



## 2017-18 GIRL'S FLAG FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS

### Unfair Acts

Rule 9-10 gives our Referee much latitude in handling obviously unfair acts during a game. This would include situations that arise when a team commits a blatant and obvious intentional foul or fouls to gain a clock advantage late in a game. We should treat these intentional fouls as Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls. We will also note that each player committing these unsportsmanlike acts will have a counter in terms of UNS. As point of note, this does not apply to intentional fouls committed during the game, as the rules handle these situations quite well.

#### **Rule 9-10**

**Article 1...** *A player or nonplayer or person(s) not subject to the rules shall not hinder play by an unfair act which has no specific rule coverage.*

**Article 2...** *No team shall repeatedly commit fouls which halve the distance to the goal line.*

**Article 3...** *No player shall hide the ball under the jersey*

**Article 5...** *Neither team shall commit any act which, in the opinion of the Referee, tends to make a travesty of the game.*

**Play #1:** B55 pulls the flag from A1 inbounds @ the B 10-yardline, team B is ahead by 6 points with 0:35 showing on the game clock. B55 throws the flag instead of dropping the flag where it was pulled.

**RULING:** This is a blatant and obvious unfair act designed to take time off the clock. The Referee will assess an Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul to B55. Penalize half the distance to the goal. The game clock is stopped during the penalty assessment and starts on the next snap.

This would also apply when a team continually fouls to create a 1<sup>st</sup> and long situation if the offensive team declines the initial foul.

**Play #2:** A's ball 1<sup>st</sup> & 2 @ the B 22, when B12 intentionally goes offside. If A declines the foul and on then B intentionally goes offside again.

**RULING:** The Referee shall assess an Unsportsmanlike Foul to the Head Coach of Team B.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Down Declaration (Punting)

There still seems to be confusion regarding this special 4<sup>th</sup> down rule as to when a coach must make their decision and as to when a coach may change their decision;

#### Punting:

- There will be NO punts!
- On fourth downs the offensive team must take a time out or declare immediately whether they are punting or going for the first down. (if time out is declared, decision can be made after time out is exhausted)
- If the offense declares a punt the defense will take possession of the football on their 20 yard line.
- If the offense goes for the first down and does not obtain it, the defense will take possession of the football at that point on the field.

If on 4<sup>th</sup> down a coach declares immediately that they are ~~punting~~ going for it, the only way after that declaration that a coach may change their decision is;

- The defensive team calls time-out prior to the snap.
- There is a live-ball foul assessed on the offensive team.
- There is any foul assessed on the defensive team.

A team may not change their declaration after a dead-ball foul is assessed on the offense.