

# 2014 Regular Season Bulletin 2

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## Concussion Management – Jenna’s Law:

From Tom Welter, OSAA Executive Director.....”As we begin the 2014-15 school year, the newly enacted state statute “Jenna’s Law” affects our 52 full member private schools. This memorandum clarifies how this law applies to competitions against out-of-state opponents.”

1. Out-of-State Private School Playing a Contest in Oregon – “Jenna’s Law” applies to any student-athlete from an out-of-state private school that is sent to the sidelines for a suspected concussion. That student-athlete is not allowed to return to competition.
2. Oregon Private School Playing a Contest in Another State – “Jenna’s Law” applies to all Oregon private schools regardless of where the game is played, and any student-athlete from an Oregon private school that is sent to the sidelines for a suspected concussion is not allowed to return to competition.

## Mouthpieces:

Tooth and mouth protectors shall be of any readily visible color, and may not be completely white or completely clear. Rule 1-5-1d5(a)(5,6.) That means a mouthpiece that is ½ white and ½ of another color is a legal mouthpiece.

## Targeting and Defenseless Players:

I am hearing confusion about the new rules regarding targeting and contact on a defenseless player. The following are two general statements that may help to simplify things.

- The definition of targeting, Rule 2-20-2, and its placement under Rule 9-4-3, Illegal Personal Contact were created to call special attention to certain acts that in previous years would have been covered by the Illegal Personal Contact rules. The addition of targeting does not replace or eliminate other personal fouls such as illegal helmet contact, butt blocking, face tackling, spearing and any striking blows. The 2014 rules change simply gives these fouls a name of their own within the new definition of targeting.
- The definition of a defenseless player, Rule 2-32-16 did not create a new foul, but did create a “class” of players who are especially vulnerable to injury. Examples are noted in the Comments to Case Book play 9.4.3. **A defenseless player may be legally contacted.** In order for there to be a foul, the contact must violate the provisions of Rule 9-4-3 and is **NOT LIMITED** to just illegal helmet contact (9-4-3i3.) Most contact with a defenseless player will be unnecessary roughness and that’s covered by Rule 9-4-3g.

Question: There is no penalty in the Rules Book for contacting a defenseless player?

Answer: This statement is incorrect. Since a defenseless player is an opponent, the current wording of Rule 9-4-3g applies.....”make any other contact with an opponent which is deemed unnecessary and which incites roughness.”

Question: A player receiving a blind side block is fouled according to Case Book play 9.4.3 Comment?

Answer: As I mentioned in the second bullet on the first page, a defenseless player may be legally contacted. **A blind side block is a legal block UNLESS the blocking technique violates Rules 2-3-2, 2-3-3 and 2-3-4.** The foul occurs when a legal block is deemed to be unnecessary.

The 2014 NFHS Football Rules Interpretations tell us the official must draw distinction between:

- Contact necessary to make a legal block or tackle.
- Making unnecessary contact on a defenseless player.
- Targeting any player at any time.

Question: The Rules Book indicates (in 9-4-3i NOTE) that there are some specific acts that are deemed automatic flagrant disqualifications fouls?

Answer: Rule 9-4-3i (NOTE) “Illegal helmet contact may be considered a flagrant acts.” While the current wording may be confusing, the key words are “**may be considered.**” In other words....

- No act is **automatically** deemed flagrant, as such, no act results in an automatic disqualification.
- The covering official(s) shall determine if/when an act is deemed flagrant.

It is critical that we all understand that contact involving a defenseless player can be legal contact but that contact **must be necessary**. Minimizing risk is the number one priority for all parties involved in this game. Situations involving players who are unable to change their speed, direction, angle or position prior to contact are different than those players who are able to make adjustments to avoid unnecessary collisions. The game official’s ability to understand the difference between these situations will determine whether or not a foul has occurred.

Bottom Line....Again....**ANY** contact that is deemed unnecessary and which incites roughness is a personal foul, regardless if the “victim” is defenseless or not.

I’m sure we haven’t heard the last regarding targeting and defenseless players. Look for changes to these rules for 2015.

### Training Video:

This week’s training video shows four plays highlighting targeting and action against a defenseless player.