulletin. I want to thank everyone who has sent me plays, video clips or questions. Hopefully, my responses have been helpful, informative and useful to you and your association, and have generated some good discussion!

I hope all of you have had a great season; best of luck in the post-season.

Training Videos:

This week's training video features four plays from the training library of the Salem Football Officials Association, used with their permission. The voiceovers are by Frank Richey, a veteran high school and small college official. This is a great example of what local associations can do with video from schools in their service area. The second training video shows Line of Scrimmage plays from the 2012 Aloha Football Officials Clinic.