

# NFHS FOOTBALL 2008 RULE CHANGES



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# AGENDA

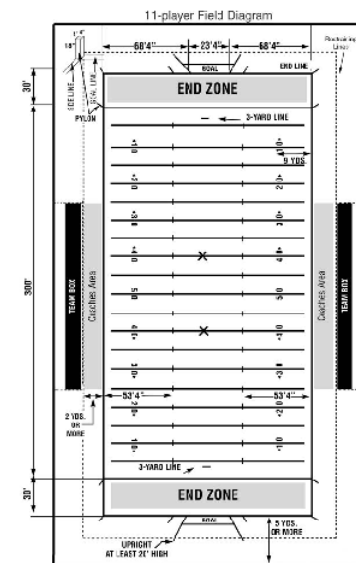
- 2008 Rule Changes
- Points of Emphasis
- OHSAA Odds & Ends



# FIELD MARKINGS

## 1-2-3

- The restraining line around the field can be either solid or broken.
- Recommended it be broken, 4" X 12" placed 24" apart.
- White is the recommended color for all field markings, although other colors are allowed when appropriate.



# PLAYER EQUIPMENT

## 1-5

- Alteration of hip pads, knee pads, thigh guards, and tailbone protectors are prohibited.
  - Cannot be altered from the manufacturer's original design.
- Shin guards, if worn, must meet the NOCSAE standard.
- Definition of hand pad – a covering for the hand which may have separate openings for each finger and thumb, is absent of any web-like material between the fingers and/or thumb, and not covering each finger and thumb.
  - Requirement to have hand pads have a label or stamp indicating compliance with NFHS rules is delayed to 2012.

# PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Illegal Equipment
  - Sweatbands on the neck, above the waist, on the biceps, or calves are illegal.
  - Sweatbands are legal when worn on the wrist beginning at the base of the thumb and extending no more than 3 inches toward the elbow.
  - Rubber bands are not legal.

# PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Helmets must be secured by a properly fastened chin strap with at least four attachment points.
  - If the strap has six, then all six must be fastened.
  - If the helmet has 6 points but the chin strap only 4, legal provided all four chin strap points fastened.



# PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Written authorization from a licensed medical physician (MD/OD) must be provided for a player who has a cast or hard surface protection covered properly per 1-5-3c.
- Keep for 7 years.
- Copies of original are acceptable provided dates are valid and information legible.
- Head Coach must verify to the referee and umpire that all of his players are legally equipped and in compliance with the rules, prior to the start of the game.

# COMMUNICATION DEVICES

## 1-6

- Audio tape recorders, LAN phones and/or headsets are allowed.
  - LAN phones and headsets may be used by coaches, non-players and players. Players may use devices only during authorized sideline conferences.
- Other devices such as cell phones, still photography, analog or digital video and/or internet depictions shall Not be used for coaching purposes during the game or between periods.



# TIME-OUTS

## 3-5-1,2

- Head coach may authorize and designate someone to request team timeouts from the sideline. Person cannot be later changed except in case of emergency or ejection. Cannot have one for offense and one for defense.
- Unused time-outs do Not carry over.
  - To Second Half.
  - To overtime.
  - Time-out not used in an overtime period does Not carry to the subsequent overtime period. Only 1 timeout per overtime per team.

# PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

- Definition of multiple fouls – Involve two or more live-ball fouls (other than non-player or unsportsmanlike) committed during the same down by the same team such that offended team is permitted a choice of penalties.
  - Team may choose one to administer or may decline all penalties.
- Dead-ball fouls (or enforced as a dead ball) are administered from the succeeding spot as established by acceptance or declination for the other foul.

# PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

- Fouls during a touchdown scoring play (if there was a change of possession, then the foul by the opponent of the scoring team was after change of possession), the offended team may take the enforcement on the try or on the succeeding spot.
  - If foul occurred prior to change of possession, scoring team must decline enforcement to keep the score.
  - Penalties for non-player fouls, unsportsmanlike fouls, or dead ball fouls may only be enforced on the succeeding spot.
- If there is a foul during the try, it may be taken and the try re-played or the penalty may be taken on the succeeding spot.
- Now both penalties could be enforced on the following kick-off.
- Decision, once made, cannot be changed. Once decision is made for enforcement on the kick-off, cannot later change to try.

# PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

- Penalty enforcement when scoring play and foul occurred on the last timed down of a half.
  - Fouls by opponents of scoring team on last timed down in first half can carry over to the second-half kickoff.
  - Fouls by opponents of scoring team on last timed down in second half cannot carry over to overtime. If enforced, it must be done on the try.
    - If there is a foul during that try and there is now overtime, that penalty may carry to overtime.

# PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

- Basic spot is the 20 yard line for fouls by either team when the opponent of the team in possession at the time of the foul is responsible for forcing the ball across the goal line.
  - End of related run is in the endzone and is followed by a loose ball, regardless of where the ball becomes dead.
- Basic spot is the goal line for fouls, which are committed during running plays by opponent of team in possession at time of the foul and team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across its goal line.
  - End of related run is in the endzone and is followed by a loose ball, regardless of where the ball becomes dead.

# INADVERTENT WHISTLE CLARIFICATIONS

- Down is replayed if, during the down, or during a down in which the penalty for a foul is declined, an inadvertent whistle is sounded while a legal forward pass or snap is in flight, or during a legal kick.
- Team in possession may choose to either put ball in play where possession was lost or replay the down if, during the down or during a down in which the penalty for a foul is declined, an inadvertent whistle is sounded while the ball is loose following a backward pass, fumble, illegal forward pass or illegal kick.

# INADVERTENT WHISTLE CLARIFICATIONS

- The team in possession may choose to either accept the results of the play at the dead-ball spot or replay the down if, during a down, or during a down in which the penalty for a foul is declined, an inadvertent whistle is sounded while the ball is in player possession.
- A penalty shall be administered as determined by the basic spot, and takes precedence over inadvertent whistle administration if, during a down, a live-ball foul occurs prior to the inadvertent whistle and the penalty is accepted.

# UNFAIR ACTS

## 9-9

- Use of an illegal kicking tee results in a 15 yard penalty enforced using the all-but-one principle. Basic spot is the previous spot. Acceptance of the foul on a try or field goal nullifies any points scored. (Kicking tee shall elevate the lowest point of the ball no more than 2 inches above the ground).
- Hiding the ball under the jersey is an unfair act an enforced as a basic spot foul using the all-but-one principle.
- Neither foul is charged to the coach or player for the purpose of unsportsmanlike conduct ejection.

# POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- MRSA and Communicable Skin Conditions
- Purpose of a football helmet
  - Illegal acts that must be observed:
    - Spearing
    - Butt blocking
    - Head tackling
- Altering Legal Football Equipment
  - Must wear mandatory equipment
  - Must wear it properly as specified in Rule Book
  - Must be aware of illegal equipment or adornments.

# POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- Congestion is a real problem
- Football game in Texas
- Three coaches in the coaching box, no players
- Photographers, media, boosters and others crowding the sideline.
- Use Side Line warning enforcements.

# POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- False Starts
- Shifts
- Motion
- Encroachment