

2018 Regular Season Bulletin 8

Band and Crowd Noise:

I'm hearing of game situations where bands are playing when the snap is imminent, preventing offensive signals from being heard. There are no specific rules regarding band or crowd noise. In extreme situations, the Referee may consider crowd or band noise an unfair act by non-players. Rule 9-9-1. I'd be VERY careful with this and offer the following procedures as possibly helpful.

If the QB or signal-caller believes noise is preventing signals from being heard by teammates, the Referee may take an officials' timeout and allow the offense to re-huddle or come up out of their stance. When they return to the LOS or re-set, the Referee makes the ball RFP and the game clock starts on the snap.

The Referee can also ask the defensive team captain to request quiet. Game administration needs to be involved and can request the PA announcer to ask for cooperation.

Band and crowd noise incidents need to be reported to your Commissioner for forwarding to the OSAA who will follow up with the involved school.

Illegal Batting:

Play: 4th and 10 from the K 18-yard line. K's scrimmage kick is blocked behind NZ by R46 and batted forward by K23 at the K-19 towards R's goal line. The ball travels forward 4 yards to the K 23-yard line where it is touched by K and subsequently blown dead.

Ruling: R's ball, 1/10 at the K-11½ yard line. The result of the play is R's ball at the K-23; that is where K downed the kick and that is the succeeding spot. It is also the spot of first touching, and the dead-ball spot. Under 10-4-2 Exec, the 15-yard penalty for the illegal bat can be enforced from there half-the-distance to the K-11½.

Comment: For those rules purists out there, two other enforcement options exist....

(1) R's ball, 1/10 at the K 19-yard line. To take the ball at the spot of the first touching, the K - 19, R would have to decline the penalty for the batting foul. First touching is canceled if a penalty for any foul during the down is accepted. Rule 6-2-5. Not as advantageous as the ruling above.

(2) K's ball, 4/18½ @ the K-9½ . This would be the normal all-but-one enforcement during a loose-ball play; half-the-distance from the spot of the foul and replay the down. But why would Team R want to give the ball back to Team K, unless they're hoping for a big runback of K's punt?

Ball Position:

When a free kick goes out-of-bounds untouched, the ball will be put in play at the inbounds spot, not in the center of the field. Rule 6-1-9. For scrimmage kicks, the same ball placement applies, the only exception is if Team R chooses a spot of first touching. Rule 6-2-7.

Wet Ball Mechanics:

With the rainy season soon to start, Umpires need to carry a towel on the field to keep the ball dry. Bring a plain black towel from home. Do not expect schools to provide one for you. Keep the ball covered with the towel until the offense breaks their huddle or moves toward the LOS, then spot the ball in the normal manner.

Intentional Grounding:

Play: Tight end A88 is covered up by wide receiver A34. While under a heavy rush, quarterback A12 scrambles around and throws the ball at A88's feet.

Ruling: Intentional grounding. Since he was covered up, A88 is not an eligible offensive receiver. Rule 7-5-2d.

Mid-Season Kudos:

We're past the half-way point of the 2018 season, and so far, a few officiating bumps, but no major train wrecks. Brad and I have heard more positive than negative comments regarding this season's officiating. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through issues with sub-varsity modifications. During the off season we will refine these modifications to simplify them and make them more "official-friendly."

As teams vie for play-in and post-season spots, the level of intensity will be higher throughout the remainder of the season. Every game from now on will be more important. Continue to review rules and mechanics. Use good common sense and preventive officiating. **Be prepared, be professional, be consistent.** Keep up your good work!

Training Video:

This week's training video is from the LeMonnier series and features Umpire and Wing Officials mechanics.