

2009 FIRST FOOTBALL COACHES AND OFFICIALS' MEMO

I hope all of you had a great summer. I'm not sure where the summer went, but I do know the football season is definitely upon us. With that said I hope many of you had a chance to attend one of our state sponsored rules meetings, on-line rules meeting, or officials took the opportunity to attend one of our state sponsored football rules meeting/clinic. Any officials who did not attend one of our IHSAA state sponsored football clinics in the last two years and desire to be play-off eligible, must attend one of our IHSAA state sponsored football clinics next year.

CORRECTION: 2009 FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS (BLUE HANDOUT MATERIAL) Page 2 Overtime Procedure: Second half, left over time-outs do not carry over to an overtime period. Each team gets one time-out per overtime and any unused overtime time-out does not carry over to any additional overtime(s) that may be played.

Please read the FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS, IT CONTAINS INFORMATION FOR CLOCK OPERATORS, LINE-TO-GAIN CREWS, 13 POINT RULE, 35 POINT RULE, OVERTIME, PLAY-OFF INFORMATION, LIGHTNING AND HEAT STRESS.

Following is some important information concerning the horse-collar tackle:

(I wanted to spend a little time visiting with you) about the **horse-collar tackle**. In order to understand the rule we need to understand what constitutes a horse-collar tackle.

1. A horse-collar tackle is defined as grabbing the top inside back collar of the jersey or shoulder pads or inside collar of the side of the shoulder pads or jersey and subsequently pulling the runner to the ground with a solo tackle (15 yard penalty enforced from the end of the run or ½ the distance inside team B's 30 yard-line). If the runner is pulled forward to the ground this would not be considered a horse-collar tackle.
2. If another defender contacts the ball carrier while a horse-collar tackle is in progress (and runner has not been taken to the ground yet) is not considered to be a horse-collar tackle.
3. If a horse-collar tackle is in progress, but the ball carrier loses control of the ball before he/she contacts the ground, a horse-collar tackle foul can not occur or be penalized.
4. If a horse-collar tackle is in progress, but the player goes out of bounds or breaks the plane of the goal-line before the solo horse-collar tackle is completed, you do not have a foul for a horse-collar tackle. You could have a dead-ball foul personal foul, but not a foul due to the horse-collar tackle.
5. If a player grabs the inside back jersey or side of jersey or shoulder pads, start of a horse-collar tackle and then releases his hand or hands from the inside top of the jersey and converts to a normal tackle, you would not have a horse-collar tackle.
6. If a defender grabs the jersey only (not top inside of jersey or shoulder pads) and makes a solo tackle, you have no foul.
7. Understand, **officials will not have a penalty concerning a horse-collar tackle until the solo horse-collar tackle is completed (ball carrier taken to the ground in-bounds).**

SITUATION 1: A1 is carrying the football when B1 grabs him by the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey. A1 then: (a) fumbles the football and is subsequently brought to the ground by B1; (b) crosses the goal line to score a touchdown and is then brought down by B1; or (c) crosses the sideline and is then brought down by B1. **RULING:** The official must judge whether or not a personal foul has occurred, but if called, it cannot be a horse-collar tackle. **COMMENT:** B1's contact on A1 meets part of the definitions of a horse-collar tackle in that he grabbed the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey. However, in (a), when the runner (A1) fumbled the football, he was no longer a runner. In (b) or (c), when the runner (A1) broke the plane of the goal line with the ball in his possession or when the runner or the ball touches anything, other than another player or game official that is on or outside a sideline, the football becomes dead and A1 is no longer a player in possession of a live ball. (2-26-13; 9-4-3k)

Coaches/Athletic Directors: Please note there is an 11 player field diagram and an 8 player field diagram in the front of the 2009 football rule book for your convenience to make sure your field is properly marked. We encourage schools to put 4" wide and 12" long bisecting marks along the restraining line at each 5-yard line between the goal lines. **A 4 inch wide restraining line shall be placed around the outside of the field, at least 2 yards from the sidelines and end lines. These should be 12 inch long lines, separated at 24-inch intervals. All media, stat personnel, trainers and any other team personnel should be behind this dotted line. When the ball is dead, a maximum of three coaches may be in the 2 yard restricted area. Once the ball is snapped, no non-player may be in the restricted area including ALL COACHES. The following are some suggestions for coaches who are required to be behind the restricted area when the ball becomes live. 1) If your field provides enough sideline room make a second line behind the restricted area dotted line for players to stand behind. This will allow all the coaches to be located in front of the players, yet out of the restricted area, 2) Stagger pylons 2-3 yards behind the restricted area and require your players to stand behind the pylons with coaches in front of the players 3) If your space is really limited, coach will need to inform his players to make room for up to three coaches to be able to move back out of the restricted area into the team box area before the snap takes place and the ball becomes live.**

COACHES & OFFICIALS: The restricted area (formerly the coaches box) has been defined where a maximum of three coaches may communicate with players and substitutes during dead ball situations. The (up to three) coach(s) must move behind the restricted area before the ball becomes live. Hopefully you have made plans to keep your players further back "get-back-coach," so you as coaches in the restricted area have ample room to move into this area before the ball becomes live. Administration of this violation is from the succeeding spot. **This National Federation rule has been adopted for safety purposes for all parties involved.**

At the **pre-game conference**, coaches and officials need to visit this rule and make sure they have a plan, because all of us understand not every facility has ample room and player squad size will play a role. Officials and head coach, before the game, need to decide what procedure coaches are going to incorporate in order to meet this new rule change. Facilities vary from game to game and night to night, so make sure you address this at each pre-game with the head coach and possibly a "get-back-coach," who will be responsible for making sure everyone is behind the restricted area when the ball becomes live. I have said this before and I will say it again, Iowa coaches are individuals with integrity and character and this new rule involves a safety issue for everyone involved and we need each coaches' cooperation and leadership skills, in making sure this rule is abided by. Officials, it is your responsibility to enforce the rule fairly (both teams) when a violation of the rule takes place. I understand you have a responsibility with players on the field, but when the rule is violated and we expect you to address the situation when it presents itself. Penalty enforcement applies to each individual team pertaining to any violation(s) enforced.

- 1) First offense, flag, team sideline warning, no yardage penalty assessed
 - 2) Second offense, a five-yard penalty for sideline interference
 - 3) Third offense, 15 yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct charged to the offending head coach.
- Administration is from the succeeding spot

Nine yard marks, 12 inches in length and 4 inches in width, shall be located 9 yards from the sideline. The 9-yard marks shall be marked so that at least each successive 10-yard line bisects the 9-yard marks. If **on-field numbers** are used, the tops of the numbers shall be 9 yards from the sideline, should be 6 feet in height and 4 feet in width and may include directional arrows next to the yard-line numbers indicating the direction toward the nearest goal line. It is strongly recommended that **goal lines and the team box boundaries be marked in a color which contrasts with other field markings** and the area between the sidelines and the team box boundaries be solid white or marked with diagonal lines.

FOOTBALL QUIKSTATS INFORMATION 2009-10

Last season football programs adjusted to the QuikStats system easily and there was **no school** that collected a "third-strike" for non-compliance.

QuikStats for the 2009 football season was available for coaches to enter rosters starting at 12 noon, Friday, Aug. 14. Each school's log in is the same as last year. If you forgot it– call Bud Legg at IHSAA (515-432-2011) or email him at blegg@iahsaa.org

First thing each school should do is to **enter or edit their roster**. We have tried to move all of last years juniors, sophomores and freshmen to 2009 but may have missed some. Edit their jersey number, position, grade, number, weight, etc. Note: you will have a choice of two positions for players that go both ways. Choose the most appropriate.

The roster info is important because we draw all of our state semifinal and final round program information from what you have on the roster page.

Second: Do not list any games before they are played. Once a game is played, enter the results, etc., and when you submit the individual stats that go with that game, be sure to enter game results in the order they are played. No combined multiple game entries are allowed. **Remember each box must have a value even if it is zero**, including the score by quarters (points in the quarter). **Dates of games have to be two digits for each month, two for each day, and two for the year – i.e.**

August 28, 2009 will be (08/28/09); September 4, 2009 (09/04/09)

Third, after the game information has been submitted, you can use the "notes" portion to highlight any outstanding effort(s). On your team page next to the result of the game you entered, **click on the blue tab to the right** to enter "Individual Stats."

Our check dates for compliance are **2 p.m. September 14, October 5, and Oct. 26 and 3p.m. after every post season game**. Some districts are going to a mandatory posting, every week reporting.

We appreciate your cooperation pertaining to this required program.

COACH: Communication devices, other than audio recorder, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, including but not limited to cellular phones, still photographs, film, analog or digital video(s) and/or internet depictions, shall **NOT** be used for coaching purposes during the game or between games. LAN phones and/or headsets may be used by coaches, other non-players and players; however players may use LAN phones and/or headsets only during authorized **sideline** timeouts. Penalty 15 yards unsportsmanlike conduct, Rule 1.6.

The use of computer and/or other electronic devices shall be considered illegal if they are used at any time during the game and can be used to produce play tendencies and other scouting information and such information is given to any member of any team prior to the conclusion of the game, Rule Book page 21

NOTES # 3.

COACH: Videotaping or filming: It is permissible in **scouting your opponent** and video taping or filming. Your opponent should be notified as well as the site you are going to film from, if it is not the host school. Space for taping or filming for scouting purposes is not required of the host school. Handheld cameras are recommended.

COACHES & OFFICIALS: Ball colored helmets, jerseys, patches, pads and penalty-flag colored gloves all fall under illegal equipment. Bandanas are considered a uniform adornment and are not allowed to be tied to the leg or arm. Bandanas may be worn under the helmet provided they are not visible (1-5-3k).

COACHES, OFFICIALS & OFFICIALS ASSOCIATIONS: I would strongly encourage officials and coaches to use the National Federation web-site (nfhs.org) for their football educational information now posted on-line.

Go to nfhs.org

Click on EDUCATION, CLICK ON OFFICIALS EDUCATION, CLICK ON FOOTBALL

This new NFHS football education program covers penalties, kicking plays, passing plays, running plays, management and mechanics. This will provide individuals an opportunity at their convenience to better understand the game as well as provide crews who meet the night before their games an opportunity to have

additional football education tools to use at these crew meetings. This on-line information should be a valuable tool for Local Associations to use at their local association meetings. Local Associations will also find other sport information on this web-site as well.

OFFICIALS: SPORTSMANSHIP RATINGS ON-LINE

If you officiate any varsity level football contests, you must login to your “INDIVIDUAL OFFICIALS INFORMATION” page with your password and rate each school. Once logged in, click on “Enter Your Sportsmanship.” If you have any changes to your ratings, you can log back in, see what you have completed, and make necessary changes yourself.

NOTE: Enter your sportsmanship ratings after each varsity contest while it is fresh in your mind; it will also help Athletic Directors who wish to look at their sportsmanship ratings part way into the season to make sure coaches, players and their spectators are doing their part in making **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** a priority. Those of you who are selected to work football play-offs will have until 5:00PM, November 23, 2009, to finalize your play-off sportsmanship ratings.

OFFICIALS: The supervised football exam will be given on Tuesday August 25 and Wednesday August 26, 7:00PM, sites are listed in your officials guide on page 25.

Officials: Crews wanting to be PLAY-OFF eligible need to have the crew chief/referee fill out the on-line **FOOTBALL PLAY-OFF REQUEST** form by 5:00PM, September 4, 2009.

OFFICIALS: You are not to share your IHSAA individual password with anyone. If someone is helping you enter sportsmanship ratings you should be with them and type your password in and continue from there. Tournament officials are not to share tournament assignments with anyone, these are confidential assignments and are to be kept confidential. The IHSAA appreciates your cooperation pertaining to this matter.

TEMPORARY OFFICIALS: If you are a temporary official, you must take and pass the closed book exam each year you are temporary. Sometime in the first three years or before you work year four, you must take and pass the closed book exam in order to work varsity football contests. Officials with a circle T status may take and pass the open book exam each year and work all levels below the varsity level.

The purpose of life is to be useful and to be compassionate. Suggest what is right, oppose what is wrong. If you are not popular, you will at least be respected. Popularity lasts but a day. Respect will descend as heritage to your children.

-Thomas Chandler Haliburton, judge, writer

We wish everyone a safe and successful 2009 football season.

Roger Barr, Director of Officials

