

## **2017 Pre-Season Bulletin 4**

### **Penalty Enforcement**

Play: 3/15 for Team A at the B-35. A8 throws an illegal forward pass from beyond the line of scrimmage. Team B's coach wants to decline the 5-yard yardage walk-off but keep the loss of down to make it more difficult for A to execute a punt.

Ruling: Strange, but legal request. Rule 10-1-1 says the distance penalty for any foul may be declined. That includes loss of down fouls also.

### **Punching Backward Passes**

An eagle-eyed official has noted a discrepancy between pages 126 and 138/158 in the new Oregon Mechanics Manual regarding punching backward passes. Pages 138 and 158 were not revised for this edition, therefore not fully proofed. The correct and current mechanic is the shaded area of page 126. The wing official **that the ball is going away from** will punch back on backward passes.

### **Clock Management – Rule 3-4-7**

Play: 0:59 left in the second quarter. Team A has a running play that ends inbounds; the clock is stopped for a sideline warning against Team A, the first for that team. Does Team B have a Rule 3-4-7 option to start on the snap or not?

Ruling: Team B DOES NOT get an option to start the clock on the snap. The first violation of Rule 9-8-3 is a nonplayer foul that results in a warning. A warning is just a warning; unlike penalties for other fouls, there is nothing to accept or decline with a sideline warning. Rule 3-4-7 says "When a penalty is accepted....." With a sideline warning, there is nothing to accept, therefore, Rule 3-4-7 does not apply. Besides, I'm not sure we want to give a team a cheap opportunity to stop the clock!

### **Mouthpieces.....Again**

After further review.....Brad and this SRI's position re mouthpieces that have fangs, teeth or other adornments is we let the player stay in the game and notify your Commissioner which player/team has the illegal mouthpiece. Brad will deal with the involved school. We understand that this may be contrary to Rule 3-6-2d which allows for a DOG foul to be called for illegal equipment, and Rule 1-5-5 which tells us equipment correction shall be made before a player may participate. The overriding concern is if officials send out a player with a "bad" mouthpiece, he may return with one that hasn't been properly fitted to his teeth, and that could cause more serious problems. Mouthpieces with adornments that contain profanity or insulting/vulgar language are a different concern and will need to be removed before further participation