

## 2018 NFHS Case Book Plays – NEW/CHANGES

**1.5.1 SITUATION A:** When the game officials arrive on the field they notice that both teams are wearing non-white jerseys. The visiting team's coach indicates that he was not informed prior to the game as to the color of the home team's jerseys.

**RULING:** It is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear its white jerseys when playing away from home. Whether the home team did or did not notify the visiting team of its school colors, the rules specify that the visiting team is to wear its white jerseys. The referee may require the home team to change to its white jerseys. This incident should be reported to the proper administrative authorities at the visiting-team's school and the state association office.

**1.5.1 SITUATION B:** During the pregame visits with both teams, the referee and another game official note that the players are wearing brand new "throwback" jerseys with undersized and off-set numbers on the front of the jerseys.

**RULING:** The referee may require both teams to change to legal jerseys, and should report the incident to the proper administrative authorities of each school and the state association office. (1-5-1c)

**1.5.1 SITUATION C:** During the down, A4 is noticed to (a) have a clear tooth and mouth protector; or (b) have a tooth and mouth protector that is only covering the upper, front teeth.

**RULING:** In (a), there is no foul. In (b), an official's time out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, and this was not due to game action, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play. All tooth and mouth protectors shall cover the posterior teeth but have no color requirement. The game officials should, through normal observations, attempt to verify that each player is legally equipped prior to the ball becoming live. [1-5-1d (5), 1-5-5, 1-5-6, 3-5-10e]

**1.5.1 SITUATION D:** During the pregame warm-ups, a game official notices some of the players of Team A wearing (a) sweatbands on their biceps, (b) sweatbands on their calves, or (c) pants which clearly do not cover the knees

**RULING:** In (a) and (b), the uniform adornments must be removed prior to the individual becoming a player. In (c), the player may not participate without the pants covering the knees. (1-5-1e, 1-5-3a (5)1)

**1.5.1 SITUATION E:** The umpire notices that a player does not have protrusions indicating that hip pads and tail bone protector are being worn. Upon investigation, it is found that (a) the player is not wearing any padding or (b) the player is wearing a manufactured girdle with closed-cell, "bubble type" protective padding that conforms and covers the hips and tailbone.

**RULING:** In (a), hip pads and tailbone protector are required equipment. An official's timeout is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play. In (b), there is no padding criteria listed for hip pads and tailbone protector and, therefore, the pads are legal. (1-5-1d (1), 1-5-5, 1-5-6, 3-5-10e)

**1.6.1 SITUATION E:** Between plays during the first period, the game officials notice that one of the teams is using electronic signage to signal plays from the sideline or to signal information to the players during a between 9-yard marks conference.

**RULING:** Use of electronic signage is not permitted. The game officials should stop play and direct the coach to immediately disable/disconnect the device. If such use persists, a foul should be called. (9-8-1e)

**2.17.2 SITUATION E:** A1 is in shotgun formation, lined up seven yards behind the line of scrimmage ready to receive the snap. Immediately after the snap to A1, (a) A2 initiates his block simultaneously with the snap and blocks B1 below the waist or (b) A2 rises, and slightly retreats as if to go in traditional pass blocking protection, but then dives and blocks B1 below the waist. Both A2 and B1 were in the zone and on the line of scrimmage at the snap. The contact between A2 and B1 takes place in the free-blocking zone.

**RULING:** It is a legal block in (a) and an illegal block below the waist in (b). It is legal for A2 to block B1 below the waist while the free-blocking zone exists and this likely can only occur if the block is initiated simultaneously with the snap. Any later, and the ball is considered to have left the free-blocking zone and the block is illegal.

**2.32.16 COMMENT:** The following chart should help game officials distinguish application rules related to contact against defenseless players as defined in 2-32-16, provided the contact is not judged excessive per 9-4-3g.

<b>Defenseless Player Rule 2-32-16</b>	<b>Is contact allowed?</b>	<b>If Not Illegal Helmet Contact or Targeting:</b>
(a) A passer	Yes	No foul if contact is legal and not late; otherwise roughing the passer. (9-4-4)
(b) A receiver attempting to catch a pass who has not had time to clearly become a runner.	Yes	No foul if contact is legal and not late; otherwise unnecessary roughness. (9-4-3g)
(c) The intended receiver of a pass in the action during and immediately following an interception or potential interception.	Yes	For an interception, no foul. For a potential interception, no foul if contact is unavoidable and not late, Unnecessary roughness. (9-4-3g)
(d) A runner already in the grasp of a tackler and whose forward progress has been stopped.	No	Unnecessary roughness. (9-4-3g)
(e) A kickoff or punt returner attempting to catch or recover a kick, or one who has completed a catch or recovery and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a ball carrier.	Yes	For an attempt to catch, kick catching interference. (6-5-6) For an attempt to recover, no foul. For a completed catch or recovery, no foul.
(f) A player on the ground including a ball carrier who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet first.	No	Unnecessary roughness. (9-4-3g)
(g) A player obviously out of the play or not in the immediate vicinity of the runner	No	Unnecessary roughness. (9-4-3g)
(h) A player who receives a "blindside" block with forcible contact not initiated with open hands.	No	Illegal blindside block. (9-4-3n)

**3.3.4 SITUATION A:** Time expires for the second period as A11 runs the ball beyond the line to gain and A11 then throws a forward pass to A9 who scores a touchdown.

**RULING:** Team B will likely accept the penalty, which will negate the touchdown. The period will not be extended as A's foul contained a loss-of-down provision.

**3.4.2 SITUATION A:** Near the end of the second period, there is a false start by A1 clearly for the purpose of stopping the clock: (a) in the first or third periods or with two minutes or more remaining in the second or fourth periods; or (b) with less than two minutes remaining in the second or fourth periods. When will the clock be restarted?

**RULING:** In (a), because the foul was the only reason for stopping the clock, it will be restarted on the ready-for-play signal following the enforcement of the penalty unless the referee feels compelled to start the clock on the snap by 3-4-6. In (b), Team B shall have the option to start the clock on the snap. (3-4-7)

**3.4.2 SITUATION B:** K1's kickoff is caught by R1 and returned to R's 30. While the kick is in flight, R2 blocks K2 below the waist on R's 40.

**RULING:** If the penalty is declined, R will have the ball first and 10 on R's 30. Since the clock is stopped for a new series following a legal kick, the clock will start with the snap. If the penalty is accepted, K will rekick from R's 45. The clock will start when the kick is touched other than first touching by K. When a free kick down is replayed, the clock will start the same as it does on the original free kick. (3-4-1, 3-4-3)

**3.4.6 COMMENT:** Is there suggested guidance in determining situations where a team may be conserving or consuming time illegally and the referee should consider starting/stopping the clock as in Rule 3-4-6 outside of the final two minutes of either half? Yes. In general, the referee must be aware of game situations where A could manipulate the clock by repeatedly committing dead-ball fouls, or in other ways, intentionally try to restart the play clock in a situation when it would normally start on the ready in order to manipulate the remaining time.

The following represent examples of plays where the referee may need to start or stop the clock to ensure competitive fairness to both teams: a) With 19 seconds remaining on the game clock but only 5 seconds remaining on the play clock, the game clock is running in the first period. Team K is in punt formation on fourth down. K will apparently be kicking into a strong wind. Lineman K62 commits a 'false start' just before the snap. If this occurs, K should be penalized 5 yards if accepted. The referee shall invoke Rule 3-4-6 and start the clock on the snap. b) With the game clock running, A2 does not have his chinstrap snapped as the ball is about to become "live." In this case, the play clock should be stopped and the player removed from the game for one play unless halftime or overtime intermission occurs. The clock will start on the snap, unless the referee invokes Rule 3-4-6 if he felt an advantage was intentionally gained. This list is not intended to be exhaustive but only to offer guidance to referees.

**3.4.7 SITUATION C:** With less than a minute remaining in the game, Team B trails 21-20. B1 commits a holding foul during the down. Following the play, A2 commits an unsportsmanlike conduct foul.

**RULING:** The fouls are administered separately and in order of occurrence. In addition, Team A is given the choice of starting the clock on the snap. If Team A declines to start the clock on the snap, Team B is then given the option of starting the clock on the snap. With Team B trailing, Team B will likely choose to start the clock on the snap. (10-1-3)

**3.5.10 SITUATION H:** B10 has (a) a two-attachment point chin strap or (b) a four-attachment point chin strap and the umpire notices that not all attachment points are secured.

**RULING:** This is a foul in both situations. All available attachment points must be secured and all helmets must be secured with a four-attachment points system. An official's time-out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play. (1-5-5, 1-5-6, 3-5-10e)

**3.5.10 SITUATION I:** Team A's players are wearing jerseys: (a) just covering the shoulder pads, and their midribs are exposed; or (b) that extend below the top of their pants, but some players have them tucked in, while others have them outside their pants; or (c) that are waist length, but have tucked them up under the bottom of their shoulder pads; or (d) with an undershirt that extends below the top of the waist line of the pants and is not tucked in.

**RULING:** The jerseys in (a) and (c) are not legal. An official's time-out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs. This incident should be reported to the proper administrative authorities at the visiting team's school and the state association office. In (b) and (d), the jerseys (and undershirts) of all players will have to be tucked inside the pants upon discovery and tucking the jerseys may not delay the ready-for-play signal. If repair cannot be made without delaying the ready-for-play signal, an official's time-out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play.  
[1-5-1b (1), 1-5-5, 1-5-6, 3-5-2b, 3-5-10e]

**3.5.10 SITUATION J:** During a play during the first period, B1 is detected wearing: (a) an earring; or (b) a necklace; or (c) a ring; or (d) a medical alert bracelet; or (e) a religious medallion.

**RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), an official's time-out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs. B1 must comply with the rules before further participation.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play. In (d), legal if securely attached to the body and visible, if necessary, and judged by the game official not to present a hazard to the wearer or other players. In (e), the medallion must be taped to the body. [1-5-3c (6)]

**3.5.10 SITUATION K:** Near the end of the first period, A1 is discovered to be wearing: (a) shoes with cleats which are more than ½ inch in length; or (b) a slippery substance on his uniform, exposed body part or hands; or (c) a knee brace which has an unpadded strip of metal across the front of the leg; or (d) a multicolored towel or streamer attached at the waist; or (e) a helmet without an exterior warning label.

**RULING:** In (a), (b) and (e), an unsportsmanlike penalty is assessed from the succeeding spot because the head coach has previously verified all players were using only legal equipment. In (c) and (d), an official's time out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs. If the equipment is detected between downs and can be removed or made legal without delaying the ready-for-play signal, the player may remain in the game.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play. (1-5-4)

**3.5.10 SITUATION L:** In the first period, the umpire observes three linemen for Team A wearing towels. One towel is solid blue, and the other two are white.

**RULING:** An official's time-out is declared and the player must be replaced for at least one down unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs. If the equipment is detected between downs and can be removed or made legal without delaying the ready-for-play signal, the player may remain in the game. If towels are worn by multiple players, they must all be of the same solid color, and must conform to the limitations on size and restrictions on manufacturers' logo/trademark reference.

**COMMENT:** Any time the play clock is interrupted for improperly worn or missing equipment by a player, the player is to be removed from the contest for at least one play. [1-5-3a (5) a]

## SUBSTITUTIONS

**3.7 COMMENT:** A procedure has been adopted to provide an equitable penalty as it relates to illegal substitution. The following are examples of the most common situations and rulings:

1. If a replaced player or substitute attempts to leave the field, but does not get off prior to the snap, the foul is considered as having occurred simultaneously with the snap and the penalty is enforced from the previous spot. (3-7-4, 10-4-2a)
2. If a replaced player does not leave the field within three-seconds, it is a dead-ball, illegal-substitution foul. (3-7-1)
3. If a replaced player or substitute goes off the field on the wrong side of the field during the down, it is an illegal substitution (live-ball foul). (10-4-2a)
4. If an entering substitute is not on his team's side of the neutral zone at the snap, illegal substitution is considered to have occurred simultaneously with the snap. If he then participates, it becomes a live-ball foul, illegal participation. (3-7-5, 9-6-4a)
5. When a replaced player or substitute leaves on the wrong side of the field or goes across the end line prior to the snap, it is a dead-ball foul for illegal substitution. (3-7-2, 10-4-5b)
6. If a replaced player or substitute enters the field during the down but does not participate, it is a foul for illegal substitution by a non-player, a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot. (3-7-5, 9-6-4a)

In addition, the chart below should help game officials distinguish the actions of various team members who enter the field, during the down, but do not participate.

<b>Play Situation (Team member does not participate)</b>			
Non-Player enters during down	3-7-6	5 yards	Succeeding spot (non-player)
Substitute enters during down	3-7-6	5 yards	Succeeding spot (non-player)
Player re-enters during down after being on field of play for previous down and then leaving the field	3-7-3	5 yards	Non-player foul
Player who should be on field of play enters during down (11th or fewer player)	3-7-6	5 yards	Succeeding spot (non-player)

**5.1.1 SITUATION A:** What procedure is used to correct an error if it is discovered: (a) a fifth down has been run and the discovery is prior to the ball becoming live after a new series of downs is awarded and prior to the declaration of the end of any period; or (b) A has not been given its allotted four downs and the discovery is prior to the ball becoming live after a new series of downs is awarded and prior to the declaration of the end of any period?

**RULING:** In both cases, the number of the next down can be corrected by the referee. In (a), play will revert to where it was before the fifth down was run after the enforcement of any personal, dead ball or unsportsmanlike fouls that occurred during the down. In (b), the referee can declare the proper next down and resume play.

**5.1.1 SITUATION B:** Second down and six. On the last play of the third period, A38 gains three yards. After the play, the down-marker indicator is flipped to fourth down. Following a brief pause to ensure no reason to defer ending the period, the referee holds the ball over his head to signify the end of the period. Both teams change ends of the field and the chains are reversed. Before the ball is snapped for the first play of the fourth period, Team A's coach notifies the game officials that he believes there is an error in the down.

**RULING:** The third period officially ended when the referee held the ball over his head, and therefore the down error may not be corrected.

**5.1.1 SITUATION C:** During a fifth-down play. Team A is flagged for: (a) illegal formation; (b) holding; (c) twisting the face mask; (d) taunting; or (e) fighting.

**RULING:** The penalties are not enforced in (a) or (b). In (c), (d) and (e), the penalty is enforced as a dead-ball foul before Team B snaps the ball. In (e), the offending player is also disqualified.

**5.1.1 SITUATION D:** The ball is on the 50-yard line with 10 yards to go for a first down. The down-marker indicator erroneously indicates fourth down when Team K punts on what is actually: (a) third down or (b) fifth down. R6 returns the punt for an apparent touchdown. Prior to the try and without the period ending, it is brought to the attention of the game officials that the down-marker indicator was in error.

**RULING:** In (a), the score is cancelled and the ball is returned to the 50-yard line, third down and 10 for Team A. In (b), the fifth down was run in error, the score is cancelled and the ball is returned to the 50-yard line, first down and 10 for R.



**6.1.3 SITUATION A:** After the ready for play and prior to the ball being kicked, Team K has five players to the left of the kicker and five players to the right of the kicker with the ball spotted at the K40. The potential kicker, K1, is lined up at the K32 to begin his kick and all other K players are clearly outside of the K35. As K1 approaches the kick, he suddenly slows down and K2 then kicks an onside kick that is recovered by R1.

**RULING:** Team K has committed a free kick infraction and the ball shall be blown dead immediately. R is given the option to accept the distance penalty of 5 yards for the dead ball foul.

**6.1.3 SITUATION B:** After the ready for play and prior to the ball being kicked, Team K has five players to the left of the kicker and five players to the right of the kicker with the ball spotted at the K40. Prior to the ball being kicked, player K2: (a) has both feet just beyond the K35 (toward midfield); (b) has a foot touching the K35; (c) has one foot touching beyond the K35 toward the K36 and one foot behind the K35; or (d) K has both feet clearly beyond the K35 (toward midfield) but his hand is touching behind the K35 (toward K's goal line).

**RULING:** Legal in (a) and (d). Free kick infraction in (b) and (c).

**6.1.4 SITUATION:** After the ready for play and as the ball is being kicked, Team K has three players to the left of the kicker and seven players to the right of the kicker.

**RULING:** It is a free kick infraction by K. The ball shall be blown dead immediately and R given the option to accept the distance penalty of 5 yards for the dead-ball foul.

**COMMENT:** Communication between the game officials and both teams is critical and the referee should ensure that all opportunities for assembling in a proper formation have been given before sounding the ready-for-play signal.

**6.1.9 SITUATION A:** The free kick by K1 is possessed by R1 who: (a) is airborne and alights with one foot in contact with the sideline at his 26, or (b) contacts the sideline on the 26 after completing the catch.

**RULING:** In (a) and (b), R will put the ball in play, first and 10, from its 26-yard line because R1 caused the ball to go out of bounds at the 26. (2-4-1)

**6.1.9 SITUATION B:** The free kick by K1 from K's 40-yard line: (a) is touched by R1 at R's 5-yard line and goes out of bounds at the 8-yard line; or (b) is muffed by R1 at his 15-yard line and then touched by K2 before it rolls out of bounds at R's 10-yard line; or (c) bounces out of bounds on R's 30-yard line untouched by R or K.

**RULING:** In (a) and (b), the ball belongs to R at the inbounds spot. In (c), it is a foul by K. The receivers may accept the 5-yard penalty and have K free kick from K's 35-yard line, accept a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot, take the ball at the inbounds spot at R's 35 which is 25 yards beyond the previous spot, or take the ball at the inbounds spot. (2-41-4, 6 1-10)

**6.1.9 SITUATION C:** R1 is running near a sideline as he attempts to catch a free kick in flight. R1 has: (a) both feet inbounds; or (b) one foot on the sideline when he reaches through the plane of the sideline. The ball bounces off his hands and lands out of bounds.

**RULING:** In (a), the ball is not yet out of bounds until it hit the ground there. Since R1 touched it, he caused it to go out of bounds and R will have the ball at the inbounds spot. In (b), since R1 is out of bounds when the ball is touched, the kicker has caused the ball to be out of bounds.

**6.1.9 SITUATION D:** K1 tries an onside kick from K's 40-yard line. As the ball bounces near the sideline, the ball is muffed out-of-bounds by K2 at R's 49.

**RULING:** R may accept the 5-yard penalty and have K free kick from K's 35-yard line, accept a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot, take the ball at the inbounds spot at R's 35 which is 25 yards beyond the previous spot, or take the ball at the inbounds spot.

**6.1.9 SITUATION E:** K1 squib kicks the kickoff to R's 30 where (a) R muffs the ball out-of-bounds at R's 28, (b) R muffs the ball toward the side lines where K2 muffs the ball out-of-bounds at R's 28.

**RULING:** In both (a) and (b), R would put the ball in play at R's 28.

**6.1.9 SITUATION F:** K1 tries an onside kick from K's 40. K2 muffs the ball at K's 48, and the ball bounces off R and is muffed out of bounds by K3 at R's 45. K did not force the ball into R.

**RULING:** R can either choose to take the ball at K's 48 at the spot of first touching or at R's 45 where the ball went out of bounds.

**6.1.9 SITUATION G:** Team K free kicks from its own 40-yard line. K1's onside kick is rolling at K's 46-yard line, when K2 muffs the ball, which then touches R3's leg and goes out of bounds at K's 48-yard line.

**RULING:** Since R's touching is now ignored, this is a free kick that went out of bounds. R may accept the 5-yard penalty and have K free kick from K's 35-yard line, accept a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot, take the ball at the inbounds spot at R's 35 which is 25 yards beyond the previous spot, or take the ball at the inbounds spot. (10-5-1a)

**6.1.9 SITUATION H:** Team K, after accepting the penalties for multiple R fouls, is now free kicking from R's 20-yard line. In attempting to onside kick, the ball goes out of bounds untouched in the field of play.

**RULING:** R may accept the 5-yard penalty and have K free kick from R's 25-yard line, accept a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot or take the ball at the inbounds spot.

**6.1.9 SITUATION I:** R returns K's scrimmage kick for a touchdown and (a) during the kick, K commits a holding foul, or (b) during the runback, K commits a foul for blocking below the waist.

**RULING:** In (a), the succeeding spot from this play is the goal line (touchdown), therefore R may accept the foul with the distance penalty enforced on the try or decline the foul. In either case, the touchdown will score; however, since the foul occurred before the change of possession, there is no option to enforce the distance penalty from the succeeding kickoff. In (b), because the foul occurred on a play in which a touchdown was scored after the change in possession, R can count the touchdown and have the foul enforced on the try or on the succeeding kickoff per 8-2-3. (6-1-9, 8 2-3)

**7.2.5 SITUATION A:** Team A comes to its line of scrimmage with: (a) ends 80 and 71, tackles 70 and 81, guards 60 and 61, and center 50; or (b) ends 80 and 81, guards 72 and 75, tackles 62 and 63, and center 50 and one halfback numbered 76.

**RULING:** The formations in both (a) and (b) are legal because there are five players numbered 50-79 on the offensive line. In (a), a player at tackle wearing 81 and the end wearing 71 are both ineligible receivers; 81 because of his position and 71 because of his number. In (b), number 76, a halfback, is not an eligible receiver because of the number he is wearing. (7-5-6a)

## TABLE 7-5

Pass Interference (7-5-7, 7-5-10)	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs be- hind neutral zone?	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs in neutral zone (including ENZ)?	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs beyond the ENZ?
Accidentally striking ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be pass interference, yes, 15 yards. If no interference, no.
Muff by ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be pass interference, yes, 15 yards. If no interference, no
Catch by ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be pass interference, yes, 15 yards. If no interference, no.
Ineligible Downfield (7-5-12)	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs behind neutral zone?	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs in neutral zone (including ENZ)?	Is it a foul if the act/touching occurs beyond the ENZ?
Accidentally striking ineligible	No	No	If not yet touched, yes, 5 yards
Muff by ineligible	No	No	If not yet touched, yes, 5 yards
Catch by ineligible	No	No	If not yet touched. yes, 5 yards
Illegal Touching (7-5-13)	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs behind neutral zone?	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs in neutral zone (including ENZ)?	Is it a foul if the act/ touching occurs beyond the ENZ?
Accidentally striking ineligible	No	No	No
Muff by ineligible	Yes, 5 yards, loss of down	Yes. 5 yards, loss of down	Yes, 5 yards, loss of down
Catch by ineligible	Yes, 5 yards, loss of down	Yes, 5 yards, loss of down	Yes, 5 yards, loss of down

**8.5.3 SITUATION D:** A1 is running on an attempted two-point conversion. Immediately prior to reaching the goal line, B1 contacts A1, who fumbles the ball forward into B's end zone and the ball touches the ground and continues to roll. In order to prevent recovery, B2 bats/kicks the ball over the end line.

**RULING:** B has committed a foul for illegal kicking or batting. The result of the play is a touchback as A1's fumble is the force that put the ball into the end zone. The end of the run is where player possession was lost by A1. If A accepts the batting/kicking foul, it is enforced from the spot where possession was lost and A will replay the try.

**9.2.3 SITUATION A:** End A1 sprints from the line and then cuts sharply toward the middle of the field. A1 makes no attempt to block defensive back B1. B1 pursues A1 and pushes him from the side using his open hands. Contact is made on A1's upper arm before the pass is thrown. A1 was moving away from B1 when the contact occurred.

**RULING:** Illegal use of hands by B1. A defender may legally contact an eligible receiver beyond the neutral zone before the pass is in flight provided the receiver is a potential blocker. The contact may be a block or warding off the opponent who is attempting to block by pushing or pulling him. However, if the receiver is not attempting to block or has gone past the yard line occupied by the defender or is moving away, it is illegal for the defender to use hands in the manner described. In this situation, it is clear that A1 is no longer a potential blocker on B1. (2-3-5a, 7-5 7)

**9.4.8 SITUATION C:** In the first period, the assistant coach for Team A accidentally collides with the line judge while the line judge is covering a play. Team A is penalized 15 yards for illegal personal contact by a nonplayer. In the second period, the back judge is covering a play near the sideline and observes an assistant in the restricted area during the play.

**RULING:** This constitutes the first warning for Team A for violation of the restricted area and is not penalized in terms of yards. The occurrences of the illegal personal contact foul and the restricted area violation are not combined for penalty enforcement purposes. (9-4-8, 9-8-1k)

<b>Play Situation (Team member participates)</b>			
Non-Player enters during down	9-6-4a	15 yards	Basic spot (non-player, unless post-scrimmage kick enforcement applies)
Substitute enters during down	9-6-4a	15 yards	Basic spot
Player re-enters during down after being on field of play for previous down	9-6-4a	15 yards	Basic spot
Player who should be on field of play enters during down (11th or fewer player)	9-6-4a	15 yards	Basic spot

**9.8.1 SITUATION D:** In the first period, the coach for Team A commits an illegal contact foul by accidentally bumping a game official while the coach was out of the team box. Team A is penalized 15 yards. In the second period, the coach of Team A is penalized 15 yards for an unsportsmanlike conduct foul for disagreeing with a foul called by one of the game officials.

**RULING:** The first foul is for illegal personal contact and the second foul is for unsportsmanlike conduct. The penalties are not combined to force ejection of the head coach. (9-4-8).

**9.8.1 SITUATION G:** During the game: (a) A1 is discovered to be wearing an eye shield which is reflective, or (b) an entering substitute of B has a dark eye shield.

**RULING:** In (a), the coach of A is charged with an unsportsmanlike foul and A1 must leave the game until he is legally equipped. In (b), the substitute of B will not be allowed to become a player, and he will be ordered to leave the field and not re-enter until he is legally equipped. There is no foul in (b) because the substitute did not become a player. [1-5-3c (4)]

**9.8.1 SITUATION H:** During the pregame inspection, the game officials note that one of the teams is wearing jerseys that do not comply with the NFHS football jersey rule by: (a) having color on sections of the white (visitor) jersey where color is restricted; (b) having white on sections of the non-white (home) jersey where white is not permitted; or (c) other illegal markings or violations of the rule. The team is unable to change jerseys prior to the start.

**RULING:** In (a), (b) and (c), the team not in compliance is assessed an unsportsmanlike conduct foul against the head coach on the opening free kick for the team failing to wear legal equipment following verification. This is one of the two allowable unsportsmanlike fouls prior to ejection. The game officials should then report the incident to the state association for review as the state associations must ensure that this procedure is not used to circumvent the NFHS football rules. (1-5-1b)

**9.8.1 SITUATION I:** During an official's time-out for injury, may a player(s) of either team go near the sideline to communicate with the coach?

**RULING:** Yes. This is a period between downs. If a coach enters the field to attend the injured player, he may not confer with players. (9-8-1f NOTE)

**9.8.1 SITUATION J:** A fight breaks out between several opposing players and: (a) two substitutes from each team come onto the field; or (b) one substitute of A enters and three enter from B's team box.

**RULING:** In (a), the substitutes are disqualified and the penalties cancel. In (b), since all fouls are dead-ball fouls, the one 15-yard penalty on A will cancel one by B resulting in two 15-yard penalties on B. In both cases, those who were fighting will be disqualified. (2-11; 9-4-1; 10-1-1; 10-2-5a, b)

**9.8.1 SITUATION K:** A1 is discovered to have participated in a play with (a) a white unmarked towel hanging from his belt, which has a tacky substance on it, or (b) a piece of white unmarked plastic hanging from his belt.

**RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the material does not meet the requirements of the rule and is illegal. Since the player was in the game while illegally equipped, a 15-yard penalty is assessed to the head coach and the illegal equipment must be removed for A1 to continue to play. (9-8-1h)

**9.9.1 SITUATION A:** A is trailing by five points near the end of the fourth period and has no time-outs left when the play ends on B's 3. The referee does not feel there is any illegal delay in unpiling and that time will definitely expire before the ball is ready and A gets in position to snap. Quarterback A1 reaches into the pile of players and grabs the ball. He then throws the ball to midfield.

**RULING:** Even if the referee imposes a 15-yard penalty for an unsportsmanlike act A has accomplished its goal - the clock is stopped and it can get in position and be ready to run a play even though the clock will start on the ready-for-play signal. This situation illustrates when it is appropriate for the referee to invoke the unfair-act rule and handle the situation in any way that the referee feels is equitable. In this specific situation the referee should wind the clock and end the game without giving A an opportunity to put the ball in play.

**COMMENT:** The rule also gives the referee authority to take appropriate action whenever someone not subject to the rules hinders play. (3 4-6)

**9.9.1 SITUATION B:** From a field goal formation, potential kicker A1 yells, "Where's the tee?" A2 replies, "I'll go get it" and goes legally in motion toward his team's sideline. Ball is snapped to A1 who throws a touchdown pass to A2.

**RULING:** Unsportsmanlike conduct prior to snap. The ball should be declared dead and the foul enforced as a dead-ball foul.

**COMMENT:** Football has been and always will be a game of deception and trickery involving multiple shifts, unusual formations and creative plays. However, actions or verbiage designed to confuse the defense into believing there is problem and a snap isn't imminent is beyond the scope of sportsmanship and is illegal.

**9.9.4 SITUATION:** Team A scores: (a) on a try where the line of scrimmage was the 3-yard line and the tee was placed at the 10-yard line, or (b) on a field goal where the line of scrimmage was B's 20-yard line and the tee was placed at B's 27-yard line. In both cases, the referee determines during the kick that the kicker was using an illegal kicking tee.

**RULING:** In (a), the basic spot is the previous spot and fouls by the offense behind the basic spot are enforced from the spot of the foul, therefore the penalty will be 15 yards marked from the 10-yard line, and if accepted, will result in a replay of the try from B's 25-yard line. In (b), the basic spot is the previous spot and fouls by the offense behind the basic spot are enforced from the spot of the foul, therefore the penalty will be 15 yards marked from the 27-yard line, and if accepted, will result in a replay of the down from B's 42-yard line.

**10.2.2 SITUATION C:** A leads 21-20 with three seconds remaining in the fourth period. It is A's ball fourth and 1 yard to go on A's 45-yard line. A1 muffs the snap, and A2 holds while the ball is loose. B1 recovers and advances to A's 1-yard line where he is downed. During B1's advance, B2 clips at A's 10-yard line and time expires during the down. In an effort to prevent a double foul, Team B declines the penalty for A2's foul. The captain of A then wishes to decline the penalty for B2's foul.

**RULING:** The game is over as there is no accepted penalty on the play. (3-3-3a)