

2016 Pre-Season Bulletin 2

Sideline Management

One of the most frustrating things for wing officials is not having enough room to work along the sideline. Being able to work up and down a sideline without players or coaches in the restricted area while the ball is live allows officials to have the best possible look at all plays.

Officials must be consistent in how the sidelines are managed. Rule 9-8-3 provides clear expectations for players and coaches as well as penalties for 9-8-3 fouls. Sideline warnings are a "first offense" penalty without any loss of yardage. 5 and 15-yard penalties are administered for second and subsequent offenses and the Head Coach is disqualified after the second 15-yard penalty which would be the fourth overall offense.

Sideline and team box area management starts before the opening kickoff. During the pregame meeting with coaches, remind coaches that the wing officials will be working on or outside the sideline throughout the game. Identify a trustworthy "get back" coach to assist with sideline and team box area management. Be diligent at the beginning of the game. Take care of issues early and be consistent. The fourth quarter is not the time to begin correcting bad sideline habits.

During the dead ball period between plays, three coaches and related substitutes are allowed to be in the restricted area for the purposes of calling plays. Once the offense has broken the huddle or, in the absence of a huddle, the quarterback is in position to receive a snap the restricted area must be cleared.

Procedure

When Rule 9-8-3 violations occur, the following procedure is recommended. For the first offense with no distance penalty, the wing official throws his flag and after the play is over, stops the clock and notifies the Referee that he is giving a sideline warning for violation of the team box rule. The Referee will give the Sideline Warning signal (S15) followed by pointing to the offending team. The calling official will alert the Head Coach that this will be his one and only warning and further infractions will result in yardage penalties. The wing official on the opposite sideline should make that coach aware of the sideline infraction. That gives the wing official the opportunity to thank the coach for his compliance or remind him of the need to keep the restricted area clear.

Should the interference occur during the dead ball portion prior to the snap or free kick, the calling official signals timeout and throws his flag. Do not allow the play to start.

The second infraction is a five-yard penalty for sideline interference. The wing official throws his flag and after the play is over, stops the clock and notifies the Referee that there has been a second violation of the team box rule. The Referee will give the Sideline Interference signal (S29) followed by pointing to the offending team.

The third and any subsequent infractions result in a 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike sideline interference. The wing official throws his flag and after the play is over, stops the clock and notifies the Referee that there has been a third violation of the team box rule. The Referee will give the Unsportsmanlike Conduct signal (S27) followed by the Sideline Interference signal (S29) followed by pointing to the offending team.

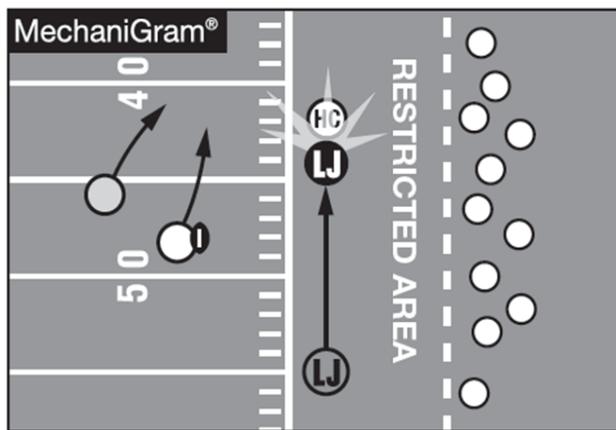
All unsportsmanlike fouls are charged to the Head Coach and count towards his disqualification. A disqualified member of the coaching staff shall leave the stadium area and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with his team during the remainder of the game. For failure to comply, the Referee may forfeit the game.

All officials will note the time and quarter of any sideline management issues on their game cards.

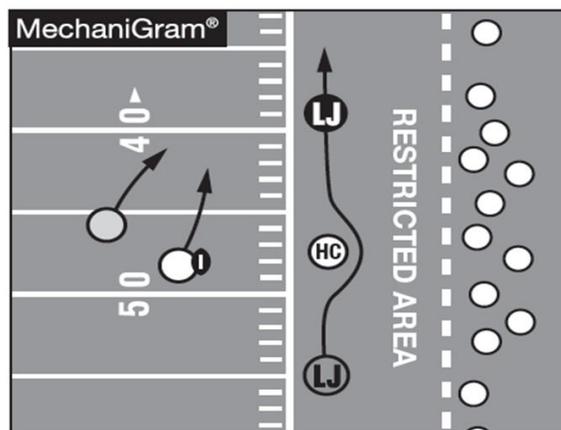
NFHS CASEBOOK 9.8.3 SITUATION A: In the first period, Team A is warned and later penalized 5 yards for sideline interference for having more than three coaches or for having non-coaches in the restricted area between the sideline and the team box. The same infraction occurs again in the third period and again in the fourth period. How are these situations penalized? **RULING:** The third and fourth infractions are both 15-yard penalties. Since the Head Coach is responsible for the team box, the fouls are charged to the Head Coach. The second penalty for a 15-yard Unsportsmanlike foul results in disqualification of the Head Coach. **COMMENT:** The 2-yard belt becomes the restricted area when the ball becomes live. Rule 1-2-3g.

Rule 9-4-8 (Contact) Violations

If the first offense results in contact with an official, a formal warning is not given. This is a separate infraction under Rule 9-4-8 and **DOES NOT** affect the penalty sequence for 9-8-3 non-contact violations. 9-4-8 violations will result in a 15-yard penalty and the Referee will give the Personal Foul signal (S38) followed by the Sideline Interference signal (S29). The Referee will alert the coach that any subsequent contact violations on the sideline will result, by rule, in the disqualification of the Head Coach.



9-4-8 (Contact) Violation



9-8-3 (Non-Contact) Violation