

2013 SRI Pre-Season Bulletin 2

Scrimmages and Jamborees

Many officials will be working scrimmages and/or jamborees this weekend. Please offer to go over the new rules with the coaches and players and clarify any issues that they may have. A few minutes spent now on teaching and education will help make for a smooth season.

Coin Toss

Coaches, AD's and officials are reminded that the coin toss **WILL BE HELD** at 3 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff per Rule 3-2-2. Violations **WILL RESULT** in a 15-yard penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct assessed to the Head Coach. Once the season starts, please let Brad and myself know if you encounter schools that do not comply with or try to circumvent this rule.

If a team is penalized for a Rule 3-2-2 violation, free-kick lines for both teams will change. Make sure you explain this to captains as this may affect their coin toss choices.

Helmet Covers

Last year, the NFHS declared soft-shell helmet covers that were being marketed to reduce impacts to the head as legal equipment. In July, 2013, NOCSAE issued a statement concluding the addition of any after-market items to football helmets voids the certification of compliance with NOCSAE standards. Since the NFHS and OSAA require all helmets to meet NOCSAE standards, **the use of helmet covers is illegal equipment** as the cover modifies the helmet from the manufacturer's original design, intent, and/or production and is illegal under Rule 1-5-3c9.

Helmet-to-Helmet Contact

Several new rules for 2013 discuss what a player may or may not do when his/her helmet comes completely off.

Rule 3-5-10d was expanded to include dead ball action related to the down. Initiating contact with a helmet-less player is now a personal foul per Rule 9-4-3l.

Rule 9-6-4g penalizes a player who continues to participate without a helmet beyond any immediate action 15-yards for Illegal Participation. The phrase "immediate action" has been interpreted by the NFHS as action occurring while two opponents are engaged. Action after players have disengaged is considered a new, separate and thus, non-immediate action.

Please click on the following link for this year's NFHS Football Rules Interpretations which give several play situations relating to these rules as well as clarifications to the Rules Book, Case Book and Game Officials Manual:

<http://www.nfhs.org/content.aspx?id=9418>

Training Video

This week's training video looks at helmet-to-helmet contact and was produced by Brad Garrett for the NFHS Football Rules Committee meeting this past January. Please click on the following link:

<http://osaa.arbitersports.com/front/105752/Video/player/1852/3491>