

September 9, 2009

SECOND FOOTBALL MEMO

Athletic Director: The IHSAA requests you be sure and have someone report your varsity football scores **immediately following each regular season and play-off contest**. You can call your score into our office 515-432-2011 (if no one answers, please leave the score on the recorder), email blegg@iahsaa.org and contact Associated Press @ 800-300-8340. We appreciate your help and cooperation pertaining to this information needed.

Suggestion; with the new NFHS Restricted Area and the fact that this area goes all around the field (including the end zones) if you could assign someone to work with the media, TV, filming people, stat people that would be very beneficial to everyone involved. **If you ever need to explain to someone why you have that dotted line around football fields, here's a good reason:**

MOSCA, Colo. (AP) A newspaper editor in Colorado is recovering from serious injuries after being hit while covering a high school football game. Sports editor Lloyd Engen of The Valley Courier in Alamosa was hit Saturday while taking photographs on the sideline. Engen was hit by three players from Norwood and Sangre de Cristo high schools. Engen sustained a **shattered pelvis and three cracked vertebrae**. He was taken to a Denver hospital for treatment Sunday. Engen told the newspaper that it is **unclear whether he'll be able to walk again**. The Valley Courier is asking area high school coaches to contribute scores and highlights while Engen is recovering.

Coaches and substitutes are allowed in this restricted area between downs, but must be out of the restricted area when the ball is snapped. We have experienced a number of schools who have painted, chalked or used pylons two yards behind the restricted line from 25 to 25 on each side of the field. This allows coaches to stand in front of the players and yet be behind the restricted area marked on both sides of the field. If any of you have not put down a second player line, I would encourage you to do so as a number of schools have indicated to us this has worked very well for the safety of everyone involved.

COACHES & OFFICIALS: From what I'm hearing and observing, the football season is off to a good start. Coaches have done an outstanding job of abiding by the new NFHS Restricted Sideline Area and officials seem to be working well with the coaches. **If any officiating crews fail to enforce this rule, we would encourage any Coach/Athletic Director to contact us and we will visit with this crew so this safety concern is enforced.**

Offensive (Team A) Requirements:

Prior to the snap:

Once the snapper touches the ball, he must keep one hand on it. If he puts both hands on the ball, he may take one hand off if he does so without simulating the beginning of a play. **The snapper must clearly pause after touching the ball and before it is snapped.**

After the ready, no player other than the snapper may touch the ball, and no player can touch an opponent. After the snapper touches the ball, no player may be in or beyond the neutral zone. Replaced players and incoming substitutes are exempt from this restriction.

After the ready, no offensive player may commit a false start. A false start is any shift or movement that simulates the beginning of a play.

Offensive linemen between the snapper and the player on the end of the line, having placed a hand or hands on or near the ground, may not move a hand or hands or otherwise make any quick movement. This is a false start.

If an offensive lineman moves when threatened by the action of a defensive player who enters the neutral zone, it is an encroachment foul against the defense. The ball remains dead.

At the snap:

The scrimmage down starts with a **legal snap**, and the ball remains dead if the snap is illegal. After the ready, **no defensive player may touch the ball**, an opponent, or enter the neutral zone to give defensive signals.

Roughing the snapper:

When team A is in scrimmage kick formation, (FG, PAT & scrimmage-kick) no defensive player may charge directly into the snapper until he is able to protect himself, blocks or otherwise moves to participate in the play.

Player location pertaining to nine and seven yard marks:

All players must be inbounds and each team A player (substitutes and players who participated in the previous down) must have been between the **9 yard marks (7 yard marks, 8 player)** some time after the ready for play whistle and before the snap.

Interlocking legs:

Guards may interlock legs with the snapper, but the other linemen must have each foot outside the foot of the player nearest to him. Only the snapper may be in the neutral zone, but he must not be beyond the zone except for his hands, which may be on the foremost point of the ball.

Spiking the ball:

In order for the quarterback to spike the ball legally to conserve time, **it must be a hand-to-hand snap**, the ball is thrown immediately forward to the ground as he steps backward to clear himself from the line of play.

Post-Scrimmage Kick Enforcement:

Post scrimmage kick enforcement allows the receiving team to retain possession of the ball after they have forced the opponents to punt, even though the receiving team commits certain fouls before the actual changes (2-16-2h).

A scrimmage kick is a loose-ball play, and ordinarily the basic spot for fouls during such a play is the previous spot. Under all-but-one enforcement, any foul that takes place while team K is still in possession of the ball, even though none of its players has possession, should be enforced from the previous spot.

Under post-scrimmage kick enforcement (10-4-3), this is not the case. Post scrimmage kick rules apply **ONLY** if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The foul is by team R beyond the expanded neutral zone;
- (2) The foul takes place during the interval between the snap and the end of a scrimmage kick (not a try) that crosses the expanded neutral zone;
- (3) Team R will next put the ball in play.

Player Equipment

Eye shields:

Tinted eye-shields are prohibited without exception and a doctor's note **cannot** be used to allow such equipment. Clear eye-shields are the only legal eye-shield that is legal. A player is permitted to wear sun glasses under the shield if he/she has sensitive light vision.

Knee Pads: Wrestling knee pads may be worn under the football pants, but **can not** take the place of the required football knee pad itself.

Communication devices:

No coach, substitute, trainer or other team attendant may use prohibited communication devices for coaching purposes during the game, including intermissions. Illegal equipment includes analog or digital video, internet depictions, still photographs, and cellular phones. Legal equipment includes audio recorders, LAN phones and headsets (1-6-1,2).

Adornments:

Shoe Spats:

Shoe spats (Nike STR8 jacket) are considered an adornment and are illegal for players to wear. For those of you who don't know what shoe spats are, they cover the shoe and provide extra support for the ankle and the foot. NFHS rules consider this pullover stocking-like material an adornment, therefore illegal.

A player may tape the outside of the ankles on the outside of the shoe(s) to protect or prevent injury.

Jewelry is prohibited, but a medical bracelet is allowed if it is securely attached and does not present a hazard.

Plain white towels for players may be used (no printing, logo or marking on it), must be at least 4" by 12" and not more than 18" by 36".

Sweat bands made of moisture absorbing material are the only uniform adornments and are limited to three inches in width and must be worn on the base of the thumb going toward the elbow.

Play bands are legal and can be worn on the forearm only. Play bands **can not** be attached to the belt of the pants.

CARRY-OVER PENALTIES:

| <u>PLAY</u> | <u>PENALTY IS FOR</u> | <u>TRY</u> | <u>SUCCEEDING KO</u> | <u>OVERTIME</u> |
|-----------------------|--|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| TOUCHDOWN (8-2-4) | LIVE BALL FOUL % # | YES | YES | NO |
| TOUCHDOWN (8-2-5) | DEAD-BALL FOUL BEFORE TRY | YES | YES | NO |
| TRY (8-3-5b) | LIVE-BALL FOUL # | YES | YES | YES |
| TRY (10-4-5b) | DEAD-BALL FOUL AFTER TRY * | NA | YES | YES |
| FIELD GOAL (8-4-3) | LIVE-BALL FOUL DEAD-BALL FOUL AFTER FIELD GOAL # | NA | YES | YES |

% FOUL MUST OCCUR AFTER ANY CHANGE OF POSSESSION **UNLESS NONPLAYER OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE.**

*DOES NOT APPLY IF TRY IS RE-PLAYED.

INCLUDES NONPLAYER AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE (LIVE-BALL FOULS TREATED AS DEAD BALL FOULS).

Chop Block:

Chop block is a delayed block at the knees or below against an opponent (other than the runner) who is in contact with a teammate of the blocker in the free-blocking zone (2-3-8). While the free-blocking zone exists, simultaneous high-low blocks and simultaneous low-low blocks in the free-blocking zone are **NOT** chop blocks and are legal.

FOOTBALL QUIKSTATS INFORMATION 2009-10

Our check dates for compliance are **2 p.m. September 14, October 5, and Oct. 26 at 3p.m. and 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.**

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.

Coaches and officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, media and the public, coaches and officials shall strive to set examples of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

CHANGE:

The only thing you can change is yourself. Are you playing a role, or are you who you really are? You can change a lot of things, but the real change is when you change yourself.

To get something you've never had, you need to do something you've never done!!

REMEMBER, CHARACTER COUNTS!!

Sincerely,

Roger Barr
Director of Officials