



Upon Further Review

OHSAA Officiating Quiz Week Five 2023

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Rules

1. 4/9 K24 - K punts on fourth down. The punt is high and short and will not cross the line of scrimmage. R82 alertly signals for a fair catch at the K20 YL. K28, not expecting a fair catch, contacts R82. The contact is mild, is not unsportsmanlike, and does not displace the runner. The officials rule no foul. **Ruling: Correct. NFHS Casebook P. 51 (6.5.3 Situation) 'Contacting a receiver who did not give a fair-catch signal or contacting a receiver where he cannot make a fair catch, is not a foul unless the contact is judged ... to be a personal foul.'** R82 could not make a fair catch as per Rule 2-9-1 'A fair catch is a catch by a receiver of a scrimmage kick beyond the neutral zone.'
2. 1/10 A43 – Following the RPF, Center A54 has both hands on the ball to snap. After B shifts, A54 takes his hands off of the ball to give blocking instructions. The officials blow the whistle and administer a 5-yard snap infraction foul. **Ruling: Correct. Rule 7-1-3a states that the snapper may not remove their hands from the ball once touching the ball after the RFP.**
3. 3/9 B12 – B has possession of the ball in an OT period and has decided to kick a field goal as A did not score on their possession. Holder K14 rises to catch an errant snap, then puts his knee on the ground to hold for the kick. The covering officials blows the play dead. The officials prepare to start the second OT period. **Ruling: Incorrect. Rule 4-2-2a Exception 2: NOTE; The ball remains live if, at the snap, a place-kick holder with his knee on the ground...catches or recovers an errant snap and immediately returns his knee(s) to the ground and places the ball for a kick or again rises to advance, hand, kick or pass.'** K will have the opportunity to replay the down as per the inadvertent whistle protocol.
4. K Free Kick from the K40YL – K's kickoff is short and bounces in front at the R41YL. R56 waves for a fair catch of the grounded kick at the R40YL but R81 catches the ball and runs it back for a touchdown. R56 draws a penalty for an invalid fair catch signal. **This is correct. However, the play should have been blown dead as per Rule 6-1-5 'Any receiver can catch or recover a free kick and advance unless any R player has given a valid or invalid fair-catch signal'.**
5. K Free Kick from the K40YL – The kick comes down between two receivers and comes to rest at the R5YL. R39 tries to pick up the ball, but accidentally kicks it into the end

zone, where it is recovered and downed by R46. The officials rule A's ball 1/10 on the A20YL. **Correct. Rule 2-13-4 states that 'Force is not a factor on kicks going into R's end zone since these kicks are always a touchback regardless of who supplied the force.'**

6. 1/10 A35YL – Passer A12 scrambles in his own backfield as the blocking breaks down. As he is about to go down, he throws a backwards pass that is caught by A37, who is outside the hash marks. As the defense closes, A37 throws the ball 15 yards downfield and 5 yards out of bounds. The officials rule a legal play. **Ruling: Incorrect. New rule 7-5-2d states that the passer is allowed to throw the ball away if he is the only player to possess the ball after the snap ends. This would be intentional grounding.**
7. 4/10 K7YL – K14 is in scrimmage kick formation in K's EZ. K14 drops the snap and then kicks the ball off the ground and out of the K end zone. The officials rule a safety. **Ruling: Correct. Whether the penalty is accepted (illegal kick by K taking place in the end zone) or declined (safety scored because K forced the ball into its EZ (where it became dead), the play results in a safety.**

Mechanics

8. 3/12 on A35 – A9 rolls out to pass and is under duress. A64 is at the A40YL when A9 throws the ball close to the original LOS. The U goes to the wing at the end of the play to ask where the pass came down. The ruling is that the pass was completed behind the LOS, so no ineligible downfield foul on A64 was called. **Ruling: Correct. We can be late and be right. If the U has ineligible players downfield and there is doubt on the location of the pass beyond/behind the neutral zone, always check with the wing to ensure where the pass landed.**
9. Try – K comes out in a muddle huddle set with six players lined up 10 yards left of the snapper. The U and the BJ remain under the goalpost and adjust their pre-snap keys. **Ruling: Correct. GP P. 25 # 35 B-4.**

Regulations

10. The home team complains during the second quarter that it has lost communications with the press box. It wants the visiting team to cease its communications as well. **GB P. 36; Coaching Phones. "No OHSAA Policy... regarding # of phones or whether they operate or not."**