

2017 Regular Season Bulletin 8

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

From game reports, two plays where fouls for Unsportsmanlike Conduct were called.

In the third quarter, a player ran for a long TD. At approximately the 5-yard line he turned and pointed a finger at players chasing him. The BJ threw a flag for Unsportsmanlike Conduct for taunting the opposing team. The coaching staff argued that it was his teammates the ball carrier was pointing at in celebration of his TD. Although he may have been pointing to offensive players in a team celebration, there were also defensive players in the chase. Correct call.

With 7:19 left in the 4th quarter, a player was penalized for Unsportsmanlike Conduct for throwing the ball at an opposing player after the play was dead. Correct call.

Illegal Equipment

Question: Wilson Sporting Goods has a wax bar and brush that a team applies to the ball before the game. It is recommended to prolong the life of the ball. Is this legal? Does it constitute a foreign substance?

Answer: Rule 1-3-1 does not specifically address substances on the ball, but Rule 1-5-3a2 talks about “slippery or sticky substance of a foreign nature on equipment.” The ball is “equipment,” therefore anything applied to the ball that affects the ball makes the ball illegal. Bottom line, inspect balls before and during the game and don’t let a team play with one that’s slippery or sticky.

Blindside Block

Question: Can a player (tackler) that is engaged with a runner be blindside blocked? Defensive player B1 was engaged with the ball carrier in an attempt to tackle him. Offensive player A1 blocked B1 with his shoulder (not open hands) and knocked him off the runner. B1 did not see the block coming since he was engaged in the tackle. Did A1 commit a blindside block?

Answer: Foul for an illegal blindside block. There is no exception to Rule 2-3-10 if the player who is blindside blocked is in the process of making or attempting to make a tackle.

Calling Pass Interference

- Don’t focus on the ball; it’s hard, but train yourself not to look at the ball in flight.
- Watch downfield action of the players in the area where interference may occur.
- By shifting your eyes from the ball to players you will be able to rule on any contact interference that occurs while the ball is in the air.

Training Videos

This week's training video features plays that highlight a blindside block and two players engaged in headbutting. Both acts were not penalized.

The Line Judge is focused on the ball carrier going down the sideline but needs to observe the blindside block that happens in front of him. Does the Back Judge, who is moving towards the play, have a look at this action?

Headbutting is an act of Illegal Helmet Contact, a 15-yard penalty. In this play, is there mutual headbutting or is one player the aggressor and thus responsible for the flag that wasn't thrown?

Please use both of these plays to generate discussion because some day, in some game, you may have to make the call!

Here is the link to those two plays:

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/14197/17303>

I've also posted another chapter from the 2017 LeMonnier training videos that features passing plays. Here's that link:

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/14198/17304>