



The Whistle

Quiz #6 – September 21, 2023

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NFHS Rules

1. 4th/11 on B's 15 YL. QB A12 is in the shotgun formation with RB A24 lined up next to them. A12 turns to their SL and began walking toward the SL shouting at the HC "What's the play, we don't know the play", just then the ball is snapped to A24 who runs a sweep to the opposite SL for a first down. Legal play? **Ruling – Not a legal play. Correct ruling is an Unfair Act. The referee will enforce UNS per case book play 9.9.1 Situation B. Deception and trickery used in football must be through multiple shifts, unusual formations, and creative plays. Actions or verbiage designed to confuse the defense into believing there is a problem and a snap is not imminent is beyond the scope of sportsmanship and is illegal. (9-9-1)**
2. 4th/12 on K's 18 YL. K, in punt formation, has players confused at the wide out position. The LJ informs the WR they are off the line and punches them back. This puts 5 men in the BF and the LJ flags the infraction. R returns the punt to K's 16 YL. R declines the penalty and wants the ball at the 16 YL. **Ruling – Incorrect, the basic spot may be the SS spot for fouls by K during a legal free or scrimmage kick. The 5 yd illegal formation penalty can, at the option of R, be tacked on to the end of the return. (10-4-2 exception)**
3. Runner A23 is advancing towards B's GL and is very near the SL. A23 advances into B's EZ but was holding the ball outside the SL and pylon. The HL ruled TD. **Ruling – Correct, it is a TD because A23 was touching inbounds when the ball broke the plane of the GL extended. (2-26-3; 8-2-1a)**
4. Runner A23 is advancing towards B's GL and is very near the SL. A23 dives toward the GL, but is hit by B51 which causes him to land OOB beyond the GL extended. A23's last contact with the ground was short of the GL. The HL ruled TD as the ball crossed the GL extended. **Ruling – Incorrect, since A23 was not touching inbounds and was short of the GL when they were hit, it is not a TD even though the ball did break the GL extended. The ball should be spotted at the inbounds spot where the foremost point crossed the SL when A23 was driven OOB. (2-26-3)**

5. 4th/8 on K's 31 YL. K87 punts downfield, R22 muffs the punt and K43 recovers. What is the status of the GC? What is the status of the PC? **Ruling – The R should have a RFP whistle but the GC will start on the snap. (3-4-3c) The PC should be set to 25 secs. (3-6-1a1f) (Play Clock Bulletin #2 dated 8/5/22 #13)**

Comment – logic behind GC starting on the snap, the players on the field, at the time are not the complete offense and defense, substitutions will take place.

6. A43 runs the ball for a 12-yard gain, is hit and fumbles. B47 scoops the ball and returns for 14 yards and hit and fumbles. A53 recovers the last fumble. What is the status of the GC? What is the status of the PC? **Ruling – The R should have a RFP whistle and wind the GC. (3-4-2) The PC should be set to 25 secs. (3-6-1a1e) (Play Clock Bulletin #2 dated 8/5/22 #12)**

Comment – logic behind GC starting on the RFP, the players on the field, at the time are the complete offense and defense, minimal substitutions will need to take place.

7. A24 is engaged with B51 in close line play. A24's helmet comes completely off as the play goes downfield without being caused by a foul by any member of B. A24, without his helmet, continues to block B51 downfield and remains in contact for 12 yards downfield. The R ruled it was a legal play since A24 was engaged with the same player regardless of the time and distance. **Ruling – Incorrect, it is illegal participation for a player whose helmet comes completely off during a down to continue to participate beyond the immediate action in which the player is engaged. Per case book play 9.6.4 situation F, once the player's helmet comes completely off, they are to cease involvement in the play. (9-6-4g)**

OHSAA Mechanics

8. The QB threw a very deep ball down the middle of the field to a WR who was covered by two receivers. The pass came down between the two defenders with the WR making the catch in a crouching position and falling to the ground. The BJ killed the clock then gave the catch signal. **Ruling – Incorrect, the catch signal should only be given on a catch at the SL or EL. Do not make the catch signal "into" the field. The HL/LJ/U could have a positive view of the ball contacting the ground and signaling incomplete. (GB' #32, SIM, H, pg. 23)**
9. After each first down the R points downfield once at a 45 deg angle duplicating signal 8 from page 96 in the Rule Book. **Ruling – Correct, one time only, no "chopping". (GB; #32, SIM, M, pg. 23)**

OHSAA Regulations

10. During week 9 of the regular season two freshman teams are playing for the freshman conference title. Since both teams are undefeated the HC's asked the officials before the game if they can play OT in case of a tie so they have a true established conference champ. The officials agreed to only 1 OT period. **Ruling – Incorrect, OT is NOT to be played in Sub Varsity Games. (GB; OHSAA FB Regulations, 21g, pg. 38)**