

Regular Season Bulletin 8

It's Time to Tell Stories

During the regular season, I hear about many situations that don't make it into the weekly Bulletin. It's time to get these tidbits off my plate and share with all Oregon football officials. Some of these plays came from sub-varsity games, but could occur at any level of play. Food for thought and discussion and a reminder of what can happen...in any game!

In a sub-varsity game, the Head Coach came out onto the field to argue a call and was properly flagged. While the Referee was dealing with the Head Coach at the sideline, an Assistant Coach came onto the field to express his opinion and was also flagged. Both coaches were then ejected because there were now two Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls on the coaching staff. INCORRECT. In this case, each coach accumulated one Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul and since neither was flagrant, no ejections were warranted.

A Referee flagged an inexperienced QB for taking too long to put his knee down in a "victory" formation. Apparently, the team had never practiced this play. If there is an awkward delay, blow the whistle and end the play to avoid any unsporting activity. Team A's intent has already been established and is obvious; this play should not be a surprise to anyone.

During a scrimmage kick, Team R was flagged for a block in the back on a gunner during the kick. The foul was considered to be non-PSK and the penalty was enforced from the previous spot allowing the kicking team to keep the ball. The contact was either on the edge of the expanded neutral or beyond it. When in doubt, enforce as a PSK foul. The rule requiring PSK fouls to be beyond the neutral zone is intended to exclude roughing the kicker or snapper, head slaps by defensive linemen at the LOS and fouls in the backfield against blocking backs. Fouls involving gunners should be viewed as PSK unless irrefutably impossible.

Haste makes waste; please slow down on penalty enforcement especially when there is more than one foul. There was an illegal shift by Team A, a live-ball foul. After the play was over, the BJ reported "late hit by Team B." The Referee interpreted this as a live-ball foul and offset the penalties instead of enforcing both fouls in the order of occurrence. The key to successful penalty enforcement is good communication between all involved officials. I'm surprised no one in this crew stepped up to correct the Referee.

A coach was told he could not take a headset to a team timeout huddle in the middle of the field. Rule 1-6-1 only prohibits players from using headsets; coaches can have/wear them at this type of conference; coaches do not have to remove and leave their headsets at their sideline.

And finally....

An Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul was called on a player who took his helmet off on the field on his way to the team bench. While this is a foul under NCAA rules, it is not under NFHS rules.

Illegal Forward Handing

Some teams run a draw/option play where the QB puts the ball into the gut of the running back and both players hold on to the ball with the RB leading the way. If the QB lets go of the ball beyond the LOS, it is illegal forward handing. Rule 7-3-2.

Changing Quarters

In the process of moving to their new position between quarters, the chain crew may (and probably should) come onto the field between the sideline and the numbers to avoid having to snake through players and coaches.

If the Linesman is delayed in getting the chains reset for the new quarter, the Back Judge should monitor the team huddle on the Linesman's side and assist with getting the team back onto the field when necessary.

Training Video

We'll end this season's training videos with the last of the LeMonnier series. These plays deal with Forward Progress and situations involving the Goal Line. Here's the links:

Forward Progress - <http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/front/105991/Video/player/13841/16764>

Goal Line - <http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/13840/16763>