

## 2025 SRI Football Bulletin # 1

Greetings to all Oregon Athletic Directors, Football Coaches, Football Evaluators and Football Officials. I hope this bulletin finds you well as we all prepare for the 2025 Football Season. Attached is our OAOA expectations for 2025 in no particular order:

### **MISSING OR IMPROPERLY WORN REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

*The feedback we have received from the OACA is that we were very inconsistent on enforcement. The coaches are correct, we absolutely were. In order to remedy this situation, we will become consistent with strict enforcement for the 2025 Season.*

Head Coach will receive one warning of when the player is sent out for one play. All subsequent occurrences require the offending player sit for one play and a 5-yard penalty for DOG/EQV Restated we will have ZERO TOLERANCE for violations of any of the following:

- **Pants** – Shall COMPLETELY cover the knees.
- **Knee Pads** - Shall be worn over the knees.
- **Jerseys** – Shall be long enough to reach the top of the pants and shall be tucked in if longer
- **T-Shirts/Undergarments** – Shall NOT be exposed.
  - **Exception – Players wearing 50-79 are “partially exempt” from this rule for 2025 Season only. Please work with the larger players.**
  - **Effective with the 2026 season, players wearing 50-79 shall have T-Shirts/Undergarments which are the same color as their pants (yes, their pants).**
- **Shoulder Pads** – Must completely be covered by the jersey.

Excessive and/or deliberate violations are suspect and could become UNS fouls.

Coaches, Athletic Directors and Officials: We are all in this together and only by working together can we get this unpopular issue behind us! The NFHS and the OSAA are crystal clear; they want equipment fouls enforced! Please do not have untucked t-shirts, exposed knees, etc., show up on HUDL or NFHS Network.

### **POST GAME**

**If a coach feels fouls for equipment violations were not being enforced correctly, then their;**

- **Head coach shall report the issue to their Athletic Director.**
- **Athletic Director may then report the situation to his local area Commissioner.**
- **Commissioner may then report the issue in writing to both Kris Welch at the OSAA offices ([krisw@osaa.org](mailto:krisw@osaa.org)) and Kevin Hatfield, OSAA State Rules Interpreter ([kevin@hatcom.us](mailto:kevin@hatcom.us)).**

## **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT**

- The feedback we have received from the OACA is we were very inconsistent on enforcement. The officials agree with this statement and will work harder to train ALL officials on the proper procedures. In order to remedy this situation, we will become consistent with a strictly enforced ZERO TOLERANCE policy for the 2025 Season.
- The procedure shall be; 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence the offending player is sent out for a play and the Head Coach receives his one and only warning. Subsequent violations are a UNS issued to the Head Coach and the offending player is sent out for a play.
- **Eye Shade** – (Grease or no-glare stripes or stickers) that is not a single stroke or includes words, numbers, logos or other symbols within the eye shade.
- **Balaclavas** – Remain illegal equipment for 2025 as per the NFHS.
- **Hoodies** – Illegal regardless how they are worn.
- **Jewelry** – Religious medals and a medic alert indicator are not considered jewelry. Religious medals and other religious items must be taped to the body and worn under the uniform. A medic alert indicator must be taped to the body and may be visible.
- **Moisture absorbing towels** – Shall not be ball or penalty flag colored and which is not less than 4 inches in width by 12 inches in length nor greater than 18 inches in width and 36 inches in length.
- **Audio/Video Equipment attached to a player, functional or not – Player and Head Coach are disqualified.**
- **Play Cards** - not worn on the wrist or arm.
- **TINTED VISORS** - These are considered illegal equipment. Special circumstances due to medical issues and approved by the OSAA and their Chief Medical Officer may be worn in extreme cases. **REMINDER:** These players MUST have an **approved letter from the OSAA**. A doctor's note or parent note does NOT allow players to wear a tinted visor. **ONLY a LETTER from the OSAA allows them to participate and this letter shall be presented to and retained by the White Hat prior to participation.**

## **FANNIE PACKS / HAND WARMERS**

- LEGAL - Unless in the opinion of the U/C they are dangerous, confusing or inappropriate, (1-5-3).

## **SLEEVES**

LEGAL - The NFHS says there are no sleeves being manufactured which do not comply with NFHS rules, so, avoid going down that rabbit hole!

## **BACK PADS**

- Shall be covered at all times.
- Uncovered back pads are considered Illegal Equipment.

## **TARGETING**

We have been asked to review and clarify the NFHS Targeting rule differences from other codes:

- NFHS Targeting is defined in Rule 2-20-2.
- NFHS Targeting is a Personal Foul and is penalized under 9-4-3m.
- Targeting an opponent in NFHS is NOT an automatic ejection, however;
- Targeting results in disqualification only when deemed flagrant by the covering official.
- Also please review CASEBOOK 9.4.3 SITUATION V.

## **OFFENSIVE LINEMAN MOVEMENT (a.k.a Dallas Cowboy Flex)**

In almost all cases, this action by the offensive linemen is to draw the defense to encroach, especially in game situations with less than 5-yards to go. When we see it, by rule, this act is a FALSE START regardless if the defense encroaches or not. Throw your flag as per 7-1-7a, 7-1-7b, 7-1-8, **7.1.7 SITUATION A**, AND **7.1.7 SITUATION B**.

## **HANDS TO THE FACE**

Is not identified as a foul, per se, in NFHS. This act is considered illegal use of hands and needs to be called as such.

## **BACK JUDGE MAKES THE O2O CALL ON PUNTS**

It has been reported some back judges are no longer making the O2O call on which wing goes downfield on a punt because *"everyone already knows!"* This goes against our Oregon Mechanics and is not acceptable. It is the back judges responsibility to communicate with the crew on who is releasing at the snap of the ball.

## **GAME CLOCKS DISPLAYING 10THS OF A SECOND**

The NFHS is silent on game clocks displaying 10ths of a second. Therefore, rules which may occur in other Football Codes DO NOT APPLY in NFHS play (2-37).

## **INJURED OFFICIAL**

Please cover in your pregame who moves to Referee should the Referee become injured or sick. Any other injured or sick official can be dealt with on the field if necessary.

## **INJURY TIMEOUTS**

Referees please simply send the players to meet with their respective coaches OUTSIDE the 9-yard lines as is allowed, with Referee permission, per Rule 3-5-8a(3) and 3.5.8 SITUATION B.

### **TABLETS AND HEADSETS**

- Players may use Headsets and tablets during outside the 9's conferences (1-6-1, 1-6-2).
- Players may not use Headsets and Tablets during between the 9's conferences
- If a player or non-player approaches an official with a tablet suggesting the official review a play, a UNS could be issued to the Head Coach (1-1-9, 9-8-1b)

### **ONE VOICE RULE**

Remind the Head Coach of the One Voice Rule in the pregame meeting then, when possible, consider reminding the Head Coach one more time before throwing flags?

### **YELLOW, BABY BLUE, LIGHT GRAY, OR VEGAS GOLD JERSEYS**

- Whether Home or Away, these jersey colors are typically going to be judged as non-compliant. Please garner an approval from Kris Welch before ordering when questionable.
- Visiting team SHALL wear white – If a violation occurs, please:
  - Play the game
  - Report the situation to both Kris Welch and Kevin Hatfield.

### **DISCRIMINATORY ACTS**

- We shall continue to follow the current OSAA protocol.

Kevin Hatfield – OSAA State Rules Interpreter, Football

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