

2020 SRI Bulletin #1

Greetings Football Officials and Welcome to the 2020 Football Season. Without any doubt, the 2020 Football Season (played in 2021) will be the most challenging season of your officiating career. You should all expect the unexpected and be prepared for plenty of hiccups along the way. Please let me know when the unexpected occurs and how it was resolved.

1. COVID Masks

Masks that fit tight against the face are required by anyone participating in the game

- Players, coaches, officials and all game personnel shall wear masks when they participate
- Sideline personnel, Coaches, Non-players, Team attendants, Chain crew, and others shall wear masks at all times but they are not under the control of Game Officials
- A mask SHALL fit tight against the face!
- Both a neck **Gaiter** or a **Balaclava** are approved masks for OSAA Football Players

2. Refusal to wear a mask

Anyone refusing to wear a mask will not be allowed to participate under any conditions, sideline personnel not wearing masks are not allowed but they are not under the purview of the game officials. All violations shall be reported to: bradg@osaa.com

3. Chain Crew Concerns

Some Chain Crews have already expressed concerns about working the chains in the opposing team's bench area due to COVID-19 Concerns. 99% of the Chains Crews are volunteers, Should the Chain Crew request to work on the press box side of the field due to COVID-19 concerns, this will be allowed and the Head Linesman and Line Judge will swap sides of the field.

4. Supplemental Masks

There are two pieces of COVID that are not approved for play

- A COVID-19 Style mask that attaches to the inside of the helmet/facemask
- A Clear shield that attaches to the helmet/facemask and covers the nose and mouth

While both of these pieces of equipment have been approved as supplemental equipment the athlete may not participate with this as his primary or only covering.

5. Preventive Officiating

Work with the players, give them a few courtesy reminders to pull up their masks, when necessary send them out for a play for not properly wearing required equipment. There is no flag for this, the player must just sit out a play and a timeout cannot buy him back in.

Issues should be reported in your game report

6. Team box expanded for COVID

Team boxes may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (**for players only**) in order for more social-distancing space for teams. **Coaches must remain between the 25-yard lines.**

7. Rotating in Footballs

There is no one size fits all for this. This is a pregame item.

- Having a ball boy run the ball into the Umpire is fine
- Having a ball boy run onto the field to retrieve the old ball is fine
- Having the ball boy just give the ball to the wing officials is fine
- Reusing the old ball is fine
- Having no ball boy may exist

- Work out these details in the pregame, get creative when required
- **One Simple Rule - All Ball Boys Shall wear masks**

8. Oregon Football Mercy Rule has been reduced to 35 points, effective immediately!

9. CHARGED TIME-OUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)

The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)

10. A reminder from the PFOA Rules Interpreter

This was sent to the PFOA members and I am forwarding it on to the entire state:

On the OSAA website there is an interesting Jerry Ulmer article in the 'OSAA Today' section. Ulmer writes about MANY schools going to video streaming of their games as a way for parents to be able to see their kids play in the coming sports season. Great use of technology to help keep the fans involved until they can be back in the stadiums and gyms.

For officials..... it would be appropriate for PFOA leadership to reinforce and reinforce again that every official must assume that they are "on camera" once they enter any stadium at any level. This is just a message to be aware and act professionally and responsibly at all times. Most of our members do a good job at this, but there are always exceptions. My belief is this message is worth repeating and reinforcing. I will be doing this with all my crews as part of any virtual or in person pregame. Stay safe, stay well. Get ready for what will be a fun and challenging short season.

Steve Fawver - PFOA Rules Interpreter

11. Attachments

Five attachments this week:

- NFHS 2020 Football Rules Changes
- Oregon Only Modifications to NFHS Rules
- Oregon Sub-Varsity Rules modifications
- Oregon Face Coverings POE

That's it for this week one! Have Fun and Be Safe!

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Football Rules Changes - 2020

By NFHS on April 02, 2020

Defining Team Designated Representative for Penalty Decisions [1-4-1, 1-4-4 (NEW), 2-32-5, 3-5-2, 10-1-1, 10-1-2, 10-2-4] — Prior to the game, the head coach will notify the referee of the designated representative (coach or player) who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance or declination.

Halftime Intermission Option Following Weather Delay [3-1-6c EXCEPTION (NEW)] — The halftime intermission may be shortened by mutual agreement of opposing coaches if a weather delay occurs during the last three minutes of the second period.

40-Second Play Clock Clarification [3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTIONS 2 and 3 (NEW)] — To eliminate a potential timing advantage gained by the defensive team, the rules committee approved the play clock being set to 40 seconds when an officials' time-out is taken for an injury to a defensive player or a defensive player has an equipment issue.

25-Second Play Clock Clarification [3-6-1a(1)f (NEW)] — Following a legal kick when either team is awarded a new series, the play clock will be set to 25 seconds.

Disconcerting Act Foul and Penalty Reclassified [7-1-9 (NEW), 7-1-9 PENALTY (NEW)] — Disconcerting acts or words by the defense has been reclassified from a unsportsmanlike foul to a disconcerting act foul, and the penalty changed from 15 yards to 5 yards.

Spiking the Ball to Conserve Time (7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5e EXCEPTION) — The exception to allow a player to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving the snap, has been expanded to include any player positioned directly behind the center. This exception now includes snaps that are not hand-to-hand.

2020 Oregon Sub-Varsity Rules Modifications

For the 2020 alternate season these modifications will be implemented **only at the sub-varsity level** for all classifications, 1A - 6A.

Mutual agreement to use the following NFHS kicking rules deviations at the sub-varsity level is required of the participating schools prior to the coin flip. Failure to have mutual agreement prior to the coin flip results in the game being played with the Kickoff Modifications outlined below.

If modifications are agreed upon, the kicking game modifications outlined below apply to both kickoffs and scrimmage kicks (punts.) Teams cannot agree to modify one and not the other.

Once an option is selected it can't be modified during the game for any reason.

It is recommended that these modifications be discussed and agreed upon by Athletic Directors and coaches well before game time, preferably in the week leading up to the game.

Kickoff Modifications

- Options for the team that wins the coin toss will be to defer choices **OR** choose to go on either offense or defense **OR** choose the goal that team will defend. The team on offense will start 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a score, the non-scoring team will put the ball in play 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line after their opponents PAT. The ball will be placed on the 35-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a safety, the ball will be placed on the Team B 45-yard line, 35 yards from the Team A 20-yard line, anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a touchback, the ball will be placed on the Team B 20-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.

Scrimmage Kick (Punt) Modifications

- The receiving team will put the ball in play 1st and 10 at the succeeding spot 25-yards from the previous spot anywhere between the hash marks. If the previous spot is on or inside the Team B 45-yard line, the ball will be placed at the Team B 20-yard line. The game clock will start on the snap.

This does not eliminate Team A's option of "going for" a first down on 4th down.

- **NOTE:** Field goal attempts and PAT's by placekick will be conducted under NFHS Football Rules. These are considered scoring plays; rushing by the defense is allowed and blocked or errant field goal attempts may be advanced by either team.
- **NOTE:** Team A may "quick-kick" the ball at any time during their offensive series. However, the defense may not advance the ball. The ball becomes dead where the defense catches or recovers the ball or the ball otherwise becomes dead by rule.

Oregon-Only Rule/Mechanics Modifications/Reminders

Oregon HS Football games shall be played under NFHS rules with the following modifications and reminders:

Cleat Rule

NFHS Rule **1-5-1f1**. is modified as follows: When illegal cleats are discovered (player or non-player), the Head Coach is charged with an Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty **and the offending player is disqualified.**

35-Point Rule – Running Clock Option Procedures

NFHS Football Rules 1-7-11 and 3-1-2 allows individual states to establish guidelines to use a running clock when an established point differential is reached. The following procedures shall apply for classifications that choose the running clock option:

When a margin of 35-points is reached at halftime or thereafter, the following timing modifications shall take effect; NFHS timing rules (3-4-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) shall be replaced with the following:

The clock shall start with the read-for-play signal for the next ensuing kickoff and shall continue to run until one of the following occurs:

- a) For measurement of a possible first down
- b) For a player who appears to be injured
- c) For unusual heat or humidity which may create a health risk to players
- d) For a coach-referee conference concerning the misapplication of a rule
- e) When a TV/radio time-out is granted
- f) For a one-minute intermission between the third and fourth periods and following a try**, successful field goal, or a safety
- g) A team time-out is granted
- h) When a team attempts to conserve or consume time
- i) Any unusual circumstances (dog on field, etc.)

Following any of the above listed clock stoppages, the clock shall start on the next ready-for-play signal.

Once the 35-point rule is invoked, it shall not be rescinded for any reason including when the 35-point margin is reduced.

** -For clarification purposes, after the 35-point rule has been invoked and either team scores a touchdown, the clock shall continue to run until the completion of the try. At the completion of the try, the clock shall be stopped. The clock will then restart on the ready-for play for the ensuing kickoff.

For all other scoring plays the clock shall stop with the score and restart on the ready-for-play for the ensuing kickoff.

Overtime Procedures

Note 1: Resolving Tied Games Procedures (2020 NFHS Football Rule Book pgs 86-88) will be used with the following modifications:

1st Overtime:	25-yard line
2nd Overtime:	25-yard line
3rd Overtime:	10-yard line
Additional Overtimes:	10-yard line

Note 2: Starting with the 3rd overtime it is always 1st down and goal, no matter where the line of scrimmage is.

Note 3: "Kansas Plan" procedure for tie games is optional below the varsity level.

40 Second Clock

If a visible play clock is not in use the **BJ** shall raise his/her hand with 5 seconds remaining in the 40 second count. There is no visible countdown of the last 5 seconds. In contests officiated with less than 5 officials, no visible signal is given.

Face Coverings POE

As per the Governor's Executive Order face coverings are required to be worn at all times by all individuals participating in any OSAA contest. Game officials will have the responsibility to verify that anyone stepping on the field of play does meet that requirement. Game management has the responsibility to monitor compliance and correct any issues within the team box and spectator areas.

Game officials are not required to check the legality of the face covering but remain responsible to verify that all players are properly equipped prior to each down. It is likely that as an official you will see variations of face coverings and potentially other types of facemask attachments. NFHS approved facemask attachments (e.g. Splash Shield) may be worn but not in lieu of a face covering. Traditional face shields are not allowed to be worn under the helmet.

Players attempting to participate without the required face covering should be removed from play until they can correct the required equipment issue. Officials that may have concerns about the type of face covering being used or repeated incidence or failure by teams to comply with the face covering requirement should report those concerns to their local Commissioner for follow-up with the OSAA staff.