

2014 Regular Season Bulletin 9

Clark Sanders – OSAA Football SRI (clark@oreofficials.org)

Intentional Grounding

Play: 4th and Goal on the Team B 6-yard line, left hash. QB A9 is in shotgun formation when the snap goes over his head. To avoid getting sacked, A9 picks up the ball and scrambles past the right hash, and at the Team B 13-yard line throws a forward pass that lands out-of-bounds, 20 yards away from the nearest Team A eligible receiver.

Ruling: Intentional Grounding by A9. Team B will have the choice to either decline the penalty and take the ball at the B 6-yard line, or more likely, accept the penalty of five yards from the basic spot (in this case the spot of the foul), plus a loss of down, giving Team B the ball at the Team B 18-yard line. Rules 7-5-2d, 7-5-3 and 10-4-2b.

Helmet Coming Off

Play: B54's helmet comes completely off while trying to legally tackle runner A32, who does not immediately go down after the contact. Without ever losing contact, A32 drags B54 for a few yards before finally going down to the ground.

Ruling: Legal play by B54 because he is still engaged in the "immediate action" of attempting to tackle A32. B54 does not have to cease his tackling process because his helmet came off and is not guilty of illegal participation. After the play is over, B54 must leave the field for at least one play unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurred. Rules 3-5-10d and 9-6-4g.

Penalty Enforcements

Play: A17's run from scrimmage results in a touchdown. During A17's run, B23 is flagged for twisting A17's facemask. During the successful try, B18 is flagged for roughing the kicker. What is the ruling?

Ruling: Team A must make a decision regarding B23's facemask foul before the try. Team A may accept the results of the play and choose enforcement of the penalty on the try or on the subsequent kickoff. The roughing foul on the successful try may result in a replay of the try from the 1 ½ yard line or the penalty may be enforced on the subsequent kickoff. It is possible for Team A to have one penalty enforced on the try and one on the kickoff, or for both fouls to be enforced on the kickoff. Rules 8-2-2 and 8-3-5.

Play: Quarterback A14 is downed ten yards behind the line of scrimmage on a play during which B49 commits a personal foul at the line of scrimmage. What is the enforcement spot?

Ruling: The foul occurs on a running play and the basic spot is the end of the run. Team B is penalized 15 yards from the end of the run, not the previous spot, even though this only gives Team A a net gain of 5 yards. Rules 10-3-2 and 10-4-4.

Free Kicks

Question: Is it legal to fake a free kick (run up to the ball) and not kick it?

Answer: Legal as long as all Rule 3-6-2a (delay of game) and 6-1-3 (formation) requirements are met. Most of the time, Team K does not kick the ball after they charge unless they believe they can catch Team R unaware, then you might see an onside kick.

Roughing the Kicker

Question: If the center snaps the ball and it hits and rolls on the ground and the punter kicks it and a defensive player runs into or hits the punter is it roughing the kicker?

Answer: If the punter kicks a loose ball as it is rolling on the ground, that's a foul for illegally kicking the ball. Rules 2-24-4, 6-2-1 and 9-7-1. If the punter gets contacted by the defense, you could have either roughing or running into the kicker. Judgment call. A bad snap does not get the defense off the hook from trying to avoid contacting the kicker. In the play you cite, if there was a flag thrown for roughing/running into the kicker, you would have live ball fouls by both teams which would offset and you would replay the down.

Training Video

This week's training video features 3 plays that show an incorrect penalty enforcement, a legal block and several incorrect mechanics on a measurement.