



Oregon School Activities Association

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August 5, 2021

To: Athletic Directors and Head Football Coaches
From: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: Football Reminders for the 2021-22

Included within this memo are several items specific to football that I would like you to review with your staff as we begin a new fall season and other reminders to share with coaches and administrators.

1. Practice Model

The Practice Model will require most schools to change their practice structure. Please familiarize yourself with this policy. Notable requirements contained in the policy include:

- Prohibition on consecutive days of multiple practice sessions
- A teaching session as one of the practice sessions on the first two multiple practice days (the intensity, duration and pace of all practice components in a teaching session shall be modified from a normal practice session)
- Maximum of one hour of weight training before and/or after practice on a single practice session day. Players may only attend one weight training session on a single practice day.
- Helmets only on Days 1 and 2. Helmets and shoulder pads only on Day 3. Full protective equipment on Day 4.
- Beginning Week 3 teams are restricted to a maximum of 90 minutes of full contact in any week, excluding games. Full contact is defined using the USA Football definitions of levels of contact. Thud, and Live Action are considered "full contact".
- On multiple session practice days, only one of those sessions can include "full contact" as defined above.

2. Quarter Rule.

- 1) **Daily.** A student shall not compete in more than four quarters each day. Participation in any play in a quarter shall constitute participation in that quarter. If a student appears in more than four quarters in a day, the game in which the student exceeds the limit shall be forfeited.
 - a) **NOTE:** A student may be allowed a fifth quarter of participation if the student plays 12 plays or less in any two of the student's first four quarters that day.
- 2) **Weekly.** A student shall not compete in more than five quarters for the 6A, 5A and six quarters for the 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A each week. To be eligible for six quarters (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A) there has to be a minimum of 48 hours between contests. All players (6A – 1A) are limited to **30** total quarters per year during the regular season. The week is defined as running from Tuesday through Monday. Participation in any play in a quarter shall constitute participation in that quarter, no exceptions. If a student appears in more than five quarters in one week, the game in which the student exceeds the limit shall be forfeited. If a student appears in more than **30** total quarters during the regular season, the game in which the student exceeds the limit shall be forfeited.
 - a) **NOTE:** 6A and 5A students may be allowed a sixth quarter of participation if the student plays 12 plays or less in any two of the student's first five quarters that week.
- 3) **Adding a Fifth Quarter.** A fifth quarter may be played at the freshman level, or at the junior varsity level if there is no freshman team, providing both schools agree and the officials agree. The extra quarter is intended to provide an opportunity for those students whose play was limited in the regular contest. In no case shall a student exceed the quarter **limits outlined above.**

1. **Q.** May a student participate in two quarters at the varsity level during one week and three quarters at the JV level during another week and count the participation as one game?

A. No. At all classifications, in order for quarters at multiple levels to be counted as one game under the individual participation limitation, the participation must occur during the same week running from Tuesday through Monday.


2. Q. May a student play 12 plays or less in his fifth quarter of a day (or sixth quarter in a week) and count that as one of the two quarters of 12 plays or less?
 - A. No. The allowance of a fifth quarter in a day (or sixth quarter in a week) can only be triggered by two quarters of 12 plays or less during the student's first four quarters in a day (or first five quarters in a week).
3. Q. May a student be allowed a sixth quarter in a day (or seventh quarter in a week) by playing four quarters of 12 plays or less?
 - A. No. A maximum of one additional quarter may be allowed in a day (or a week). Even with the allowance of an additional quarter, there is no scenario under which a student may play more than five quarters in a day (or six quarters in a week).
3. While **Jamborees** do not need approval from the OSAA unless fewer than three teams are involved, there are specific rules regarding the format of Jamborees in Football. You can find this information in the OSAA Handbook under the Participation Limitations section and on the OSAA website within the OSAA Football Plan at <http://www.osaa.org/activities/fbl>.
4. **State Rule Interpreter Updates** will be distributed to all coaches during the season. These updates are provided to all officials each week and contain information regarding rule interpretations, enforcement procedures, and general comments on a variety of issues that occurred the week prior. Questions regarding the SRI Updates should be directed to Kevin Hatfield (OSAA Football State Rules Interpreter) at kevin@hatcom.us.
5. **Any person (paid or volunteer)** who is located within the team box or press box and has the potential to provide instruction to players or coaches is required to meet the coaching certification requirements outlined in Executive Board Policy #8 – Certification of Athletic Directors and Coaches. This includes individuals who are acting in any type of support role. This interpretation would exclude any individuals providing medical support during a contest.

Highlighted 2021 NFHS Football Rule Changes:


(See <http://nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/football-rules-changes-2021/> for complete list of changes)

Rule Change

BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST RULE 2-17-2c (NEW)




FREE-BLOCKING ZONE



FREE-BLOCKING ZONE

In PlayPic A, both players are in the free-blocking zone and on their lines of scrimmage. In PlayPic B, the block is legal because it is in the zone at the time of the snap, is an immediate, initial action following the snap, and both players began the play on their lines of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone.


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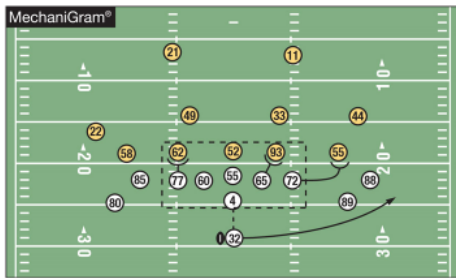
RULE 2 – SECTION 17 – FREE-BLOCKING ZONE – LEGAL BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST AND LEGAL BLOCK IN THE BACK

ART. 1 . . . The free-blocking zone is a rectangular area extending laterally 4 yards either side of the spot of the snap and 3 yards behind each line of scrimmage. A player is in the free-blocking zone when any part of his body is in the zone at the snap.

ART. 2 . . . Blocking below the waist is permitted in the free-blocking zone when the following conditions are met:

- a. All players involved in the blocking are on the line of scrimmage and in the zone at the snap.
- b. The contact is in the zone.
- c. The block is an immediate, initial action following the snap.

BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST RULES 2-17-1, 2-17-2, 2-17-4

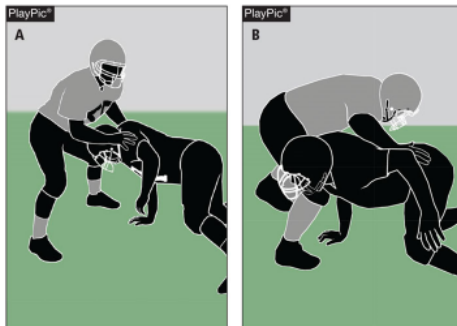


It is legal for offensive linemen to block below the waist in the free-blocking zone, provided both players were on their lines of scrimmage and within the zone at the time of the snap and the block is an immediate, initial action following the snap. No. 77 could only block No. 62 below the waist if the block was immediate, initial action following the snap. No. 65 can block No. 93 below the waist even though No. 93 is playing off his shoulder, if the block is an immediate, initial action following the snap. No. 72 could not block No. 55 below the waist at any time during this play.



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BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST RULES 2-3-7, 2-17-1, 2-17-2, 9-3-2

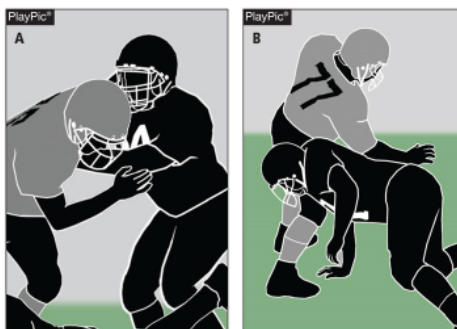


While in the free-blocking zone, the initial contact in PlayPic A is with the hands below the waist. When the blocker finishes the block below the waist as in PlayPic B, it is not a foul. A block below the waist is legal if it occurs in the free-blocking zone, provided both players were on their lines of scrimmage and within the zone at the time of the snap and the block is an immediate, initial action following the snap.



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BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST RULES 2-3-7, 2-17-1, 2-17-2, 9-3-2



The initial contact in PlayPic A is above the waist. In PlayPic B, the blocker then loses contact and the blocker starts a new block below the waist, this is a foul. A block below the waist is legal if it occurs in the free-blocking zone, provided both players were on their lines of scrimmage and within the zone at the time of the snap and the block is an immediate, initial action following the snap.



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Directives for 2021 Football

1. **Coin Flip Mechanic** – The pre-game coin flip will be conducted 3-min prior to scheduled game time. A recommended timeline is listed below: (*Adjust as necessary for various start times*). Failure by a team to have captains present and ready for the coin flip 3-min prior to scheduled kickoff will result in an Unsportsmanlike penalty charged to the Head Coach.

5:30pm -	Field open for pre-game warm-up
6:30pm -	Officials should meet the head coaches to cover any issues before the game, provide a list of the officials for the game, cover any unusual plays, ensure all players are legally equipped, discuss halftime length, etc. The game clock should be set at 30 minutes.
6:50pm -	National Anthem and teams should be introduced
6:57 pm-	With 3-min on the game clock the field must be cleared, and no more than four team members in uniform meet with officials for the coin toss and sportsmanship message.
7:00 pm-	Kickoff

2. **Enforcement of Required Equipment Rules**

- a. Officials choosing not to enforce the following interpretation are subject to individual and/or association sanctions including reduction or elimination of playoff games.
- b. Coaches shall consider this a directive from the OSAA office and therefore are requested to work with the officials in accomplishing these tasks. Cooperation makes life better for all involved.

The OSAA is working pro-actively with coaches, athletic directors and officials to prevent and resolve illegal equipment issues before they surface. By rule, each player shall wear mandatory equipment prior to participating. A full description of mandatory equipment can be found in NFHS Rule 1-5. Coaches are required to verify their players are properly equipped and in accordance with the rules in the pre-game meeting. While football officials will observe players in their pre-game warm-ups and verbally notify the Head Coach of equipment violations, the onus for ensuring that players are properly equipped has always belonged to the coaching staff. The provisions of NFHS Rule 1-5 were written with the safety of the players as an indisputable goal. Knowing and practicing the provisions of NFHS Rule 1-5 will help us all achieve the OSAA's goal of preventing and resolving any issues before they surface.

3. **Sub-Varsity Kicking Game Modifications**

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 Kicking Game modifications below.

If modifications are being used, 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.