

2013 Regular Season Bulletin 4

Roughing the Snapper

Play: Snapper A53 snaps from a scrimmage kick formation and before A53 has a chance to look up to defend himself, B72 tries to shoot the gap between A53 and guard A66. In the process, B72 places a hand on and pushes down on A53's right shoulder, causing him to fall to the ground. Is this a foul?

Ruling: Legal play by B72 because he did not charge directly into A53. Rule 9-4-6.

Attempting the Try - Part 2

In last week's Bulletin I talked about the need to attempt the try with any resultant affect on RPI rankings. I have been informed that some leagues use an AZZI tiebreaker process to determine final league standings if necessary, which does include criteria related to points.

Coaches and AD's, if your league uses the AZZI tiebreaker process, please inform game officials of that. Officials, when in doubt, proceed with the try.

Gloves

Play: A player had brand new yellow gloves with the NOCSAE label. The officials told him he could not wear the gloves.

Ruling: There are no color restrictions on gloves except that they may not be ball-colored. Rule 1-5-3c1. Only towels cannot be penalty-flag colored. Rule 1-5-3a5a.

Illegal Equipment

There is a sleeve (manufactured by Nike) that covers only the lower arm (elbow or slightly above, down to the wrist). It looks like a normal spandex support sleeve, but it has a herring-bone pattern along the inside of the forearm. That pattern is made of the same tacky/sticky surface-material that is found on the palms/fingers of many of the receivers' gloves. When one feels it, it is clear that the sleeve will enhance a runner's grip along the side of the ball.

I am also aware of forearm pads with a tacky/sticky material in a pattern on the inside of the pad. Two are made by Nike; one by Under-Armor. They are black or black/grey, with a company logo (Nike or Under-Armor.) These are a bit shorter than the sleeve (elbow to wrist, only) and had a thin protective pad on the outside - over the bone-ridge of the forearm. The third type was another Nike product. This was an elbow-pad with a pattern of the tacky/sticky material on the inside about where the point of a ball would rest when being carried.

Coaches, any exterior arm covers or pads designed to enhance contact with the ball are illegal equipment. Rule 1-5-3c5. Once you verify that your players are legally equipped, any player found wearing or using illegal equipment subjects the Head Coach to a 15-yard penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Rule 9-8-1h.

Fan Behavior

The behavior of a fan should not jeopardize the players on the field or you as an official. If a spectator begins to cross the line and becomes unruly, contact the game manager, usually the home team Athletic Director. As an official, DO NOT deal with the behavior of fans by issuing a sideline warning or telling the out-of-control, unruly spectator that he/she must leave the game. If you as an official feel that a fan needs to be warned or removed from the game, talk to the game manager.

Trainers, cheerleaders and band members in uniform, mascots, stats people and others affiliated with the teams need to be behind the two yard restraining line. If these people are trying to "help officiate," then game management needs to deal with those people. Referees, it is important that you know who the game manager is when you arrive at the game site.

Substitutions

When a substitute enters the game, he becomes a player. If he/she withdraws, or if a replaced player re-enters during the same dead ball interval, this is foul for illegal substitution. The only exceptions are if there is an accepted penalty, a dead-ball foul, a charged time-out or the period ends. Rules 2-32-1 and 3-7-3.

Training Videos

There are three training videos this week. The first shows a player encroaching on a free kick, then continuing downfield and blocking low on a receiving team player.

The second video shows illegal helmet contact and possible disqualification of the offending player.

The third video shows excellent officiating in not blowing the whistle when the ball is at rest following a blocked field goal attempt.