

2013 SRI Pre-Season Bulletin 3

Taking the Helmet Off

Play: Team A trails by 2 points with 10 seconds remaining in the 4th quarter and the clock running. Team A has no timeouts left and they face a 4th down on B's 15-yard line. At the end of the 3rd down play, A63 runs up to an official showing him that his helmet has come off during the previous play. The official believes that the player has deliberately taken his helmet off to take advantage of an official's timeout to get the field goal unit onto the field.

Ruling: Rule 3-5-10d mandates that an official's time out must be taken to allow the helmet-less player to leave the game for one play. Penalize Team A 15-yards for Unsportsmanlike Conduct under Rule 9-5-1f, leaving the field between downs to gain an advantage. That's exactly what the helmet-less player is trying to do....by removing his helmet, he has created a reason to stop the clock and leave the field between downs to gain an advantage for his team.

Following penalty administration, invoke Rule 3-4-6 and start the clock with the ready-for-play. If time expires, the period will not be extended for an untimed down. Rule 3-3-4b1.

Now, one might say that A63 has accomplished his task of stopping the clock to allow the field goal team to come on the field even at the expense of a 15-yard penalty and the clock starting per Rule 3-4-6. Unfortunately, there are no further sanctions that apply to this situation.

Officiating the Sideline

Coaches: The restricted area, formerly known as the coaching box, has been defined as the area where a maximum of three coaches may communicate with players and substitutes during dead ball situations. Before the ball becomes live, coaches must move behind the restricted area. It is suggested that a "get-back coach" be designated to help all coaches comply with this rule.

Administration of this violation is from the succeeding spot. For the first offense, officials will throw their flag, give a sideline warning, but **no yardage penalty will be assessed**. A second offense will result in a 5-yard penalty for sideline interference. Each subsequent offense will be a 15-yard penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct charged to the Head Coach and will count towards disqualification.

Unintentional contact between a coach and an official in the restricted area while the ball is live results in a 15-yard penalty for the first offense. If there is a second offense, the Head Coach will be disqualified in addition to the 15-yard penalty.

Officials: Enforce this rule from the opening kickoff; don't wait until the fourth quarter to make this call. If coaches are in the restricted area when prohibited by rule, it is because you as an official have let them be there. Use preventive officiating techniques; work with the coaches to keep them where they're supposed to be, but, if your best efforts fail, throw the flag.

Concussions

Question: If a player is sent out because of a suspected concussion, can the Head Coach send him back in if a certified medical person is not available?

Answer: The decision to return a suspected concussed player to the field is a sideline decision and not within officiating responsibilities. The responsibility for return to play decisions during a contest rests solely with the affected school/school district. The school/school district has the responsibility to determine who is qualified to determine if an athlete has suffered a concussion. If the school/school district determines that an athlete has suffered a concussion then OAR 581-022-0421 outlines those individuals who may return a student to play. Officials may again remove the player if they suspect he/she is still concussed.