

2013 Regular Season Bulletin 3

Illegal Participation

Play: A66 loses his helmet well behind the play and follows the play from a distance while A22 runs for a very long gain. After the play, A66 is observed returning to his helmet to retrieve it.

Ruling: A helmet-less player will usually remain near his helmet; however that may not always happen. Movement alone is not participation. Rule 2-30 defines participation as an act or action by a player that has an influence on play. In this case, it was apparent that A66 merely rambled downfield to watch the play. No official observed A66 perform a football related act, so there is no foul for illegal participation.

Game Control

Game control needs to be maintained from the beginning of the game to the end of the game. Dead ball officiating is necessary for player safety and game management. Be a great dead ball official; officiate the players—keep your head up! Don't officiate grass!

Officials must immediately penalize as unsportsmanlike conduct any cheap shots, taunting and baiting, the finger in the face, attempts to humiliate an opponent or trash talking. Always keep a set of eyes on the players and the benches. Let players know you are there; be aware of areas for potential trouble...action at or around the pile or at the sidelines. A rivalry game or a one-sided game score can also bring potential problems.

Coaches, you are the most influential person to teach good sportsmanship. One of your fundamental responsibilities is to inspire players to conduct themselves in a manner which best represents the values of high school sports. Coaches must stress respect for opposing players and must not tolerate conduct that demeans or embarrasses the opponent.

Penalty Enforcement

Play: 2nd & 10 on the A-40. Team A commits pass interference; B intercepts but fumbles with A-45 recovering the ball and being tackled at the A-25.

Ruling: B's interception cannot stand because they subsequently fumbled. So...B has two choices: (1) decline the OPI penalty and let the result of the play stand, A's ball, 1st & 10 at the A-25 or (2) accept the penalty, 15-yards from the previous spot, A's ball, 2nd & 25 at the A-25. Interesting choice for Team B with only the down and distance being different.

Request for Video

Coaches....please send me video clips of plays that I can use for training purposes. I am looking for examples of excellent officiating and areas that need improvement. Please send to: clark@oreofficials.org. Thanks!

Attempting the Try

Oregon football rankings (RPI scores) are not based on any point differential. Therefore, there is no need to attempt an extra point following the end of the fourth period unless the points would affect the outcome of the game. Rule 8-3-1 Exception.

Block in the Back

Play: (From a Coach) Offense makes a bad snap to punter on 4th down. Punter chases the ball along with a defensive player. Ball goes into end zone; both players race for the ball and the defensive player shoves the punter out of the way as he is diving for and recovering the ball. Defensive player is called for a block in the back. Ball is returned to punting team for a first down and the touchdown is nullified based on the block in the back call. Is this right?

Ruling: NFHS Rule 9-3-5b says any player may ".....use hands and arms to contact an opponent above the waist...when attempting...to recover a loose ball which he may legally touch or possess."

Thus, by rule, the defensive player can legally push/block the punter in the back in his attempt to recover the loose ball. The action described above is not a foul.

That said, remember if **TWO** defensive players and the punter are going after the loose ball, and one defender pushes/blocks the punter to clear a path to the ball for his teammate, then you have a foul for illegal use of hands.

Training Video

This week's training videos show two plays that illustrate Rule 8-5-5 and Case Book play 8.5.2 Situation C, the concept of force with resultant touchbacks.

Another training video from the LeMonnier series has also been posted to the Central Hub that shows plays involving Player Safety.