

2013 Regular Season Bulletin 6

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Play: In this game, the Head Coach opted to be in the press box to call plays; he assigned an assistant on the sideline to be his designee.

The designee received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in the first half for contacting an official in the restricted area. In the second half, as the linesman was chasing a play, he ran into that same coach/designee. Another UNS penalty was assessed. Since it was the second one to the “designated” head coach, the designee was removed from the game.

Ruling: The penalty section to Rule 9-4-8 says the second 9-4-8 offense results in the disqualification of the Head Coach, not his designee. The Head Coach is responsible for his designee.

Intentional Grounding

Play: QB A10 is under a hard rush and throws a pass towards an area that is only occupied by left tackle A77. The ball falls incomplete. The pass was slightly tipped by B55 behind the neutral zone but the ball's trajectory was not changed.

Ruling: When the ball was tipped by B55, all Team A players became eligible receivers. Rule 7-5-6b. Since now-eligible A77 was in the area of the incomplete pass, there is no foul for intentional grounding. If no Team A player was in the area, throw the flag for intentional grounding.

Illegal Substitution

Play: Following a touchdown, A5 runs off the field as he is not on the kick-try team. The coach decides to go for a 2-point try and A5 returns to the field to participate in the play.

Ruling: When A5 runs off the field, he does not lose his status as a player when he enters his team area while the ball is dead. He is not a replaced player, Rule 2-32-12, because he was not notified by a substitute that he was to leave the field, and he is not a substitute, Rule 2-32-15, because there was not a player vacancy for him to fill. This is a legal play.

Timeout

This actually happened.....

Play: After a quarterback sack with 20 seconds to play in the half, the Referee decides he missed the offensive team's request for a timeout prior to the snap. After stopping the clock, the Referee adds 14 seconds back on the clock and replays the down. As luck/fate would have it, a touchdown was scored on the replayed down.

Ruling: A timeout does not occur until if and when an official legally grants it. Rule 3-5-2a. Officials do not have the authority to retroactively grant a timeout and undo a play.

Snapper Protection

Play: Fourth and 10 for team K at its own 25 yard line. K12 is lined up directly behind snapper K52 but his hands are not under the snapper. K34 is positioned eight yards behind the line and is directly behind K12 and K52. If K34 receives the snap, is K52 afforded snapper protection? Does it matter if K12's hands are under the snapper?

Ruling: If K12 is in position to receive a direct hand-to-hand snap, it is not a scrimmage kick formation and snapper K52 is not afforded protection. The location of K12's hands and the fact that deep back K34 received the snap are immaterial. Rules 2-14-2 and 9-4-6.

Helmet Opening

It is illegal to grasp any helmet opening as well as the face mask. It is just as dangerous to use the edge of a helmet opening to wrench the neck of an opponent as it is to grasp the face mask. Neither the helmet nor face mask was intended to provide a handle for the tackler. Rule 9-4-3h does not prohibit tackling a runner around the head, or even grabbing the helmet, as long as the tackler's hands do not grasp the face mask or the edge of any helmet opening.

Official's Timeout

When there is any unusual delay in getting the ball spotted and marked ready-for-play, an official's timeout may be taken. Rule 3-5-7j. This delay often happens when teams are slow to un-pile after the previous play. If the clock is stopped to allow teams to un-pile, do not start the clock during the un-piling process, make sure you have secured the ball and do not start the clock until the ball has been correctly spotted for the next down and made ready-for-play.

Player Disqualification

When a player is disqualified, it is very important that officials know with 100% certainty the correct player number. Erroneously disqualifying the wrong player can have major game-affecting implications. If necessary, get together as a crew and review any/all available information before escorting the disqualified player to the sideline.

Training Video

This week's training video is from the LeMonnier series and shows video clips of officiating mechanics.