



# IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Football Memo #11

October 24, 2024

Good afternoon football coaches and athletic directors –

I'm not sure where the season went, but Week 9 is here. Just like last week, once we receive every score in Class 3A, 4A and 5A, we will post a qualifier list on our web site. Schools are to contact us immediately if they believe there is an error in the qualifying/seed list. Two reminders about the final qualifying/seed list. First for the RPI calculation, Class A, 1A and 2A records are locked after eight weeks as those classes begin the postseason this week. Next, please review the head to head scenarios that may come into play for both qualifying and seeding in the postseason manual. Pod assignments for all seven classes will be posted on our website at 10 am on Saturday, October 26.

### 1. First Touching/Free Kick out of Bounds

We've had this play come up multiple times over the last two weeks. K attempts an onside kick. A K player touches the ball prior to it traveling 10 yards. The ball, untouched by R, continues towards the sidelines where it ultimately goes out of bounds. R has the choice to take the ball at the spot of the first touching or one of the four options listed under 6-1-9. We should not be tacking on five yards from the spot of the first touching if the kick goes out of bounds beyond the spot of the first touch by K.

### 2. Dead Ball Officiating

I know this is more of an officiating topic, but I want to share this with our schools as well. Dead ball officiating is more critical than live ball officiating in some instances. Once the ball is dead, officials need to maintain a presence. Using physical presence and voices to communicate can de-escalate the situations quickly and should prevent situations from getting worse. For example, the umpire steps in to spot the ball and hears borderline inappropriate comments coming from unidentified players from both teams. The umpire steps between the players and firmly recognizes to the players to stop this interaction or there could be a flag for taunting. Any and all officials need to handle players in this manner. Communication is the key.

To be clear, don't stand back and watch the situation get worse. Get in there and prevent it from happening to begin with.

### 3. Ball Becoming Dead

We have heard of some debates between coaches and officials as to when the down ends. Per rule 4-2-2, there are 12 ways for the ball to become dead to end a down. The play kills itself, when the ball/player down/progress is stopped the play is dead, while the whistle only kills the play for an inadvertent whistle. The whistle confirms that the play is over. It is possible to have a late whistle on a play, which doesn't mean the play didn't end. It just means the officials waited to confirm they saw the ball/play dead. A late whistle is better than an inadvertent whistle.

### 4. Rugby Punts

We had multiple plays sent in last week regarding rugby punts and whether or not the punter should have been given protection from contact that occurred right after the kick was away. 9-4-5 list four criteria of when it is not roughing, including, "contact is unavoidable because it is not reasonably certain that a kick will be made." While the following scenario in the case book deals with a muffed snap, a rugby punt would also fit into part (a) of the play.

K1 in scrimmage-kick formation, muffs the snap, but quickly recovers and begins to run. However, K1 changes his mind and: (a) punts on the run; or (b) abruptly stops and punts. R1 is unable to stop his charge and forcibly contacts K1. R1 did not touch the kick. RULING: No foul in either (a) or (b) because it was not reasonably certain K1 was going to punt

the ball. It is always roughing the kicker if the contact could have been avoided regardless of whether or not it was apparent a kick would be made. Only unavoidable contact is ignored if it is not reasonably certain a kick will be made.

#### **5. Labeling Video in Hudl**

I'm hearing from multiple coaches of schools not labeling their film, which is causing an issue with scouting. When your school upload film, please include the name of the two schools and the date of the contest as it makes it easier for all involved. Just like the regular season, playoff teams are expected to have their game footage in the Hudl pool by noon the day following the contest.

Best of luck tomorrow night for either your regular season or playoff game. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Jared