

2014 Regular Season Bulletin 7

Clark Sanders – OSAA Football SRI (clark@oreofficials.org)

The following three plays deal with non-routine penalty enforcements. One of the keys to successful penalty enforcement is good crew communication. Take whatever time is needed to get the enforcement right. Make sure all the necessary information gets communicated to the Referee. If something doesn't feel right, don't wait until you are back in the locker room to step up and question a proposed enforcement. Penalty enforcement is a crew responsibility, not just the Referee's.

Penalty Enforcement

Play: From A's 20-yard line A1 runs to the A 35-yard line where he is hit and fumbles. A2 picks up the fumble and is downed at the B 45-yard line. Prior to the fumble B1 is called for holding at the A 25-yard line. Where is the penalty enforced? Spot of the fumble or end of the second run?

Ruling: Your play has two runs....therefore two running plays....therefore two basic spots. For fouls during the first run and any ensuing loose ball, the basic spot is the spot of the fumble. For fouls during the second running play, the basic spot is where that run ends, i.e. the dead ball spot. Rules 2-41-9a,b and 10-4-4.

The spot of the fumble is the A-35 yard line. The defensive hold is at the A-25 yard line. If accepted, you would go from the spot of the fumble 10 yards to the A-45 yard line. However, A2's second run gives Team A more yardage....down to the B-45 yard line. Therefore, the penalty most likely will be declined with the result of the play being A's ball, 1st and 10 from the B-45 yard line.

Penalty Enforcement 2

Play: 4th and 25 on K's 12-yard line. K is in scrimmage kick formation. After the kick, R45 bumps K11 causing him to fall backwards. While the kick is in the air and beyond the expanded neutral zone, R22 targets defenseless player K9 at the K-18 yard line. R88 catches the ball at the K-45 yard line and runs to the K-39 yard line before being tackled.

Ruling: There are multiple fouls by R on this play. Running into the Kicker against R 45 which is a 5-yard penalty from the previous spot with the opportunity for K to replay the down, 4th and 20 from the K-17 yard line. The second foul is against R22 for Targeting. Since this is a PSK foul, the 15-yard penalty would be assessed from the end of kick, in this case, the K-45 yard line with R's ball, 1st and 10 at the R-40 yard line. Rules 2-16-2h, 2-32-16, 9-4-3i, 9-4-3m, 9-4-5, 10-2-3 and 10-2-4.

Penalty Enforcement 3

Play: 1st and 10 for Team A on B's 33-yard line. The Team A passer completes a pass to his teammate, A81 who is tackled at B's 38-yard line. The passer is roughed.

Ruling: Rule 10-5-5 does not apply since the dead ball spot was BEHIND the neutral zone. This is a loose ball play and the foul will be penalized from the previous spot, not the end of A81's run.

Face Mask

Simply touching the facemask is not a foul. However, it is a foul for any player to grasp an opponent's facemask, helmet opening, or chinstrap. The helmet, face mask or chinstrap was not intended to provide a handle for a tackler. The rule does not prohibit tackling a runner around the head, or even grabbing the helmet, as long as the tackler's hands do not grasp the face mask, chin strap or any edge of a helmet opening.

Tips for Calling Pass Interference

- Don't focus on the ball. Train yourself not to look at the ball in flight.
- Watch action of the players in the area where any interference may occur.
- By shifting your eyes from the ball to the players you will be able to rule on any interference that occurs while the ball is in the air.

First Touching

Play: On a kickoff, a Team K player touches the ball at his own 48-yard line. As the ball continues bouncing downfield, R20 gains possession, carries the ball for a few yards and fumbles. K29 recovers the ball and is tackled. What is the ruling?

Ruling: The first touching by Team K gives Team R the option of taking the ball at the 48-yard line, so the fumble recovery by Team K doesn't count. Rule 6-1-6.

Comment: First touching is a violation, not a foul, so a beanbag, not a flag is thrown. Play continues, no whistle should be blown, and the ball does not become dead when Team K touches it without gaining possession.

Training Video

This weeks' training video is the last two chapters from the 2014 LeMonnier series and features play situations involving Forward Progress and Blocking Situations.