



# IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Football Memo #5

September 12, 2024

Good afternoon football coaches and athletic directors. We've received a handful of game situation questions over the last week and will try to be brief in bringing everyone onto the same page.

### 1. Scrimmage Kick Formation

I've had multiple coaches and officials reach out regarding this topic. A scrimmage kick formation is defined under 2-14-2 of the rule book. Part of the definition includes a player in position with a knee on the ground 7 or more yards behind the LOS, in position to be a holder and receive the long snap, with the other option of a player 10 yards or more behind the LOS and in position to receive a long snap. Why is this definition and yardages important? If the formation doesn't meet this definition, the numbering exception and snapper protection rule cannot apply. Team K can still punt the football if the punter lines up less than 10 yards from the LOS at the snap; however, Team K must have five individuals on the LOS numbered 50-79 and the snapper is not given protection.

### 2. Blindside Block

We all know football is a physical sport. There is a difference between being physical within the rules of the game and being physical when an opponent isn't suspected of being hit after the play or from the blindside.

By definition, a blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner, who does not see the blocker approaching. It is a foul when a player executes a blindside block outside of the free-blocking zone with forceful contact unless initiated with open hands. While blindside blocks can occur on any play, the potential of a blindside block is greater on a kick play or a change of possession.

We have made it a point through our officials training videos to help teach what is and isn't a blindside block. While officials need to call this play correctly on the field, coaches need to understand this rule as well to teach their players what is and isn't a legal hit.

### 3. Halftime

I've had a handful of schools reach out regarding the length of halftime, particularly with homecoming games right around the corner. A 15-minute halftime followed by a 3-minute warmup is a standard halftime. Halftime may be increased to a maximum of 20 minutes followed by a 3-minute warmup with the understanding the visiting school and officials are made aware of the adjustment at least five minutes before kickoff. For the regular season, anything shorter than a 15-minute halftime (required to be at least 10-minutes) needs to be agreed upon by both head coaches.

Have a great Week 3. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Jared