2013 NFHS Football Test Problem Questions

The following questions are from the 2013 Certification Exam. These questions were answered wrong by more than 10% of the people. These questions may or may not be on the 2014 test. Each question includes the correct answer (Bold). I have also included the rule citation and some explanation of some of the questions.

1. Football gloves must meet the NOCSAE test standard at the time of manufacture, unless made of unaltered plain cloth.
   1. (240, 87.59%) True
   2. (34, 12.41%) False

   Rule 1-5-2b

2. Use of communication devices by players, except during authorized conferences outside the 9-yard marks, is prohibited.
   1. (237, 87.13%) True
   2. (35, 12.87%) False

   Rule 1-6-1

3. It is unsportsmanlike conduct for a player whose helmet comes completely off during a down to continue to participate beyond the immediate action in which the player is engaged.
   1. (78, 28.68%) True
   2. (194, 71.32%) False

   Rule 9-6-4g: Continuing to play without a helmet beyond the immediate action is illegal participation.

4. Spearing is an act by a defensive player who initiates contact with a ball carrier with the front of his helmet.
   1. (48, 17.58%) True
   2. (225, 82.42%) False

   Rules 2-20-1c, 9-4-3i: Spearing is initiating contact against an opponent with the top of the helmet. It does not matter whether the offending player is on offense or defense.

5. If a loose ball touches a game official who is straddling the sideline, the ball is not out of bounds.
   1. (196, 72.06%) False
   2. (76, 27.94%) True

   Rule 4-3-1

6. An unofficial auxiliary down indicator is required field equipment for a game.
   1. (219, 80.51%) False
   2. (53, 19.49%) True

   Rule 1-3-5c: The rule does not require this equipment but does allow it to be used.

7. The kicking team may not initiate contact once the receiving team has initiated a block within the neutral zone.
   1. (240, 88.56%) False
   2. (31, 11.44%) True
8. An official’s time-out shall be declared to permit prompt repair of equipment that becomes illegal or defective during use.
   1. (33, 12.18%) False
   2. (238, 87.82%) True

Rule 3-5-7e: If the equipment cannot be promptly fixed the player can be sent off for a play or a charged team time out can be taken to repair the equipment.

9. If a penalty resulting in a safety occurs on the last timed down of a period, the period is extended.
   1. (217, 79.78%) False
   2. (55, 20.22%) True

Rule 3-3-4b(5)

10. Nonplayer and unsportsmanlike fouls are not considered when determining if a period ends or must be extended.
   1. (85, 31.14%) False
   2. (188, 68.86%) True

Rule 3-3-4b

11. A fair catch can be made in or behind K’s neutral zone.
   1. (61, 22.59%) True
   2. (209, 77.41%) False

Rule 2-9-1: On a free kick a free catch can be made in or beyond the neutral zone. On a scrimmage kick a fair catch can be made beyond the neutral zone.

12. Two arms raised full length above the head and waved is an invalid fair-catch signal.
   1. (58, 21.48%) False
   2. (212, 78.52%) True

Rule 2-9-3, 2-9-4. 6-5-7: An invalid fair catch signal carries a 5 yard penalty. This penalty will be enforced under PSK rules.

13. It is a fair catch when R1 gives a valid signal and R2 catches the scrimmage kick beyond the neutral zone.
   1. (127, 46.69%) True
   2. (145, 53.31%) False

Rule 6-5-3: It is not a fair catch because R2 did not give the signal, however, the ball is becomes dead as soon as R2 possesses it. R2 may not realize that R1 gave the signal and may try to run. In this situation Delay of game should not be called. R2 is not afforded the protection from contact as in a fair catch.

14. After a field goal, the opponent of the scoring team shall designate which team will kick off.
   1. (113, 41.54%) False
   2. (159, 58.46%) True

Rule 8-5-2

15. If a drop kick or place kick is used following a safety, it is possible to score a field goal.
   1. (41, 15.02%) True
   2. (232, 84.98%) False
Rule 8-4-1a

16. A player who is an eligible receiver at the snap may become ineligible during the down.
   1. (92, 33.82%) True
   2. (180, 66.18%) False

Rule 7-5-6d

17. A passer is a player who throws a forward or backward pass.
   1. (145, 53.31%) False
   2. (127, 46.69%) True

Rule 2-32-11: A player is only a passer if he throws a legal forward pass. Throwing a backward pass or an illegal forward pass does not make a player a passer.

18. A false start is a live-ball foul penalized like a dead-ball foul.
   1. (219, 79.64%) False
   2. (56, 20.36%) True

Rule 2-16-2a, 7-1-7

19. After Team A has been set for at least one second, it is a foul if back A1 moves to a new backfield position and sets for less than one second before the snap.
   1. (186, 68.13%) True
   2. (87, 31.87%) False

Rule 2-39, 7-2-6

20. If B1 clips A1 and B2 piles on after A2 is tackled, it is a multiple foul.
   1. (133, 49.26%) False
   2. (137, 50.74%) True

Rule 2-16-2b: Multiple fouls occur when there are two or more live ball fouls against the same team. In this situation B1’s clip is a live ball foul and B2 personal foul is a dead ball fouls since it occurred after A2 was tackled. In a multiple foul scenario, only one live ball foul can be enforced. In the above scenario both fouls will be enforced.

21. If A1 clips B1 and the coach of Team B enters the field during the down to protest an apparent foul that was not called, it is a double foul.
   1. (63, 23.25%) True
   2. (208, 76.75%) False

Rule 2-16-2b: Double fouls occur when each team commits a live ball foul during the live ball period. Unsportsmanlike conduct and nonplayer fouls are not counted in this situation because they are treated like dead ball fouls.

22. A free kick may be recovered by K in R’s end zone.
   1. (196, 72.59%) False
   2. (74, 27.41%) True

Rule 8-5-3a(1): The ball becomes dead and a touchback is awarded as soon as the ball crosses into R’s end zone. Therefore it is impossible for K to recover the ball as it is already dead.

23. If a pool of water forces the referee to move the ball for K1’s kick, the free-kick lines may be less than 10 yards apart.
   1. (243, 89.01%) False
   2. (30, 10.99%) True
Rule 6-1-2

24. After a safety, unless moved by a penalty, R's free-kick line is K's 30-yard line.
   1. (131, 48.34%) True
   2. (140, 51.66%) False

Rule 6-1-1b

25. While it is possible to have several running plays during a down, with each one having its own basic
    spot of penalty enforcement (where the related run ended), there can only be one loose-ball play
    during a down.
    1. (124, 45.59%) False
    2. (148, 54.41%) True

Rule 2-33-1: By definition all runs prior to a loose ball play become part of the loose ball play so there can
only be one loose ball play.

26. A foul can cause the loss of the ball.
    1. (44, 16.18%) True
    2. (228, 83.82%) False

Football Fundamentals: No foul causes loss of the ball.

27. It is illegal participation if a player is lying on the ground to deceive the opponents at or immediately
    before the snap or free kick.
    1. (31, 11.31%) False
    2. (243, 88.69%) True

Rule 9-6-4e

28. It is illegal participation if a replaced player attempts but fails to leave the field prior to the snap.
    1. (95, 35.06%) True
    2. (176, 64.94%) False

Rule 3-7-4

29. An inadvertent whistle does not end the down.
    1. (241, 89.26%) False
    2. (29, 10.74%) True

Rule 4-2-2j

30. Enforcement provisions apply to all player fouls.
    1. (242, 88.97%) True
    2. (30, 11.03%) False

Rule 10-6

31. If an inadvertent whistle sounds with A1 in possession, the down may or may not be replayed.
    1. (236, 87.08%) True
    2. (35, 12.92%) False

Rule 4-2-3b
32. If end A1 accidentally goes out of bounds and returns during the down, he becomes an ineligible pass receiver.
   1. (146, 53.68%) True
   2. (126, 46.32%) False

Rule 7-5-6d, 9-6-1: When A1 steps out of bounds and returns to the field, he commits a foul for illegal participation. Stepping out of bounds does not change eligibility.

33. If a substitute or replaced player influences the play, it is illegal participation.
   1. (40, 14.81%) False
   2. (230, 85.19%) True

Rule 9-6-3

34. Fouls that occur after an inadvertent whistle can only be dead-ball fouls.
   1. (241, 89.26%) True
   2. (29, 10.74%) False

Rule 2-16-2a, 4-2-2j

35. Protests of NFHS rules are not recognized.
   1. (35, 12.96%) False
   2. (235, 87.04%) True

Rule 1-1-11

36. Immediately at the end of each period, the umpire shall hold the ball in one hand overhead to indicate the period has officially ended.
   1. (57, 21.11%) True
   2. (213, 78.89%) False

Rule 3-3-5: The referee shall hold the ball over his head after ensuring that no foul has occurred, no obvious timing error has occurred, no request for a coach-referee conference has occurred, and no other irregularity has occurred.

37. By state association adoption, a point differential may be established whereby if one team has gained the established point differential, the game shall be terminated.
   1. (222, 81.62%) True
   2. (50, 18.38%) False

Rule 3-2-1: CIF has not established a point differential for terminating games. CIF has established a point differential for switching to a running clock. Prior to the 4th quarter, if the point differential is 35 points or greater then upon mutual agreement of the coaches, a running clock will be used. Once in the 4th quarter, the running clock does not require agreement of the coaches. Once a running clock is established it is only stopped for scores, injuries, and timeouts. If the trailing team closes the gap to less than 35, it does not cause the clock to switch back to normal status. Once we go to a running clock it stays that way.

38. It is a touchback when a grounded three-point field-goal attempt breaks the plane of R's goal line unless R chooses spot of first touching by K.
   1. (209, 77.41%) True
   2. (61, 22.59%) False

Rule 8-5-3a(1)
39. It is a safety if A’s fumble is declared dead in B’s end zone other than from an inadvertent whistle and no player of either team is in possession.
   1. (89, 32.72%) True
   2. (183, 67.28%) False

Rule 8-5-3c

40. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.
   1. (245, 89.74%) True
   2. (28, 10.26%) False

Rule 3-5-10b

41. The clock will start with the snap following the enforcement of a delay of game penalty.
   1. (220, 81.48%) True
   2. (50, 18.52%) False

Rule 3-4-3i

42. A clock stopped during a period for an official’s time-out will start with the ready-for-play signal with the only exception being when a free kick follows.
   1. (148, 54.41%) True
   2. (123, 45.22%) False

Rule 3-4-2a: The clock will not start on the ready of a new series is awarded to B or if either team is awarded a new series after a kick

43. The referee may correct an obvious timing error after a period has officially ended, if discovery is prior to the second live ball following the error.
   1. (110, 40.15%) True
   2. (164, 59.85%) False

Rule 3-4-7: Since the period ended, the referee no longer has the option of correcting the error.

44. It is a touchback when A1 fumbles on B’s 2-yard line and the ball goes into B’s end zone and out-of-bounds there.
   1. (237, 87.13%) True
   2. (35, 12.87%) False

Rule 8-5-3c

45. If A1 is in his own end zone when he intentionally grounds a forward pass, it is a safety even if B declines the penalty.
   1. (72, 26.47%) False
   2. (200, 73.53%) True

Rule 8-5-2c

46. If receiver A1 controls the ball in B’s end zone, but prior to touching the ground inbounds, A1 brushes the upright, it is a touchdown.
   1. (193, 70.96%) False
   2. (79, 29.04%) True

Rule 1-2-5a, 2-29-2: Since the goal is completely out of bounds, when A1 touches it, the ball becomes dead. This is an incomplete pass.
47. It is possible to have more than one spot of first touching during a scrimmage kick.
   1. (175, 64.34%) True
   2. (97, 35.66%) False

Rule 2-12-2, 6-2-5

48. The clock running time for a game shall be _________ minutes for high schools with periods and intermissions as indicated by the NFHS Football Rules Book.
   1. (24, 8.82%) None of the above
   2. (241, 88.60%) 48
   3. (4, 1.47%) 60
   4. (3, 1.10%) 40

Rule 3-1-1

49. In attempting to tackle A1, B1’s helmet comes completely off. A1 does not go down and he runs for a touchdown.
   1. (15, 5.56%) The play is stopped and the ball becomes dead when B1’s helmet came off.
   2. (7, 2.59%) The score stands and B1 can stay in the game for the try.
   3. (242, 89.63%) The score stands and B1 must leave the field for one play.
   4. (6, 2.22%) None of the above.

Rule 3-5-10d, 4-2-2k The play is only stopped if the helmet comes off the player in possession. B1 must stop participating after the immediate action.

50. When a scrimmage down ends with the ball in the field of play or out of bounds between the goal lines, a new series is awarded to:
   1. (17, 6.27%) None of the above.
   2. (215, 79.34%) Any of the above.
   3. (23, 8.49%) A, if the ball belongs to A on or beyond the line to gain.
   4. (6, 2.21%) B, if the ball belongs to B at the end of any down.
   5. (10, 3.69%) R at the spot of first touching by K, if K is first to touch the kicked ball beyond the expanded neutral zone before it is touched beyond this zone by R and before it has come to rest.

Rule 5-1-3

51. For any free kick, a free-kick line, corresponding to a scrimmage line, is established for each team. These lines are always 10 yards apart. Unless moved by a penalty, K’s free-kick line is:
   1. (14, 5.13%) Any of the above.
   2. (234, 85.71%) None of the above.
   3. (18, 6.59%) Its 35-yard line for a kickoff.
   4. (7, 2.56%) Its 25-yard line after a safety.

Rule 6-1-1

52. It is not forward pass interference if:
   1. (29, 10.74%) Unavoidable contact occurs when two or more eligibles are making a simultaneous, bona-fide attempt to move toward, catch or bat the pass.
   2. (214, 79.26%) Any of the above.
   3. (8, 2.96%) Contact by A is immediately made on a B lineman and the contact does not continue beyond the expanded neutral zone.
   4. (17, 6.30%) None of the above.
   5. (2, 0.74%) Contact by B is obviously away from the direction of the pass.

Rule 7-5-11
53. A scrimmage kick by K1 from his own end zone is muffed in flight beyond the neutral zone by R1 and rebounds into the end zone where it is recovered by K2. The ball becomes dead in the end zone when K2 is tackled there.

54. (112, 41.48%) Safety and R will be awarded two points.

55. (113, 41.85%) Touchback for K.

56. (12, 4.44%) None of the above.

57. (33, 12.22%) Touchdown for K.

Rule 8-5-1a, 8-5-2b

58. A maximum of _________ coaches may be in the restricted area on the sidelines. No player, nonplayer or coach shall be in the restricted area when the ball is live.

59. (28, 10.37%) Two

60. (1, 0.37%) Five

61. (4, 1.48%) Four

62. (237, 87.78%) Three

Rule 9-8-3