

# **OSSAA Football Officiating Philosophies**

## **Blocking**

It is legal use of hands rather than holding or illegal use of hands  
The defensive back has legally initiated contact in passing situations  
The contact is below the waist (for blocking below the waist)  
It is a block at the side rather than a block from behind  
As to disintegration of the free blocking zone, assume it is intact  
The contact is at the knees or below (for chop block)

## **Tackling**

It is twisting, turning or pulling the facemask  
The runner's knee has not touched the ground

## **Passing**

The passer has not intentionally grounded the ball  
A Team A player has a reasonable opportunity to catch a pass  
The ball is a forward pass and not a fumble during a forward pass attempt  
The pass is incomplete rather than a fumble  
As to "caught or trapped" the pass is incomplete  
The pass was released in or behind the neutral zone rather than beyond it  
It is a forward pass rather than a backward pass when thrown in or behind the neutral zone  
The pass is backward rather than forward beyond the neutral  
The ball has not been touched on a forward pass  
A Team A lineman was not downfield when the pass was released  
A Team A lineman did not make an attempt to catch the ball  
On an attempted screen pass the ball was caught/touched behind the neutral zone

## **Kicking**

It is roughing rather than running into the kicker/holder  
The ball is accidentally touched with a foot rather than intentionally kicked  
A fair catch signal is valid rather than invalid  
The player has not touched rather than touched the ball  
The ball has been muffed rather than caught

## **Running**

The runner is held so that forward progress is stopped rather than a fumble  
The runner has not fumbled as he contacts the ground

## **Scoring/Touchback/Safety**

The ball is dead in the field of play rather than a touchdown

The original force has not been expended

It is a touchback rather than the ball belonging to Team B under original momentum rules

The ball belongs to Team B under original momentum rules rather than a safety

## **Out of Bounds**

A player is in bounds rather than out of bounds

The ball is dead in the field of play rather than out of bounds

A player has been blocked out of bounds by an opponent

## **Formation**

The one second pause has not been violated

Offensive players are legally on the line

Offensive players are legally in the backfield

Players are legally in motion rather than in illegal motion

A Team A player has been within the 9-yard marks

A departing player has left the field prior to the snap

Defensive signals are legal

## **Mechanics**

Don't throw the flag

Don't blow the whistle

## **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

A player has not attempted to focus attention upon himself by a delayed, excessive or prolonged act.