

2015 Regular Season Bulletin 1

Blindside Block-Signal and Announcement

We will use signal 38, personal foul and signal 43, illegal block, when enforcing a penalty for an illegal blindside block. A suggested announcement for Referees with microphones is, "Personal Foul, Illegal Blindside Block, Defense, Number 76. 15 yards from the spot of the foul. First Down," or what other specific information applies.

iPads and Communication Devices

Question: Can a coach or non-player leave the team box area to record plays with an iPad or other communication device, i.e. roam down the sidelines outside the restraining lines? Does this violate 9-8-1k and/or 9-8-3? What if the coach is not directly associated with the team, i.e. a JV or Frosh coach filming for the varsity? We had this come up in several jamborees and scrimmages last Friday night; assistant coaches were beyond the end line recording goal line plays; also recording between the 5-10-yard lines outside the restraining lines, then coming back inside the team box area and communicating with other coaches and players during sideline conferences.

Answer: Coaches and non-players may use iPads and other communication devices outside the team box area. This is not a violation of Rules 1-6-1, 1-6-2, 9-8-1k and 9-8-3. It doesn't matter what the person's affiliation is with the team; if he is filming or recording plays, he has the status of "photographer" or "video coach" and should be allowed anywhere outside the 2-yard restraining line.

I would draw the line at non-players who could possibly play in the game. They are subject to Rule 9-8, but if they are injured/ineligible and not in full uniform, they can be a "photographer."

The current playing rules don't address how teams get the video, only the manner in which it is utilized. As long as nothing is unsafe or unsporting, I believe the spirit of the rule is to allow this type of "electronic coaching."

Down Errors

Question: 3rd and 10, Team A gains 8 yards. After the play, it's discovered that it was actually 4th down. To correct the error, the Referee gives Team B the ball, 1st and 10, even though Team A never knew it was 4th down. Was this the correct procedure?

Answer: Incorrect procedure. Team A's 4th down was not "clean" because of the down error. Team A is entitled to a "clean" 4th down. A's ball, 4th and 10. Giving the ball to Team B is not an option.

Comment: Given the above ruling, some might say that Team A now played 5 downs in the same series. Keep in mind that one of those downs was incorrect, or “dirty.” Team A is entitled to at least 4 “clean” downs in any given series of downs.

Mouthpieces

Coaches are reminded that all mouthpieces must be of any color except clear or white. Adding colored dots, stripes, or other markings with a Sharpie to any part of a clear or white mouthpiece makes previously illegal mouthpieces legal. Rule 1-5-1d5c.

Penalty Enforcement

Play: With five seconds remaining in the first half, A8 completes a pass to A82. Time expires during the down and B32 piles on after the ball is dead. How is the penalty enforced?

Ruling: The 15 yard penalty is enforced on the second half kickoff. The second quarter **IS NOT** extended for an untimed down to enforce the penalty. B’s foul was a dead-ball foul. Rule 3-3-6.

Remembering September 11th

With the September 11th anniversary this coming Friday, expect some special ceremonies and announcements. If the coin toss or either half kickoff is delayed a few minutes, go along with the program....be flexible, be respectful, be professional.

Training Videos

Two training videos are available for viewing this week. The first video is an example of the ball being illegally kicked. Remember, you must be signed to Arbiter to view these links.

<http://osaafootball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3407/5913>

The second video comes from the Arizona Football Officials Association and shows several examples of catches, and incomplete passes vs. catch/fumble.

<https://vimeo.com/user18204278/review/135094552/2ac02b0967>