

2014 Regular Season – Bulletin 1

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Free Kick Formation:

As a result of several inquiries, the following is offered to help simplify the new free kick formation rules. Thanks to Cameron McNie from Lane County Football for the initial draft.

- At or after the ready-for-play, until the ball is kicked, if two or more K players are more than 5- yards behind their free kick line it is a dead ball foul for encroachment. A player is considered to be within 5-yards of his/her free kick line if both feet are within the 5-yard belt.
- At or after the ready-for-play, until the ball is kicked, one K player may be allowed more than 5-yards behind his/her free kick line. However, that player must become the kicker. If any other player becomes the kicker it is a dead ball foul for encroachment.
- The K player allowed to be more than 5-yards behind the restraining line is established at the ready-for play when the first K player takes a position more than 5-yards behind the free kick line. Once established, that player cannot switch with another player. The foul is a dead ball foul for encroachment.
- At the time of the free kick, K must have 4 players on each side of the kicker. In 8-player games, K must have 3 players on each side of the kicker. The foul is a dead ball foul for encroachment.
- If no K player lines up more than 5-yards behind the free kick line any player is eligible to become the kicker.

False Starts:

To avoid possible inconsistency in calling false starts, the following guidelines are suggested.

- Coming out of a stance early - Make these stick out; if we have to go frame-by-frame to see the movement, then we're being too picky.
- Not all players getting set - This isn't a foul until the ball is snapped as the problem can be fixed by getting set or calling a timeout.
- Flinches – Again, make these be big; however, if it is a small flinch and the defense reacts or points to the offending player, throw the flag.
- Linemen going down to a 3-point stance as the ball is being snapped - Shut the play down.

Tinted Eyewear:

Question: We know that tinted eye shields are illegal and sunglasses are legal. What about tinted sport goggles with a strap that goes around the back of the head that cannot be removed. Legal or not?

Answer: Legal equipment because the strap can be cut for removal if necessary. Also, the goggles could be removed by cutting through the nosepiece.

Roughing the Passer:

Question: If the QB is rolling out, looking for an open receiver and is horse-collared, is it roughing the passer or just a personal foul? Does the QB have to be passing the ball to get the roughing the passer call?

Answer: Rule 9-4-4 says any personal foul listed in Rule 9-4-3 committed against the passer will be enforced as roughing the passer and not as a personal foul. That includes horse collar tackles. So....if a passer is horse-collared, it's roughing the passer, 15-yards plus an automatic 1st down.

Also look at Rule 2-32-11 which defines a passer. If the QB is rolling out and gets horse-collared, personal foul, not roughing the passer because he has not thrown the ball, and is thus not a passer by definition, Rule 2-32-11. If the horse-collar occurs after he throws the ball, again, by definition he is no longer a passer and the foul is a personal foul.

Illegal Shift:

Question: (From a Coach) "I need to clarify if I can shift 2 different players at one time prior to the snap. Both players would be "OFF" the LOS and obviously we would not snap until they were reset for the mandatory 1-second count."

Answer: Rules 2-39 and 7-2-6 tell us that any number of offensive players may shift as long as all 11 offensive players are set for at least 1-second before the snap. Remember, with any "mass" shifting, you still need to have at least 7 offensive players on the LOS at the snap. Rule 7-2-5a.

Training Video:

This week's training video features two chapters from the 2014 Bill LeMonnier series that show plays involving mechanics and pre-snap issues.

I am starting to receive video clips of interesting plays via Hudl and YouTube. Keep sending them to me; I will do telestration and voiceover and include in future Bulletins.