



Upon Further Review

OHSAA Officiating Quiz #4 – 2026 Season

Eric Mauk

Rules

1. A 4/14 on K35 YL – During K's scrimmage kick, K39 holds at the K29 YL. The scrimmage kick is first touched by K at the R30 YL before rolling out of bounds at the R15 YL. R elects to take the ball at the spot of first touching. The officials use the 10-4-2 exception and spots the ball at the R 40. **Ruling: Incorrect. Rule 6-2-5 states that R's right to take the ball at the spot of first touching is cancelled if the penalty is accepted for any foul during the down. The correct options are to penalize K 10 yards from the LOS (PS) or decline the foul and take the ball at the spot of first touching.**
2. A 4/14 on K35 YL – During K's scrimmage kick, K39 holds at the K29 YL. The scrimmage kick is first touched by K at the R30 YL where it is declared dead.(no IW) The officials use the 10-4-2 exception and spot the ball at the R 40 YL after enforcing the 10 yard holding penalty. **Ruling: Correct. While R's right to take the ball at the spot of first touching is cancelled if the penalty is accepted for any foul during the down, 10-4-2 exception still is in effect if the first touching spot and the succeeding spot are the same. NOTE: R also retains the ability to replay the down.**
3. A 2/9 on A43 YL – A has the ball, leading 13-10 with 1:10 to play and the GC running. A takes a delay of game penalty with 45 seconds to go. After enforcement the officials start the GC and A takes another DOG penalty with the same result. A then runs out the clock and wins the game. **Ruling: Incorrect. Rule 3-4-3i states that the GC will start on the snap when stopped because of a delay of game penalty.**
4. A 3/20 on B40 YL – With 10 seconds left in the first half, A's legal forward pass is intercepted by B37. As he is about to be tackled, he hands the ball forward to B54. B54 fumbles at midfield and an inadvertent whistle sounds during the loose ball. Time expires. The officials do not extend the period due to the loss-of-down component of the illegal forward handling foul. **Ruling: Incorrect. While Rule 3-3-4b(3) states not to extend on fouls with a loss of down, but since there was a COP, B did not have a down to lose, therefore because of the IW, B gets one untimed down.**
5. A 2/7 A24 YL – A29 runs to the A30 YL where he is tackled by the facemask by B74. B74 then argues with the official, drawing a dead ball UNS. An assistant coach from B then comes five yards on the field gesturing and pointing at the official, drawing another UNS penalty. The official enforces the 15 yard face mask and then adds another 15 yards for each of the two UNS fouls, making it 1/10 for A at the B25 YL. **Ruling: Correct.**

Rule 10-1-4 states that when the same team commits a live ball foul followed by one or more dead ball fouls, all fouls may be penalized.

6. On a free kick down, all K players are within five yards of their free kick line, including kicker K9. K74 kicks the ball short where it is touched at the K48YL by K20. The official throws the bean bag for “first touching”. As the ball continues to roll, K67 pushes R72 at the K49 and recovers the ball at the R49YL. The ball is awarded to K. **Ruling: Incorrect. K committed an illegal block as per Rule 9-3-7. Since R did not touch the ball, they may either take the ball at the spot of first touching or have K re kick from the K30YL.**
7. A, 3/1 50 YL – With 28 seconds left in the first half, A14 throws an illegal forward pass from the B43 YL. The officials mark off the five yard penalty, spotting the ball at the B48 YL. Since the IFP carries a loss-of-down penalty, the crew marks the ball as 1/10 at the B48. **Ruling: Correct. Rule 5-2-2c states that the loss-of-down aspect of a penalty has no significance if the line to gain is reached after enforcement.**

Mechanics

8. A has six players on the line of scrimmage when it snaps the ball. The officials penalize the offense for an illegal formation, negating the result of the play. **Ruling: Incorrect. Rule 2-14-1 requires a minimum of five offensive players legally on the line of scrimmage. Rule 7-2-5a requires that no more than four backs may be in the formation. The best path for the officials, if in question to a formation’s legality, is to count the backs.**
9. A, 3/4 B25 YL: 25 to play in the 4Q and the clock is running. B has no timeouts – A84 is called for illegal motion on a play that gains two yards. B wants to decline the penalty and have the clock start on the snap. **Ruling: Correct. Rule 3-4-7 states only that the offended team has the option to start the clock on the snap when a foul is committed. It makes no provisions for acceptance or declination of the penalty.**

Regulations

10. Prior to the start of a game, the crew notices three players are wearing long, skinny towels that hang below their knees. The crew notes to one of the team’s coaches that the players will need to remove the towels prior to the KO. **Ruling: If in doubt and the officials have the ability, the towels can be measured for legality. Towels must be between 4 and 18 inches wide and between 12 and 36 inches in length.**