

2018 Regular Season Bulletin 7

Victory Formation:

Question: In order to take a knee in the victory formation, must the QB take a hand-to-hand snap before kneeling or can he take a knee in the shotgun formation?

Answer: Taking a knee is allowed from any formation.

Penalty Enforcement:

Play: Under the new rule, Rule 10-4-2 Exception, a flag for roughing the kicker (RRK) was enforced from the end of the play.

Ruling: Rule 10-4-2 Exception only applies to fouls by Team K. RRK is a foul committed by Team R and entitles Team K to a first down. Doing what this crew did would make a RRK foul a PSK foul and Team R would get to keep the ball.

Sub-Varsity Overtime:

Question: "On sub-varsity games, is overtime allowed? I looked in the OSAA football book and didn't see anything."

Answer: The OSAA does not mandate nor require OT in sub-varsity games. That choice is by league or conference adoption. So, I would clarify with both coaches at the pre-game meeting if overtime will be played. Don't leave this to a late 4th quarter decision! Associations might also want to review which leagues/conferences in their service area have decided either to play or not play overtime. For non-league games, the home team's league or conference policy applies.

Pre-Game Meeting with Head Coach:

Question: "What if the Head Coach will not meet and verify that all his players are legally equipped before the game as required by Rule 1-5-4?"

Answer: As you note, 1-5-4 says the Head Coach "shall" verify... Unfortunately, no penalty is prescribed when he won't. 1-5-4 also says the verification shall be made "prior to the start of the game," so the Head Coach can wait until the last moment before the kickoff to give his verification. Now, if the kickoff is imminent and he still hasn't verified, then I'd invoke 9-8-1g2 as he is not/cannot be ready to start the first half until that verification has been made. A 9-8-1g2 foul results in a 15 yard penalty for UNS and is charged to the Head Coach. That will get his attention!

Comment: You cannot start without the verification, and if the Head Coach still refuses to verify, the Head Coach is disqualified and his designated replacement verifies or the game is forfeited.

Onside Kick:

For onside kicks that don't go very far and stop obviously short of 10 yards, blow the whistle promptly if no player attempts to recover the ball. If Team K touches the ball, it will be first touching and Team R's ball. If no one touches it, it will also be Team R's ball. Rule 6-1-6.

Momentum or Safety:

Play: B1 intercepts a forward pass at B's 3 YL. His momentum takes him into B's EZ. He attempts to run. While still in the EZ, the ball is fumbled back into the field of play. B2 attempts to grab the ball, is hit by A1 and subsequently muffs the ball on B's 2 YL. The muffed ball goes back into the EZ where it is downed by B1. I used the momentum rule and gave B the ball on the 3...1st and 10.

Ruling: The result of the play is a safety against Team B; score 2 points for Team A. When the ball leaves the EZ, the momentum by B1 taking the ball into the EZ is erased. The fumble in the EZ is a new force which put the ball back into the field of play. There is no new force from the muff so the original force, the fumble in the EZ, still applies. The fumble in the EZ caused the ball to leave the EZ and then return; when Team B recovers, it's a safety. Rule 8-5-2b and Case Book plays 8.5.2 Situation E and F.

Touchback:

Play: (From a Coach) "This past Friday we were kicking off after scoring. Our kicker squibbed the ball and it bounced down the field and directly hit the right pylon on the goal line. The ball did not hit the ground out-of-bounds, it bounced and went directly into the pylon. A penalty flag was thrown and was administered as an out-of-bounds kick. I spoke with the officials and asked if it should be a touchback because if the ball hit the pylon it broke the goal line. I was told the pylon was considered out-of-bounds on a kickoff."

Ruling: Goal line pylons sit on the sidelines, and as such, they are entirely out-of-bounds behind the goal line. It doesn't matter if the ball strikes the pylon and is deflected out-of-bounds or deflected into the end zone. A loose ball that strikes the pylon is considered to have entered the end zone. Correct ruling is a touchback. Rule 4-3-2.

Training Video:

More chapters from the 2018 LeMonnier series are this week's training video.