



Upon Further Review

OHSAA Officiating Quiz #7 2026

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Rules

1. 2/5 A34 – A's ball, spotted in the center of the field. QB A17 drops to pass, rolls right and goes well outside the hashmarks before reversing field and returning to the center of the field. Under duress from the B rush, A17 throws the ball past the LOS and out of bounds while behind the LOS in the center of the field. The officials rule the pass incomplete. **Ruling: Correct. Rule 7-5-2 Exception 2a states that it is legal for the passer to conserve yardage by intentionally throwing an incomplete pass if they have possessed the ball beyond the lateral boundary of the free-blocking zone as established at the snap.**
2. K Free Kick from the K40YL – K executes a short kick that is touched in flight by K59 at the R41YL. The ball then bounces out of bounds untouched by R at the R34YL. The crew rules kick-catching interference on K and offers R the options of rekick from the K25, a fair catch on the R41YL or possession after a 15-yard penalty from the R41YL. **Ruling: Mostly correct. All of those options were correct, but there ought to have been a flag on K for the kickoff going out of bounds. Likely the KCI penalties would have taken precedence.**
3. 3/9 B12 – A39 runs to the B4YL where he fumbles the ball towards the goal line. As the ball is loose, the official blows an inadvertent whistle. The official dropped the bean bag to mark the fumble correctly at the B4YL. The ball bounces into the end zone and out of bounds. The officials rule to replay the down. **Ruling: Incorrect. Replaying the down is one of the options since the IW has blown during a loose ball. The other option would be to allow A to keep the ball at the spot of the fumble, setting up fourth-and-one from the B4YL.**
4. 1/10 A20YL – A44 is wearing a 'guardian cap' cover on his helmet. While running the ball, a B player grabs the cap while trying to make a tackle and pulls it off of A44's head. The crew does not rule a foul for pulling the runner's helmet. **Ruling: Correct. Since the Guardian Cup is not required equipment, the NFHS has interpreted that tackling an opponent by grasping the Guardian Cap or any other soft helmet cover is not a foul. Nor is it a foul if the cap comes off during play. Play is not stopped if the Guardian Cap or soft helmet cover comes off during a live ball.**
5. K Free Kick from the K40YL – The kick comes down between two receivers and comes to rest briefly at the R5YL. R39 tries to recover 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. **Ruling: Correct. TB. 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.' Also, the kick had not ended since no player had yet gained possession of the ball and it was still in the field of play.

6. K Free Kick from the K40YL – K comes at the ball in a bunch formation, with K29 executing a surprise onside kick which is recovered legally by K at the R41YL. No K player had been five yards behind the free-kick line prior to the kick. All 11 K players were bunched tightly together, but there were at least four players on each side of the kicker at the time of the kick. The officials award the ball to K 1/10 at the R41YL. **Ruling: Correct. This can be very hard to see from the sidelines and it is imperative that the R and the two wings that are deep stay alert to rule on this tricky play along with the U, CJ & BJ.**
7. K Free Kick from the K40YL - K4 sets the ball horizontally on the tee and approaches as if to kick. He fakes a kick and stops, then repositions the ball vertically on the tee, then resets and kicks the ball deep. The officials get together and rule an unfair act as per Rule 9-9-1 and enforce a delay of game penalty. **Ruling: Incorrect. This is a legal play; however it could be a delay of game if the kicker does not kick the ball in the allotted 25 seconds after the ready for play is sounded.**

Mechanics

8. 3/12 on A35 – A9 rolls out to pass and is under duress. A64 is at the A40YL when A9 scrambles close to the LOS and throws the ball with both feet at the A36YL. After watching the action on the passer, the R rules a legal forward pass. **Ruling: Incorrect. If the passer is approaching the LOS while preparing to throw the ball, the U must immediately move to the LOS and be available to share information with the R, to help determine the legality of the pass. The R must hustle to the spot where A9 passes the ball to also help determine the legality of the pass. If they rule Illegal Forward Pass by A9 then both need to drop their flags at the A36YL.**
9. 4/9, B29YL – B is going to try a long field goal when the holder drops the snap and after recovering throws the ball deep downfield. The U and the BJ remain under the goalpost while the HL and LJ hustle downfield to cover the play. **Ruling: Incorrect. On a fake or a blocked kick the U should hustle to the goal line to help rule on the play as per Gold Book 8C6 (P. 13)**

Regulations

10. The home team complains during the second quarter that a spectator in the end zone is flashing a strobe light when their team is on offense facing that direction in an attempt to distract them. **Gold Book P. 41: Officials should contact Game Management to address the problem.**