

2015 Regular Season Bulletin 3

Chop Blocks

A chop block is a combination block by two or more teammates against an opponent other than the runner, with or without delay, where one of the blocks is at the knee or below and the other block is above the knee. Rule 2-3-8 and Table 9-3-6.

Such contact outside the free blocking zone is an illegal block below the waist. If the opponent has disengaged from the first block when the second block occurs, there cannot be a chop block.

Some key points regarding chop blocks.

- Both offensive and defensive players can be guilty of a chop block.
- Two high blocks are legal in situations where blocking is allowed.
- Two low blocks are legal in situations where low blocks are legal.
- High-Low or Low-High blocks are chop blocks.
- When in doubt, the contact is at the knee or below.

Penalty Enforcement-Ball Position

Question: Where is the ball spotted following an accepted penalty when it is snapped from the right hash mark and the run ends in the left side zone and the foul is: (a) illegal motion by A1; (b) holding by A1 in the middle of the field behind the end of the run; or (c) grasping the face mask/helmet opening by B1 in making the tackle.

Answer: In (a), the ball is spotted at the right hash mark as enforcement was from the previous spot. In (b), the ball is spotted in the middle of the field as enforcement was from the spot of the foul. In (c), the ball is spotted at the left hash mark as enforcement was from the end of the run.

PAT by Place Kick

Play: PAT by place kick. K1 kicks a low, line drive kick and the ball hits K67, a blocking lineman in the neutral zone and caroms through the uprights.

Ruling: Successful PAT. The touching by K67 is ignored as the touching did not prevent the place kick from scoring. Rule 8-3-2b.

A Big Thank You

After the first 2 weeks of the regular season, Brad has received over 135 reports regarding blindside blocks. Some of these reports are for flags being thrown and some report no flag thrown for various reasons. A big thank you to all officials for taking the time and effort to help collect data for this Oregon experimental rule. Keep up the good work and keep those reports coming! Thanks again!

Hurry Up Offense

Question: (From a Coach) “On Friday, the Umpire stood over the ball for a long period. This allowed the other team to get their defensive substitutes into the game. I am under the impression that the other team should not be allowed to substitute if we are not. It was a little frustrating, since we are a hurry up offense.”

Answer: I suspect the Umpire was doing what he has seen NCAA umpires do, that is staying over the ball to prevent a snap to allow the defense to match up to offensive substitutions. That’s not the rule in high school. Also, there is no NFHS rule that requires the offense to give the defense time to substitute. Contrary to the coach’s statement, the defense can substitute even if the offense keeps the same players on the field.

In a hurry up offense, the Umpire should spot the ball, look to the Referee who should quickly nod or point him off the ball, and then get back to his normal position.

Free Kick Reminders

In response to several questions regarding a team’s free kick procedure, the following reminders are offered...

- For a free kick, the kicking team may either place the ball on a tee or on the ground adjacent to the tee. They may move the ball to the tee and kick it or kick it from the ground as long as the kick is accomplished within 25 seconds after the ready-for-play.
- They may fake a free kick by rushing to the ball and either kick it or retreat back to a “normal/traditional” free kick position and then move forward again and actually kick the ball. Again, all of this must be done within 25 seconds after the ready-for-play, and Team K may not encroach their free kick line.
- If the movement(s) of Team K cause Team R to break the plane of Team R’s free kick line, the foul is on Team R for encroachment. There is no false start foul on Team K for causing Team R to encroach; Rule 7-1-7b only applies to encroachment by Team B and Rule 2-43 clearly differentiates between Team R and Team B.

All of this assumes the requirements of Rules 6-1-3 and 6-1-4 are met.

Training Videos

The links below will take officials to sections of the 2015 LeMonnier training video that deal with action at the Goal Line and Forward Progress.

<http://osafootball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3417/5923>

<http://osafootball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3416/5922>

Brad and I have received lots of video from officials and coaches. We will be working this week to create a library of plays for officials and associations with links appearing in future Bulletins.