

## **2011 SRI Bulletin 2**

### **Calling Fouls-Using Your Best Judgment**

After observing two weeks of games, it's necessary to remind officials to **See the Foul, Read the Play, Assess the Impact, and then Decide** whether or not to throw the flag.

The first step is to **see** the action, not just a piece of the action, not just the end of the action, but the **entire** action. Now...**read** the play. Does this suspect foul have an opportunity to impact the play in progress? Then, **assess** the degree of impact on the play. We need to determine if the potential infraction either (a) created a material advantage for the offending player, or conversely (b) put the offended player at a significant disadvantage.

You are now ready to **decide**. It's simply a decision based on what you've determined from the prior steps. If you saw the whole action, established that the action is relevant to the play that's unfolding, determined that either someone gained a material advantage or was put at a significant disadvantage, you drop the flag. If any one of those steps failed to produce a positive answer for you, you will be better off passing on the foul.

The only exceptions are fouls involving player safety, unsportsmanlike conduct and takedowns (holding) which will be called any time they occur.

### **Illegal Participation**

Play: Team B has 10 players. After the ball has been snapped, the 11th player enters the field of play and helps in making the tackle of the runner.

Ruling: Illegal participation, Rule 9-6-3. If he enters the field, but does not participate, illegal substitution, Rules 3-7-5 and 3-7-6. Also Case Book plays 3.7.5 Situations A and B.

### **Illegal Shift**

Play: The QB is in shotgun formation. All players set for one second. The QB calls signals then moves his left foot forward one step while his right foot stays in place and the ball is snapped before his left foot has reset for a second. Am I correct in flagging this for an illegal shift?

Ruling: To call this as an illegal shift is being too picky, too technical. This kind of movement is seen at all levels of football; it usually happens when the QB wants another player to go in motion. The only time I would **ever** think of throwing the flag is if the movement of the foot caused the defense to encroach into the neutral zone (highly unlikely,) and then we would have a false start on the offense for simulating action at the snap. Leave this one alone! Don't go looking for trouble! There is no advantage gained by the QB. See **Calling Fouls** above.

### **Disqualified Player**

A disqualified player may remain in the team bench area and be supervised by coaches and/or school administrators. He/she does not have to leave the confines of the field and go to the locker room. On the other hand, a disqualified coach must leave the field and remain out of "sight and sound" of his/her team for the remainder of the game. OSAA Board Policy 21A.