

2011 SRI Bulletin 5

Illegal Motion/Shift

Play: Team A lines up with a tight end (TE) next to one tackle. The TE is uncovered and thus eligible. The QB starts his cadence, and the 5 interior linemen slowly drop down into a 3-point stance. The TE stays in a 2-point stance. One second later, the TE goes into motion away from his tackle, but stays on the LOS. The TE then a) stops further out on the LOS and stays still for at least 1 second before the snap, or b) stays in motion along the LOS until the snap.

Ruling: In a) Legal play. The TE's shift is legal as he stops for 1 second before the snap. Rule 7-2-6. In b) Illegal motion. Since the TE started in motion along the LOS, he needs to be at least 5-yards behind the LOS at the snap. By being in motion along the LOS at the snap, the TE violates Rule 7-2-7.

To Try or Not to Try

Play: Team A scores to take a 50 point lead. Team A's coach informs the Referee that he does not want to attempt the PAT. The Referee, knowing Rule 8-1-1, tells the coach that he must attempt a try. On the PAT, A's placekicker is roughed and the try is **unsuccessful**. Team A's coach tells the Referee that he wishes to decline the penalty and not replay the try.

Ruling: Unfortunately, Rule 8-1-6 says that the try must be replayed. Team A may decline the distance portion of the penalty, Rule 10-1-1, but must attempt another try, or at least snap the ball and hopefully, take a knee. Case Book plays 8.3.1 Situation and 8.3.5 Situation A.

Equipment

Brad is asking officials to review Rules 1-5-1b1, 1-5-3b5 and Case Book play 1.5.1 Situation B which talks about jerseys that are either untucked or do not cover rib pads or tailbone protectors. Remind players, several times if necessary, that jerseys must be tucked in or pulled down. Please use your best preventive officiating to avoid flags for untucked jerseys.

Inadvertent Whistle

Play: B45 delivers a hard, legal block to A35 causing A35's helmet to come off. At the time, A35 was blocking for ball carrier A24. An official sounded his whistle when A35's helmet came off.

Ruling: Inadvertent whistle rules apply. Rule 4-2-2k says that the ball becomes dead only when the ball carrier's helmet comes off. Also see Case Book play 4.2.2 Situation K.

Penalty Enforcement

Play: Third down and 17, QB A2 drops back to pass and is sacked for a seven yard loss. During the play linebacker B63 holds eligible receiver A84 10 yards beyond the neutral zone.

Ruling: This is defensive holding on a running play. The penalty is from the end of the run, not the previous spot. Third and 14 for Team A. Rule 10-4-4.