

## **2016 Regular Season Bulletin 1**

### **Horse-Collar Tackle**

Question: Is grabbing the jersey on the name plate (back of the player's jersey above the numbers) and pulling the player to the ground within the scope of 9-4-3k?

Answer: Grabbing a player's jersey at the name plate is not a part of Rule 9-4-3k. 9-4-3k means exactly what it says. For there to be a foul, the grabbing has to include the inside back or side collar of the jersey or shoulder pads. No more, no less. If a runner is grabbed by the back of the jersey and pulled down, that's a legal tackle. What you are talking about is an NFL change for 2016 which makes the grabbing you describe illegal.

### **Helmet Coming Off**

Two players had their helmets come off on separate plays and neither player was required to sit out a play. The Referee thought that if the helmet came off as a result of contact that was not a foul, the player could remain in the game. Please review Rules 3-5-10d and 9-6-4g.

### **Pads Covered by Jerseys**

Rule 1-5-1b(1) says jerseys "must completely cover the shoulder pads and all pads worn above the waist..." In keeping with the intent and spirit of this rule, Brad has allowed pads that cannot be covered by the jersey to be covered with legal undergarments. Long-sleeve t-shirts, sweat shirts, long underwear and sleeves that have been pulled up are all approved ways to cover pads that cannot be covered by the jersey. Remember, the undergarment must not have any sticky or slippery substance on it that would interfere with the ball or an opponent.

### **Incomplete Pass**

Play: Beyond the line of scrimmage A85 jumps to receive a forward pass and, while still in the air, tosses the ball back to A30 who muffs the backward toss. Since A85 did not contact the ground before the toss, is the result an incomplete pass?

Ruling: Incomplete pass. A85 did not make a catch because he never returned to the ground inbounds and satisfied the definition of a catch. A85's "tossing" of the ball is not a muff because the act is intentional. Therefore, the only definition that A85's action meets is a bat, and Rule 9-7-3 tells us that a pass in flight may be batted in any direction. Therefore, when A30 muffs A85's bat, you have an incomplete pass.

## Mouthpieces

We are starting to see designer mouthpieces with animal teeth as pictured below. Brad has asked Bob Colgate, Editor of the NFHS Rules Book for an opinion on the legality of these mouthpieces. Mr. Colgate's opinion is that these mouthpieces **ARE ILLEGAL** equipment per Rule 9-5-1a as they may endanger ill will. Please remind players that they must remove the offending mouthpiece before they are allowed to participate.



## Illegal Bat

Play: Fourth and 10 at the B-45. K14 punts the ball down to the R 10-yard line where it is rolling towards R's goal line. K80 bats the ball at the R 3-yard line into the end zone where the whistle sounds.

Ruling: Team R has two options: take the result of the play, a touchback, R's ball, 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at the R 20-yard line or enforce the illegal bat from the previous spot, Team K's ball, 4<sup>th</sup> and 25 at K's 40-yard line.

## Training Video

This week's training video features 16 plays from the 2016 LeMonnier training video regarding holding. The link below will take you to the Central Hub where you can view the video. Remember, you must be signed in to the Central Hub to view the video.

<http://osaa.arbitersports.com/Front/105752/Video/player/13765/16656>