



2015 Rules Modifications & Guidelines / Interpretations

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OUR OBJECTIVE

▶ CONSISTENCY

- ▶ Officials should be able to describe the 2015 Rule Changes, and list the guidelines associated with “Excessive Contact”.



2015 RULE CHANGES

- ▶ Spearing Definition Revised
- ▶ Roughing the Passer Clarified
- ▶ Free-Kick Formation Revision
- ▶ Authority to Correct the Down Number
- ▶ Dead-Ball Enforcement Modification
- ▶ Excessive Contact added to Unnecessary Roughness Definition



CORRECTING A DOWN 5-1-1b

- ▶ The referee shall have the authority to correct the number of the next down prior to the ball becoming live after a new series of downs is awarded.



CORRECTING A DOWN

5-1-1b

- ▶ Recent Interpretations (NFHS Bulletin)-
- ▶ Down may NOT be corrected after a period has officially ended (referee holds the ball above his head).
- ▶ Live-ball personal fouls during an “errant” 5th down and dead ball fouls are all enforced from the succeeding spot. 5 & 10 yard live-ball fouls during the 5th down are NOT enforced.
- ▶ Scoring and change of possessions are overturned when a down is to be corrected.



5-1-1 B CORRECTING A DOWN CASE 1

- ▶ After 2nd down, the time expires for the 1st Quarter. The down box erroneously flips the indicator to 4th down, and the officials record 4th down on their game cards. Referee holds the ball above his head to indicate the end of the period. After the sides of the field are exchanged, the coaches advise the officials of the error.
- ▶ **RULING:** – The first quarter ended when the referee held the ball above his head. The down error may not be corrected.



5-1-1 B CORRECTING A DOWN CASE 2

- ▶ During a “fifth-down” play, Team A is flagged for (a) illegal formation; (b) holding; (c) twisting the face mask; (d) taunting; (e) fighting.
- ▶ **RULING** – The penalties are NOT enforced in (a) or (b). In c,d & e, the penalty is enforced as a dead-ball foul before Team B snaps the ball. Disqualification in (e).



5-1-1B CORRECTING A DOWN

CASE 3

- ▶ Team A has the ball at the 50 yard line. The down marker indicates 4th Down when Team K punts on what is actually (a) 3rd Down; or (b) 5th Down. R6 returns the punt for an apparent touchdown. Prior to the Try, coaches advise the officials of the error.
- ▶ (a) RULING – Score is cancelled and ball is returned to the 50, and the down is corrected. 3rd and 10 for A.
- ▶ (b) RULING – Score is cancelled and the ball is returned to the 50. 1st and 10 for B/R.
- ▶ Note: If the error is discovered after the try, it is too late to correct.



CORRECTING A DOWN

- ▶ Moral of the Story.....
- ▶ DON'T SCREW UP THE DOWNS !!!!!
- ▶ MECHANICS ?



QUESTIONS



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT 10-2-5a/b

- ▶ If both teams commit unsportsmanlike, non-player or dead-ball personal fouls prior to the completion of penalty administration for those fouls, the distance penalty for an equal number of 15-yard unsportsmanlike, non-player or dead-ball personal fouls will offset. Any remaining penalties will be enforced separately and in their order of occurrence.



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT 10-2-5a/b

- ▶ Recent Interpretations–
- ▶ “Completion of Penalty Administration:
 - Referee gives the final signal to the press box.
- ▶ Although the USC fouls may offset, they are still applied to the individual for purposes of disqualification (2 USC fouls).



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT CASE 1

- ▶ A12 runs for a touchdown, and B10 hits A12 late, in the end zone. During the touchdown run, the head linesman runs into the A coach in the restricted zone (first offense).
- ▶ RULING: – Touchdown stands, and the two 15 yard penalties “offset”. PAT from the 3.



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT CASE 2

- ▶ A12 runs for a first down to the B-6. In making the tackle, B twists the facemask of A12. A coach is irate, and rushes onto the field to scream at the officials, and he is flagged for USC.
- ▶ RULING: – 1st & 10 for A at the B-18. The facemask was a live ball foul, so the 15 yard penalties are enforced separately.



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT CASE 3

- ▶ A12 runs for a first down to the B-6. Player B50 hits A12 late. Coach A is irate, feeling that an ejection is warranted, and immediately rushes onto the field to scream at the officials, and he is flagged for USC.
- ▶ **RULING:** – 1st & Goal for A at the B-6. The dead ball personal foul and USC fouls “offset”.



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT CASE 4

- ▶ A12 runs for a first down to the B-6. Player B50 hits A12 late. Officials mark off the foul to the B-3 and immediately after R gives the final signal to the press box, Coach A, feeling that an ejection is warranted, immediately rushes onto the field to scream at the officials, and he is flagged for USC.
- ▶ **RULING:** – 1st & 10 for A at the B-18. The fouls do NOT offset since the USC occurred after the first penalty was administered.



DEAD BALL FOUL ENFORCEMENT CASE 5

- ▶ A12 runs for a first down to the B-6. Player B50 hits A12 late. Officials mark off the foul to the B-3, R gives the final signal to the press box, and blows the RFP, 1st and goal from the B-3. Coach A, feeling that an ejection is warranted, now rushes onto the field to scream at the officials, and he is flagged for USC.
- ▶ RULING: – 1st & Goal for A at the B-18. The sticks are “set” when the RFP is whistled.



QUESTIONS



9-4-3G: ILLEGAL PERSONAL CONTACT

- ▶ No player or nonplayer shall make any contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player, which is deemed unnecessary or excessive and which incite roughness.



9-4-3G: ILLEGAL PERSONAL CONTACT

- ▶ OBJECTIVES (PIAA Preseason Bulletin):
 - Risk Minimization – Considering the potential for serious injury, it is critical that those situations involving unnecessary or excessive contact on players are eliminated, whether or not that contact is otherwise deemed legal (PIAA Preseason Bulletin).
 - Remove the “glamour” associated with these types of hits in order to minimize risk for all participants.



GUIDELINES

- ▶ Special Emphasis on Defenseless Player
 - Receiver concentrating on the catch.
 - QB after a hand-off or pitch.
 - Kicker not pursuing the ball.
 - Players away from the point of attack.
 - Player on the ground.



GUIDELINES

- ▶ Excessive Contact
 - Dipping Shoulder
 - Charging/Leading with the Shoulder
 - Launching
 - Intent to Punish an Opponent
- ▶ Emphasis On (however, not in and of themselves illegal)
 - Peel-Back Blocks
 - Crack-Back Blocks
 - Players Hanging Around the Pile
 - Blind-Spot Blocks
 - High Speed, Open Field, Shoulder/Helmet Initiated



EXCESSIVE CONTACT

- ▶ Video



QUESTIONS



SUMMARY

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