

CFOA NEWS

Volume 4

CFOA Members – The season is off to fast start. One of the 2015 NFHS Points of emphasis was the Free-Blocking Zone in relations to the shotgun formation. There has been some confusion and it clearly states what they can do in the rule book on page 94. **Please review.**

When the ball is snapped to a back in shotgun formation, however, the ball leaves the zone, and the zone disintegrates almost immediately. To be legal, a block below the waist must occur immediately after, and nearly simultaneously with, the snap. Any delay would cause the block to occur after the ball has left the zone. **It is nearly impossible for a lineman in a two-point stance to legally block below the waist in this situation because of the time required for the lineman to drop from an upright position and block an opponent below the waist. For linemen in three- or four-point stances, they must block their opponents immediately after the snap in order for a low block to be legal in this situation.**

I had the chance to watch the Mater Dei vs. Bishop Amat and was excited to see the unit using 7 man mechanics. The crew did a great job.

If any of your members would like to submit pictures or write an article to be published in the newsletter, please forward to me and I will include it.

Hope everyone is enjoying their season.

Regards,

Bobby Kennedy
CFOA Instructional Chairman

THE SECRET TO CONFIDENCE IS PREPARATION

There can be no level of courage
When there is no level of confidence.
Half the battle lies in the level of conviction
You commit to the accomplishment you desire.
Through preparation you develop a level of competence
In which you are able to achieve your goals.
Confidence is the result of hard work and dedication
To become the very best you can be.
The process of preparation enables you
To perform with a high degree of confidence.

Confidence doesn't happen by accident. It is the result of countless hours of a committed effort to an ongoing pursuit of excellence. The well-prepared official is a confident official.

”The goal of an NFL officiating crew is...to be anonymous.”

Unknown

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Types of Fouls

Dead Ball—a dead ball foul occurs in the time interval after a down has ended and before the ball is next snapped or free kicked. This includes fouls which occur just before the snap—like encroachment or false starts—as well as those which occur just after the ball becomes dead, like a “late hit” personal foul.

Double—a double foul occurs when one or more live ball fouls (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike fouls) are committed by each team at such a time that the penalties offset and the prior down is replayed with no enforcement of any penalty—a simple ‘do-over.’ There are some specific times when there are live ball fouls committed by each team when the penalties do not offset and are not technically double fouls. But more on that later.

Flagrant—a flagrant foul is one so severe or dangerous that player safety is significantly and recklessly compromised. Several rule changes over the last few years, including the 2014 addition of the definition of “targeting” to the Federation Rule Book, have put increased emphasis on hits that may rise to the level of flagrant fouls. Likewise, an unsportsmanlike violation that is particularly vulgar or persistent may qualify as a flagrant foul as well.

Live Ball—Very simply, a live ball foul occurs during a down, i.e. between the snap (or free kick) and the moment at which the ball becomes dead.

Multiple—A multiple foul occurs when two or more live ball fouls (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike) are committed during a down by same team at such a time that the offended team is permitted a choice of penalties. Only one penalty can be accepted by the offended team.

Nonplayer or Unsportsmanlike—these fouls are by their very nature noncontact fouls. They may occur while the ball is dead or during the down. Specifically, they exclude illegal participation and must not influence the play in progress. Nonplayer fouls are those committed by persons other than the 22 players legally in the game at the time of the foul. They may be committed by coaches, substitutes, team attendants, etc. Unsportsmanlike fouls may be committed by players and nonplayers alike. For purposes of enforcement, both nonplayer and unsportsmanlike fouls are treated like dead ball fouls regardless of when they occurred.

Player—a player foul is a foul (other than unsportsmanlike) committed by one of the 22 players legally in the game at the time of the foul. Sometimes it’s just referred to as a “foul.” When you see the word “foul” used alone, this is typically what’s meant. They include, for example, holding, pass interference, grasping the facemask, roughing the kicker, etc.

Post-scrimmage Kick—Post-scrimmage kick fouls may occur only during downs in which a legal scrimmage kick occurs. Specifically, they are fouls by R that meet several criteria which we will discuss in the section on special enforcements.

Simultaneous with the Snap—Fouls that occur simultaneously with the snap happen when an act, perfectly legal prior to the down during the dead ball period, becomes a foul only by virtue of the ball actually being snapped or free kicked. Typically, these involve illegal offensive team movements and formations, substitution infractions, or violations of other administrative requirements which are illegal at the snap—but not before.

Knowing the type of foul is critical for determining the options to be presented. Another important thing to note: These types are not necessarily mutually exclusive; there is overlap. For example, a live ball foul may be a player foul, or it may be part of a double foul. And any foul can be of the flagrant variety. The important thing here is to fully understand the definitions.

Heat & Humidity

Heat and humidity can become a serious issue and be dangerous for both players and officials.

This is especially true during the first month of the season. The following guidelines should be taken into consideration in situations of extreme heat or humidity.

1. Day before the game: All officials should properly hydrate.
2. Game day: Discuss with athletic directors, head coaches, and medical personnel the importance of keeping players hydrated.
3. During the game: It is highly recommended that water breaks be taken during team timeouts, after changes in possessions, and following scores. In extreme heat or humidity situations, water breaks can be taken during an officials’ timeout. Wing officials should communicate these breaks to the sideline coaches to ensure that all players remain properly hydrated. All officials should also rehydrate whenever possible during these breaks.

PRIDE IN OFFICIATING

“Develop and demonstrate PRIDE in your officiating”

First Impressions Last a Long Time! Take PRIDE in the clothing you wear during the game, and to and from the game.

Don't get into shape for the season, stay in shape! Take PRIDE in your physical condition and appearance.

Arrive well in advance of your game time! Take PRIDE in being reliable to arrive on time for your games.

Good judgment is always based on your rules knowledge! Take PRIDE in your knowledge of the rules.

The ability to be in the right place to make the call is one indicator to your level of competence! Take PRIDE in your floor mechanics.

Good communication skills indicate confidence! Take PRIDE in using approved signals.

Eliminate the hurdles to success! Take PRIDE in the development of good habits while ridding yourself of the bad ones.

Be professional at all times! Take PRIDE in a commitment to conduct yourself in a professional manner on and off the playing field.

Enforcing a Penalty

Referee: After being notified of the foul(s), move to a clear area away from the players; come to a complete stop facing the press box; give the preliminary foul signal; and point to the offending team's goal line.

If the offended team's choice of options is obvious, administer the option without consulting with the team. If the choice of options is not obvious, meet with the captain near the spot of enforcement and explain the options to the offended captain while looking at their sideline. Encourage the captain to look at the coach for help in choosing the preferred option. When a decision is made, discuss with the Umpire on how to administer the option. Once this is completed a formal signal and announcement can be given (except where noted below).

If the penalty flag was mistakenly thrown and there is no foul, do not give any type of foul signal. Only give the “disregard flag” signal and indicate the number of the next down.

If the foul involves a false start, encroachment, or illegal snap infraction, the preliminary signal may be given while the Umpire marks off the penalty. No final signal is required after the penalty has been enforced.

If the foul requires penalty enforcement at the succeeding free kick spot, give the preliminary foul signal; point to the offending team; and then point to the area of the field where the free kick will occur.

Umpire: Meet with the Referee and the captain when options are discussed. Mark off all penalties except those during a free kick. If a foul occurs in a side zone, mark the penalty off in the side zone and then return it to the hash mark. When marking off a short penalty, walk quickly to the spot. When marking off a longer penalty, jog to the spot. Verify the penalty has been enforced correctly with the wing officials before placing the ball at the new spot.

Head Linesman: Make sure that the chains do not move until you signal them. If the foul choice belongs to the team on your sideline, help explain the penalty options to the head coach. Go to the spot of enforcement and mark off the penalty with the Umpire. Verify with the Umpire that the final spot of the ball is correct. Following enforcement, move the down box and chains as necessary. Inform the coach on your sideline of the foul, enforcement, and player number (if their player committed the foul).

Line Judge: If the foul choice belongs to the team on your sideline, help explain the penalty options to the head coach. Hold the spot of enforcement spot on your sideline until the Umpire and Head Linesman have marked off the penalty. Then mark the penalty off yourself to triple check the spot. Inform the coach on your sideline of the foul, enforcement, and player number (if their player committed the foul).

Back Judge: If there are multiple spot fouls, hold the spot of the foul while enforcement decisions are made. If a penalty is to be enforced on a free kick, go to the succeeding free kick spot. Place the ball on the ground. Face the press box and repeat the foul signal. Pick up the ball and enforce the penalty yardage. Hold the ball at the yard line where the free kick will occur until the kicking team is ready.

Moving the Ball

There is no rush to retrieve game balls. Officials must tend to dead ball officiating prior to retrieving any game balls. Do not walk away from opposing players who are close together and leave them unattended.

When relaying the game ball use short, underhand throws. If you cannot make the distance on a throw close the distance before attempting. Do not let the ball hit the ground.

Referee: On short yardage plays that go into a side area (less than about 5 yards), help relay the ball from the wing official to the umpire. Form the point of a triangle with the officials that you are relaying between.

Back Judge: On long yardage plays that go into a side area (greater than about 5 yards), help relay the ball from the wing official to the umpire. Form the point of a triangle with the officials that you are relaying between. Also help in the retrieval of any long passes that are incomplete. If the Line Judge has brought in a new ball, then relay the old ball to a ball person on the visitor's sideline.

Umpire: Move outside of the hash marks and retrieve the ball (when required). Hold the dead ball spot for a wing official to allow them to retrieve a ball.

Linesman: Help to gather any dead ball in your area. In doing so, do not leave the spot where the ball become dead unattended. Hold the spot until someone either gets the ball or holds the dead ball spot.

Line Judge: Help to gather any dead ball in your area. In doing so, do not leave the spot where the ball became dead unattended. Hold the spot until someone either gets the ball or takes hold of the dead ball spot. If there is a deep incompleting and that ball cannot be brought back quickly, retrieve another ball from the ball person and relay that to the umpire.

Spotting the Ball

When spotting a ball, an official should face the official that is holding the dead ball spot and place the ball on the ground even with the feet of that official. The ball should be placed in between the hash marks. If the ball became dead in a side area, the ball should be placed on the nearest hash mark.

Umpire: Will spot the ball most of the time.

Referee: Will spot the ball if the Umpire has gone downfield to retrieve the game ball.

Wing Officials: Will spot the ball on close goal line or first down plays.