

2015 Regular Season Bulletin 2

Illegal Forward Pass

Play: A 1st and 10 @ B20-yard line. QB A12 runs to the B17 then retreats back to the B22 and completes a forward touchdown pass to A87.

Ruling: Legal play. It doesn't matter where the passer goes before he throws the ball; he just has to be in or behind the neutral zone when he releases the ball. Rule 7-5-2b.

One other thing to remember in plays like this.....unless this is a designed play, most interior linemen will see the QB start to run downfield and will also go downfield to block for him. When the QB retreats behind the neutral zone, you will then likely have ineligible receivers downfield. The key is not so much where the ineligible receiver is when the pass is thrown, but where he has been anytime between the snap and the pass.

Breaking the Huddle

It is not a foul for Team A to break the huddle with 12 players as long as any replaced player begins to leave the field within three seconds after the arrival of his substitute. Rules 2-32-12, 2-32-15, and 3-7-1. Also Case Book play 3.7.1 Sit.A.

Dry Hands

Question: (From a Coach) Is the use of Dry Hands water repellent legal in football games?

Answer: Rule 1-5-3a2 prohibits "slippery or sticky substances of a foreign nature on equipment, towel, uniform, or on an exposed part of the body which affects the ball or an opponent."

Looking at the Dry Hands website I find the following description of their product: "What is Dry Hands? DRY HANDS is a performance enhancing solution that alleviates grip problems caused by perspiration or rain."

The fact that Dry Hands 1) is performance enhancing and 2) "alleviates grip problems" i.e. affects the ball, makes the Dry Hands product illegal equipment.

One Point Safety

We don't see this very often, but the following play is an excellent example of a 1 point safety.

Play: During a try, A22 runs up the middle and fumbles at the B 2-yard line. The ball is nearly at rest on the B 1-yard line when a muff by B75 is judged by the Umpire to be a new force, causing the ball to go into B's end zone where B81 recovers and is tackled in the end zone.

Ruling: The dead ball in the end zone will result in a safety, however, only one point is scored for Team A. Rule 8-5-2-b and Table 8-1.

Illegal Substitution

Question: Do we have a philosophy on a defensive sub trying to leave the field?

Answer: There should not be any difference in philosophy between the offense and defense. The same philosophy/interpretation should apply to both the 12th offensive player trying to get off the field and the 12th defensive player trying to do the same.

Enforcement of illegal substitution (ILS) fouls will continue to be inconsistent as long as there are officials who are willing to give the 12th player any benefit of doubt as long as the player is going hell-bent towards the sidelines. I know wing officials who will take 2-3 steps onto the field to make sure the 12th player is behind them at the snap so they don't have to throw the flag, their feeling being "no harm, no foul."

That said, here are some guidelines. If we can penalize before the snap, we will do so. If the 12th player is not trying to get off the field, dead ball ILS. If he's trying to get off, and you can shut the play down, dead ball ILS. If you can't shut the play down, live ball ILS regardless of how close he is to the sideline at the snap, with one exception, no foul if the player's next step takes him out-of-bounds. All of this assumes the player does not participate or affect the play.

Please review Rule 3-7.

Personal Fouls vs. Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls

Officials need to know the difference between personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls in order to correctly report the foul to the Referee. Please review Rules 9-4 and 9-5.

Unsportsmanlike acts are those that do not involve physical contact against an opponent. Taunting, excessive celebrating and disrespect directed at an official are examples of unsportsmanlike acts. A second unsportsmanlike conduct foul on the same player will cause that player to be disqualified.

A player guilty of two personal fouls will not be automatically disqualified from the game unless the official deems the personal foul action to be flagrant. A late hit, facemask twists and turns, unnecessary or excessive contact/roughness or targeting are examples of personal fouls.

Training Videos

Two training videos are posted to the Central Hub this week. The first shows a possible foul for targeting. Discuss, and "You make the Call." Here's the link:

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3415/5921>

The second video is the first chapter from the 2015 LeMonnier training video. There are about 10 plays for officials to view.

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/front/105991/Video/player/3413/5919>

