





TSSAA CONCUSSION POLICY

- Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by a health-care professional.
- The TSSAA Concussion Policy is found at the following link:
<https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/health-safety-information/Concussion-Policy-updated-12.2019.pdf>





TSSAA HEAT POLICY

- Requires that schools monitor the heat index at the site of the practice or competition and make adjustments based on the reading.
- The chart which shows the adjustments that must be made during a practice is found at the following link: <https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/health-safety-information/2022-23TSSAAHeatPolicy.pdf>





TSSAA HEAT POLICY

Modifications for Football Competition when the Heat Index is 95°-104°
Officials shall stop the game for a heat time-out at the first dead ball after the halfway point of each quarter. If either team has possession of the ball inside the other team's twenty yard line, officials may delay this time out until either the offensive team scores or the ball is turned over.





TSSAA LIGHTNING POLICY

TSSAA follows the NFHS Guidelines found in NFHS Rules Books.

If lightning is seen or thunder is heard, IT IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO STRIKE YOU!! You must immediately suspend the activity.

You must follow the thirty minute rule. Once the activity is suspended, at least 30 minutes must pass after the last clap of thunder is heard or the last flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.

- Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count requires the clock to be reset and another 30 minute count to begin.





TSSAA LIGHTNING POLICY

- Protocol and chain of command for suspension of play should be discussed in the pre-game meeting with the game officials. **If a host school has a policy which bases suspension of play on proximity of lightning while using a lightning detector, this must be communicated to the game officials at the pre-game meeting.** It should be clearly stated who will be in charge of monitoring the lightning detector and notifying the game officials when lightning is in the area. **If cloud to ground lightning is seen or thunder is heard by the game officials before a lightning detector displays an alert, the game shall be suspended and the 30 minute count shall begin.**



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

Purpose:

To allow officials and representatives from both teams to review and discuss the Home facilities Emergency Action Plan and available emergency resources



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

Representatives:

- **Back Judge or Other Official Designee**
- **Home Game Administrator**
- **Athletic Trainers from both teams (if a team does not have an athletic trainer, then an assistant coach who is designated as the medical representative for that team)**
- **Any other medical personnel who will be present on the sidelines in an official capacity during the game (team physician, EMT, additional trainers, etc.)**
- **SRO or another representative from security**



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

When/Where/Who:

- Immediately following the game administrator meeting at midfield
- Home Game Administrator and home team athletic trainer (if available) will conduct the meeting



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

Agenda:

- Introductions: who everyone is (credentials) and what their skill set is
 - Who is CPR certified?
- Resources:
 - AED location and who will retrieve the AED if needed
 - Ambulance (if available) and how it will access the field: security representative will know this route into the stadium and be able to clear it quickly
 - If an ambulance is not available, who will be responsible for calling 911 after requested by the lead medical personnel?
 - Identification of the nearest hospital or medical center
 - Who will have scissors (for jerseys and shoulder pads), razor
 - Is there adequate cell phone service? If not, how will off-site emergency personnel be contacted?
 - Immobilization devices (neck collar, air casts/splints for fractures)
 - Cold water immersion tubs



TSSAA FOOTBALL PRE-GAME EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEETING

For games played at neutral sites:

- Each team should be given a copy of the Emergency Action Plan for the facility where the game is being played
- Administrative representatives from both schools should be present at the meeting
- The designated lead health care provider will conduct the meeting





2023 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

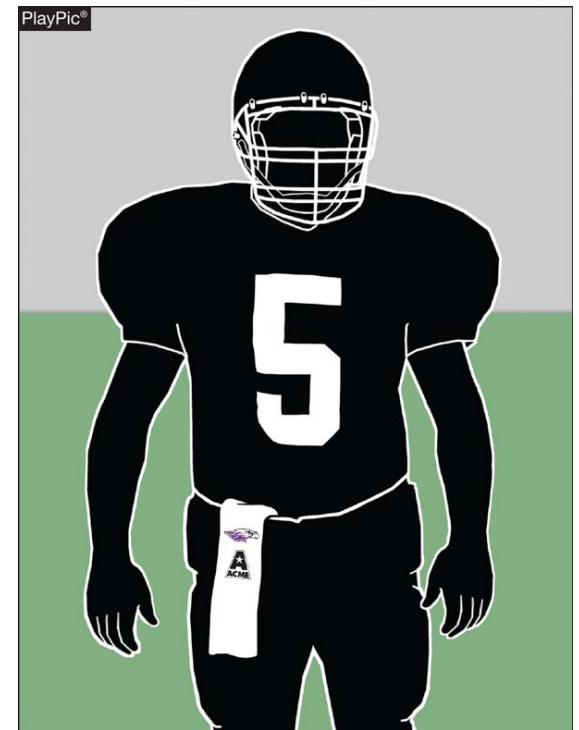




RULE 1-5-3a(5)a 4, 5 (NEW) UNIFORM ADORNMENTS - TOWELS

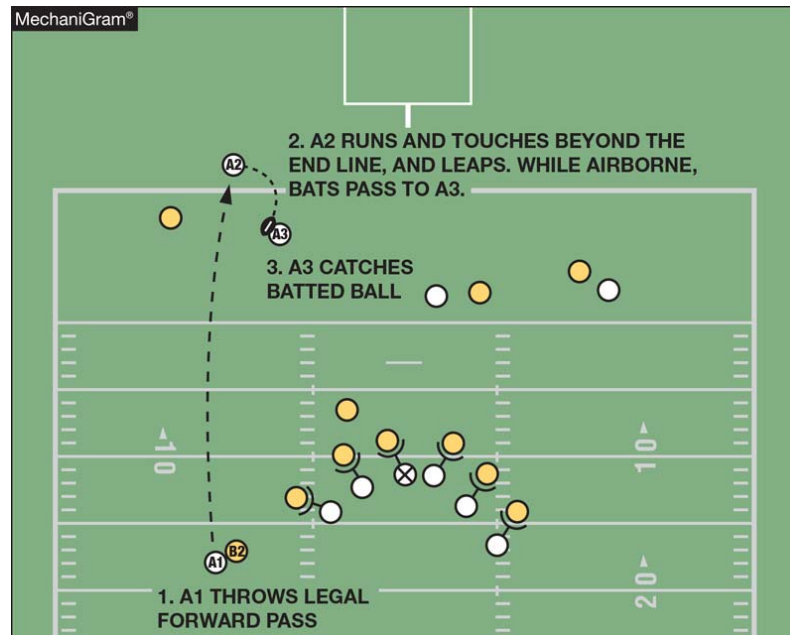
It is legal for a player to have one moisture-absorbing solid-colored towel that has no more than one visible manufacturer's logo/trademark reference that does not exceed 2¼ square inches and does not exceed 2¼ inches in any dimension; and has no more than one school logo/trademark reference that does not exceed 2¼ square inches and does not exceed 2¼ inches in any dimension.

Towels do not have to be the same solid color for each player.





RULE 2-29-1 PLAYER OUT OF BOUNDS



A2 is out of bounds as he has not had any body part touch inbounds. Therefore, when A2 intentionally touches the ball after being out of bounds, he has caused the ball to become dead. The pass is incomplete and A2 is guilty of illegal participation.



RULE 2-32-16d (NEW), 9-4-3g DEFENSELESS RECEIVERS

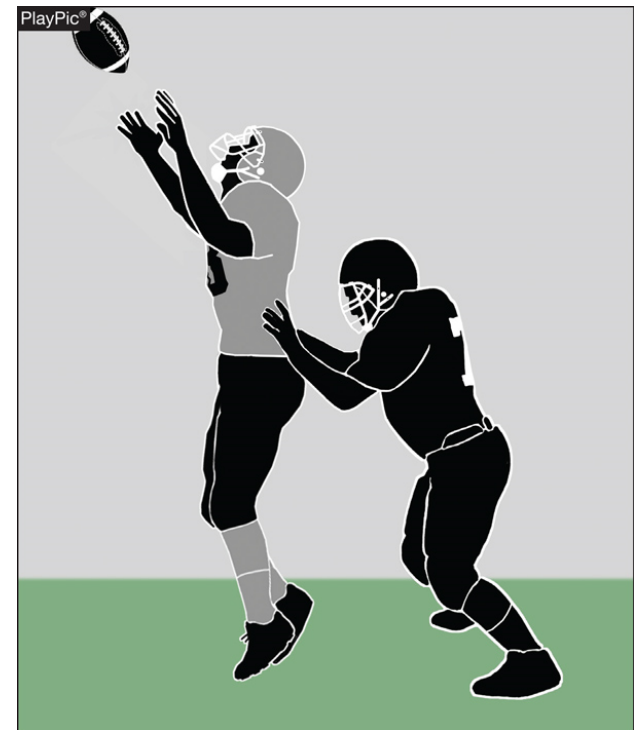
The receiver is not defenseless because the opponent is attempting to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around the receiver.





RULE 2-32-16d (NEW), 9-4-3g DEFENSELESS RECEIVERS

The receiver is not defenseless even if the contact by the opponent is forceful because the contact is initiated with open hands. The contact could be pass interference, however.





RULE 2-32-16d (NEW), 9-4-3g DEFENSELESS RECEIVERS

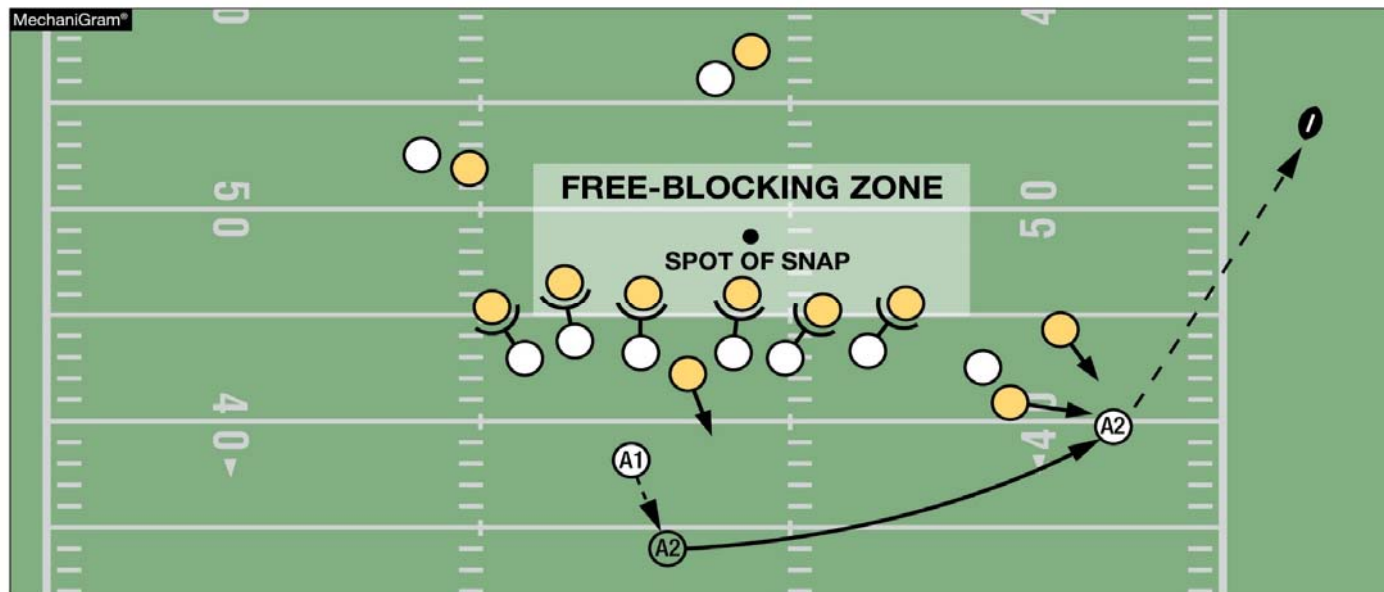
The receiver is not defenseless because of the incidental contact as a result of the defender making a play on the ball.



Rule Change

RULE 7-5-2d EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW), TABLE 7-5-2 d EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW),
TABLE 7-5 (1) d EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW)

INTENTIONAL GROUNDING EXCEPTION



This is a foul for intentional grounding since A2 is the second player to possess the ball. Only the player who possessed the ball after the snap ends may take advantage of the intentional grounding exception.





TABLE 7-5 2c (DELETED), 7-5 PENALTY INTENTIONAL PASS INTERFERENCE



The additional penalty for intentional pass interference as illustrated in PlayPic A has been deleted. The Team B player in the gray jersey will be penalized 15 yards for the pass interference foul committed in PlayPic B.





RULE 10-4, TABLE 10-4 (NEW), 10-6 (DELETED) BASIC SPOT

SUMMARY OF MANY FOULS THAT CAN OCCUR DURING RUNNING PLAYS AND THEIR PENALTIES AND BASIC SPOTS UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BY RULE

FOUL BY	SPOT OF FOUL	END OF PLAY	BASIC SPOT	REFERENCE
A	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-2d
A	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-2e
A	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-2f
A	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Foul Behind End of Run or Related Run – Spot of Foul	10-4-4d
A	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Foul Advance of End of Run or Related Run – Succeeding Spot	10-4-5e
B	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-2d
B	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Succeeding Spot	10-4-5f
B	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-2d
B	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Succeeding Spot	10-4-5f



NOTE: The basic spot is the spot of the foul when A commits any foul in his end zone for which the penalty is accepted (8-5-2c).

RULE 10-4 AND TABLE 10-4 CLARIFICATION

In compiling the multitude of changes to Rule 10 necessitated by the discussion around the proposed 2023 NFHS football rules change that was approved unanimously, there remains two additional clarifications to be made for coaches, administrators and game officials for the upcoming 2023 high school football season.

To summarize, if on-field game situations involving a loss of possession create a conflict between the end of the run or related run and the succeeding spot, game officials should apply the standard related to the end of the run as intended by the cleanup in Rule 10-4-8. This does not apply to fouls as detailed in Rule 10-4-5a through 10-4-5d which explicitly call for succeeding spot enforcement (the spot where the ball will next be put in play per Rule 2-41-10. Rule 2-41-9b will help clarify those situations in which conflict might exist.





RULE 10-4 AND TABLE 10-4 CLARIFICATION – (PLAY SITUATIONS)

PLAY 1: A first and ten on A's 40. The runner runs to B's 40 where he fumbles the ball forward and out of bounds at B's 30. During the run (before the fumble), A11 commits a holding foul at B's 38. **RULING:** The holding penalty is enforced from the end of the run (B's 40 - the fumble spot). A first and ten at the 50.

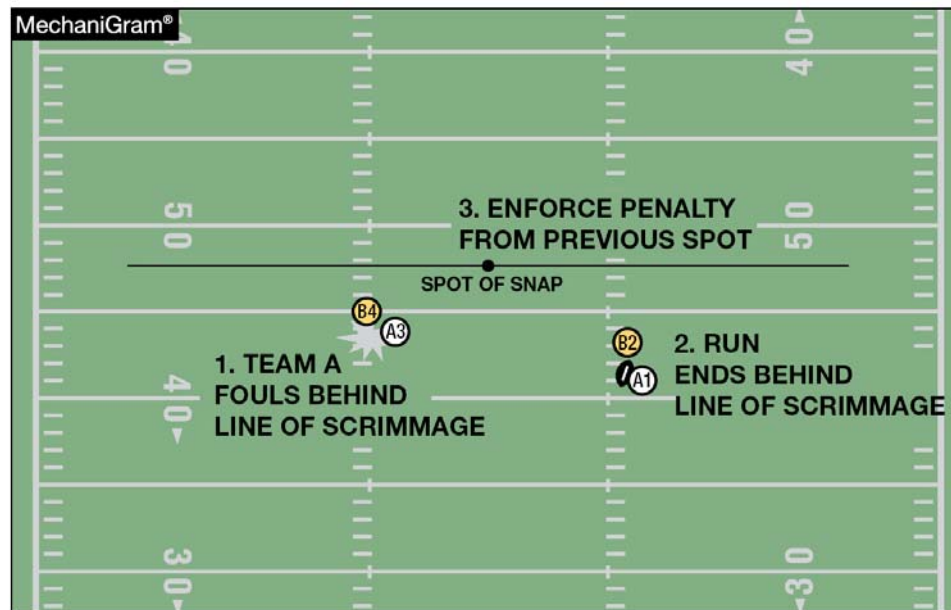
PLAY 2: A first and ten on A's 40. The runner runs to B's 40 where he fumbles the ball forward and out of bounds at B's 30. During the run, B18 commits a face mask foul anywhere on the field. **RULING:** The penalty for illegal face mask is enforced from the end of the run (B's 40 - fumble spot). A first and ten on B's 25.

PLAY 3: A first and ten on A's 40. The runner runs to B's 40 where he fumbles the ball forward and **B RECOVERS** at B's 30. During the run, B11 commits a face mask foul anywhere on the field. **RULING:** The penalty for illegal face mask is enforced from the end of the run (B's 40 - fumble spot). A first and ten on B's 25.





RULE 10-4-2d BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

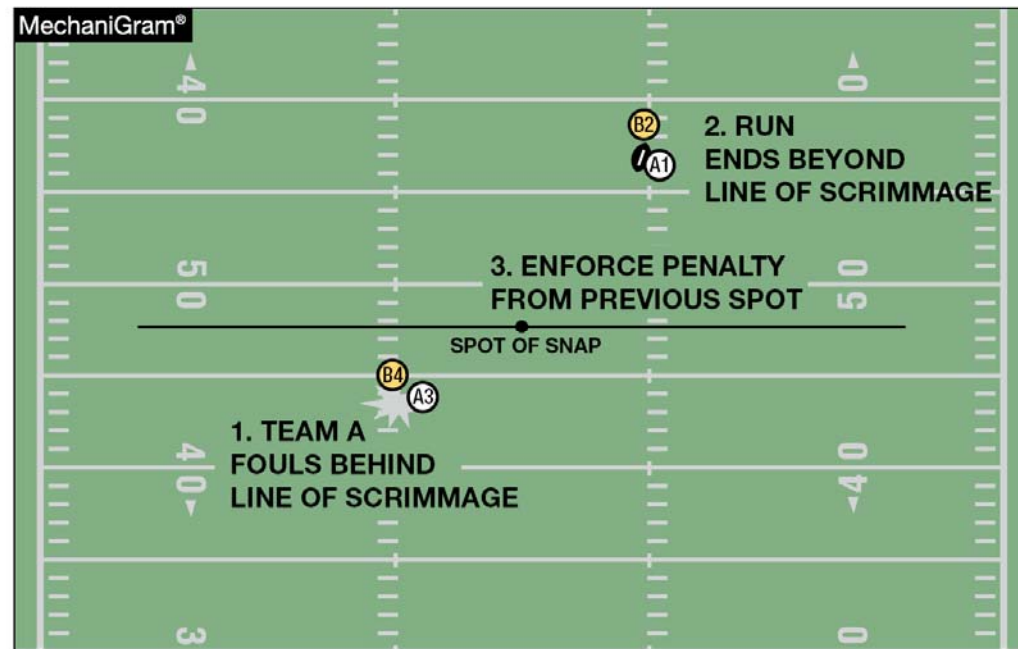


The basic spot is the previous spot for a foul by A when the run or related run ends behind the line of scrimmage where there is no change of possession.



RULE 10-4-2e

BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT



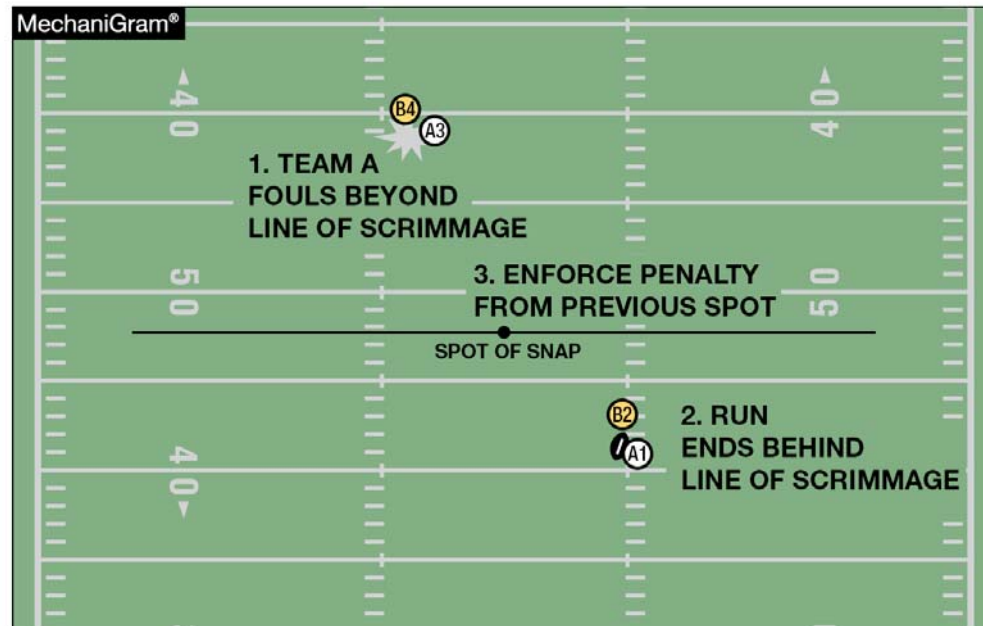
The basic spot is the previous spot for a foul by A that occurs behind the line of scrimmage when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage.





RULE 10-4-2f

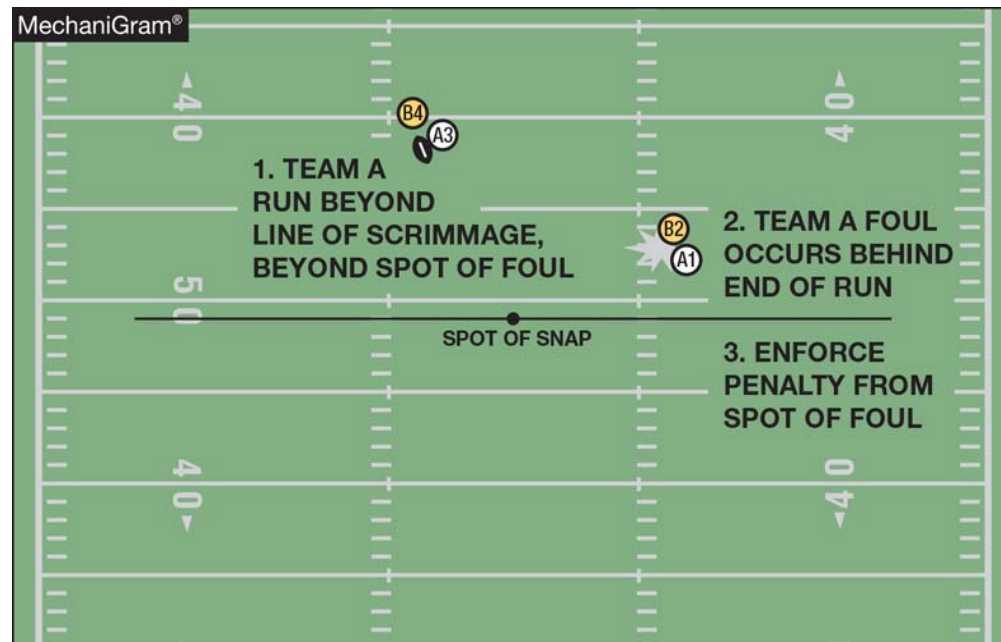
BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT



The basic spot is the previous spot for a foul that occurs beyond the line of scrimmage when the run or related run ends behind the line of scrimmage.



RULE 10-4-4d BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

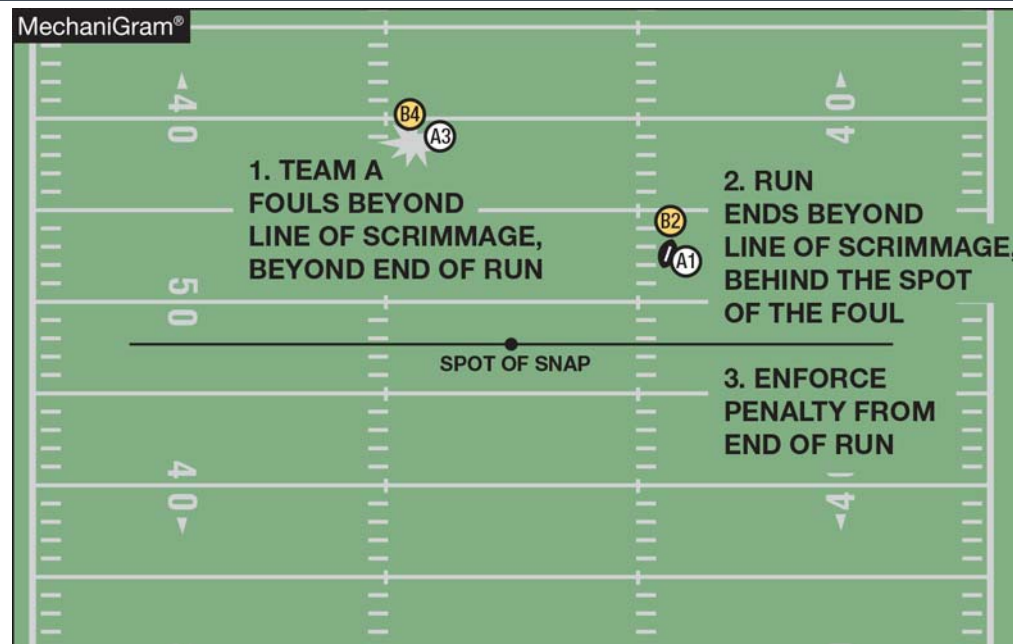


The basic spot is the spot of the foul by A that occurs beyond the line of scrimmage during a running play as defined in 10-3-2 when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage and the foul occurs behind the end of the run or related run.



RULE 10-4-5e

BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

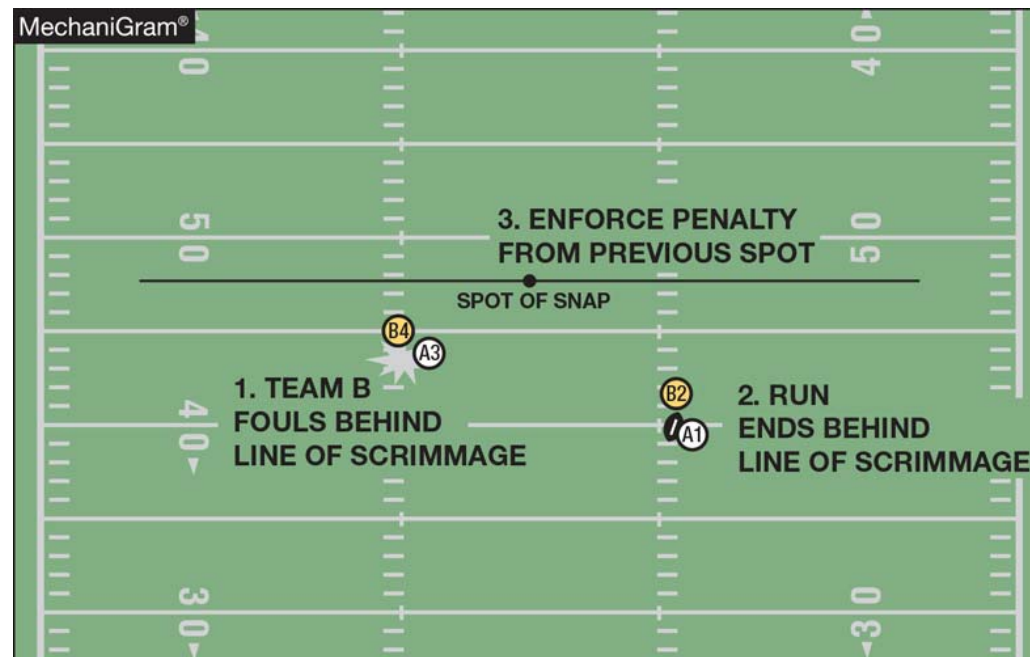


The basic spot is the spot of the foul for a foul by A that occurs beyond the line of scrimmage during a running play as defined in 10-3-2 when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage and the foul occurs in advance of the end of the run or related run.



RULE 10-4-2d

BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

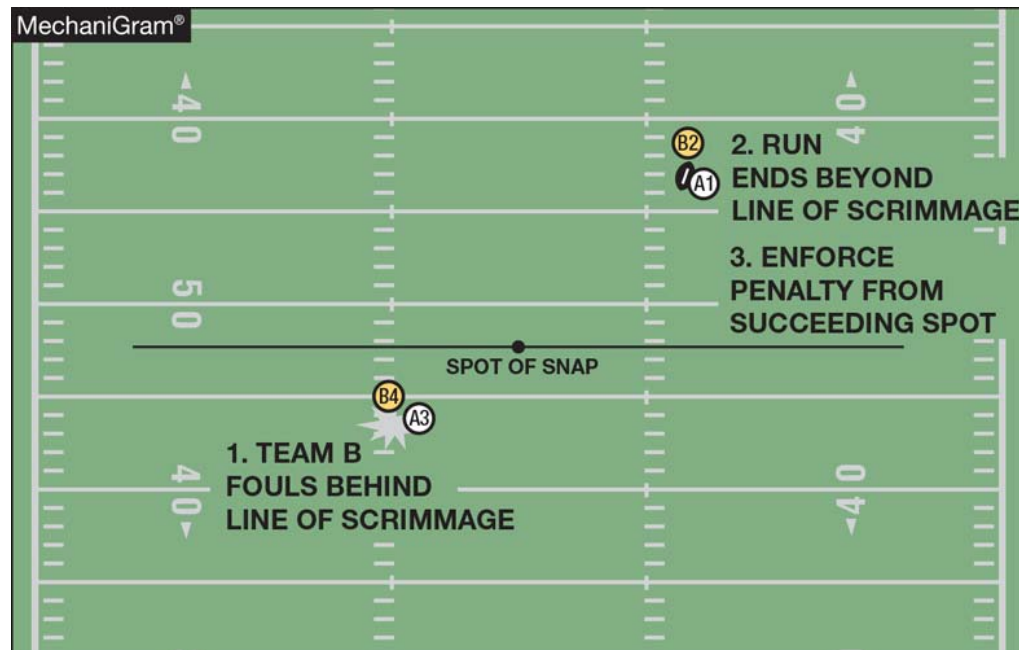


The basic spot is the previous spot for a foul by B when the run or related run ends behind the line of scrimmage where there is no change of possession.



RULE 10-4-5f

BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

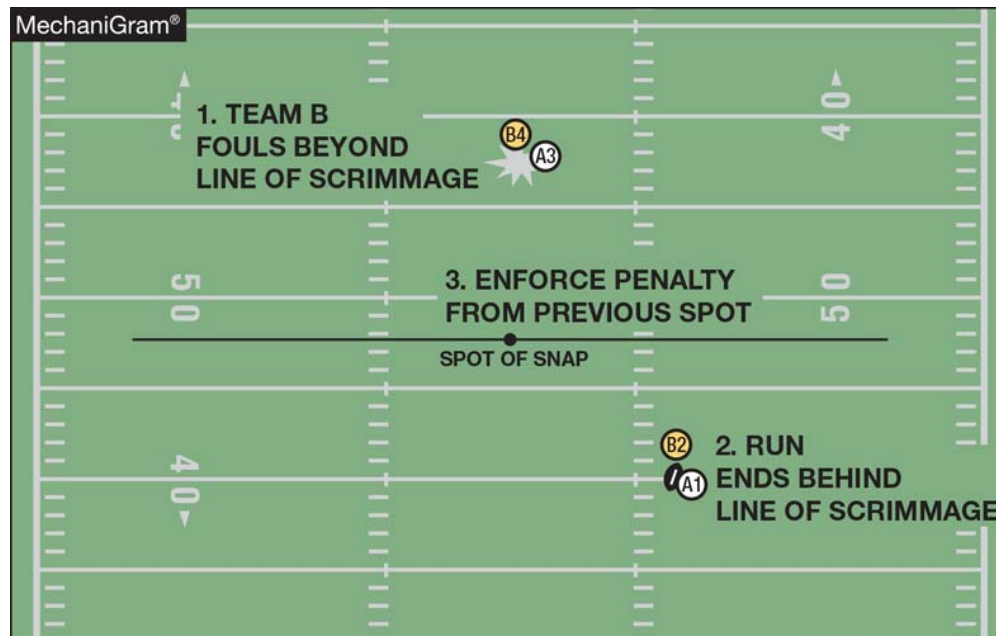


The basic spot is the succeeding spot for a foul by B when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage.



RULE 10-4-2d

BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

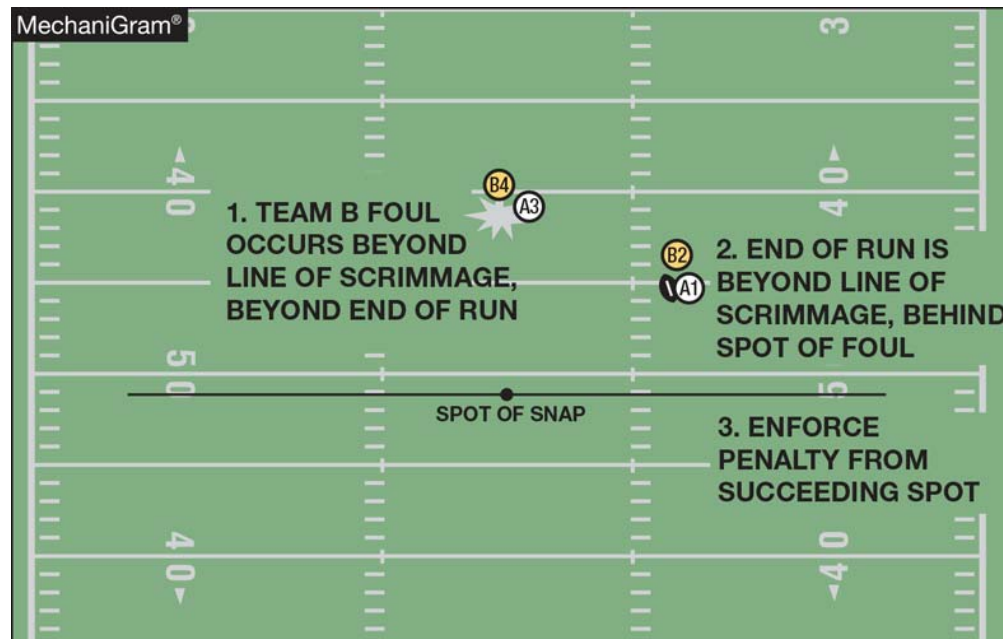


The basic spot is the previous spot for a foul by B when the run or related run ends behind the line of scrimmage where there is no change of possession.



RULE 10-4-5f

BASIC SPOT FOR RUNNING PLAY PENALTY ENFORCEMENT



The basic spot is the succeeding spot for a foul by B when the run or related run ends beyond the line of scrimmage and the foul occurs beyond the end of the run.

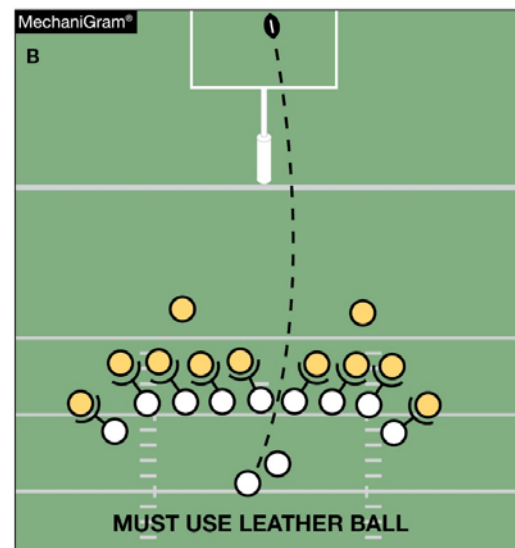
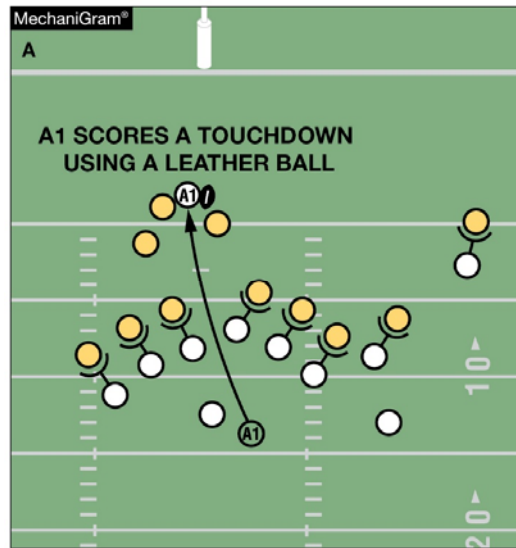


2023 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS





GAME BALLS RULE 1-3-3



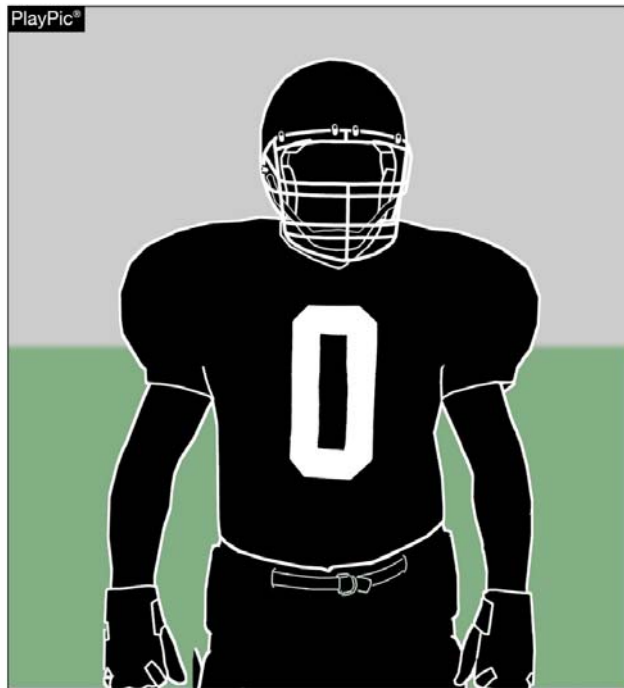
Any game official may order the ball changed between downs. Unless the ball is ordered changed by the Referee or another game official, Team A scoring a touchdown with one ball (MechaniGram A) may not request a different ball for the try (MechaniGram B) but may use a different approved ball for the ensuing free kick (PlayPic C).



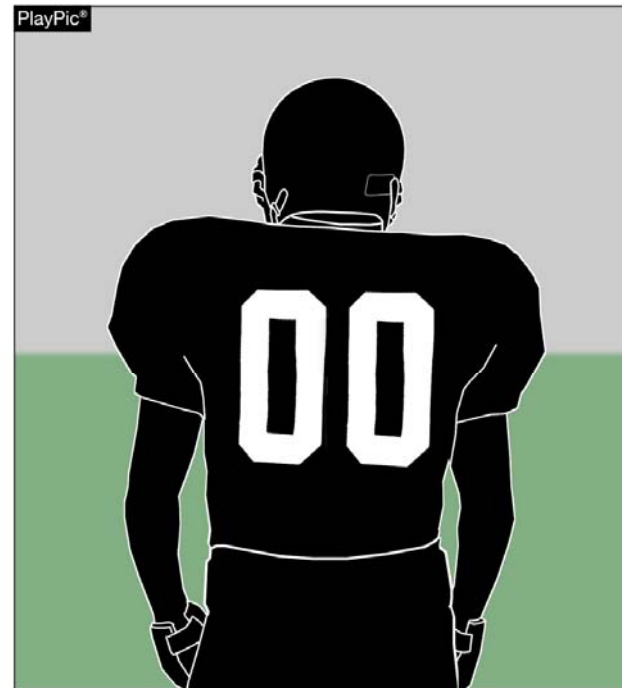
Rules Reminder

JERSEY NUMBERS

**RULE 1-4-3, FIGURE 1-4-2, RULE 1-5-1c(1),
RULE 7-2-5b EXCEPTIONS, RULE 7-5-6a**



Legal



Illegal

Each player shall be numbered 0 though 99 inclusive. Any number preceded by the digit zero such as "00" is illegal.





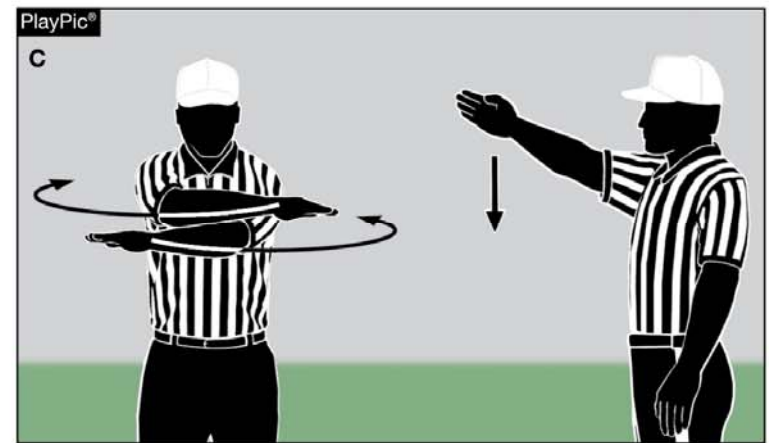
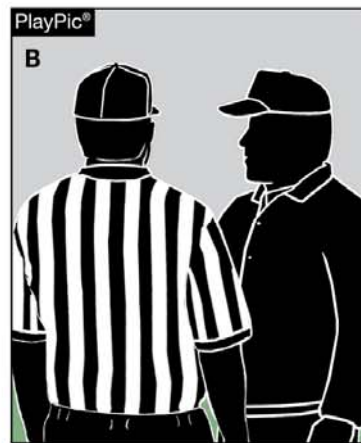
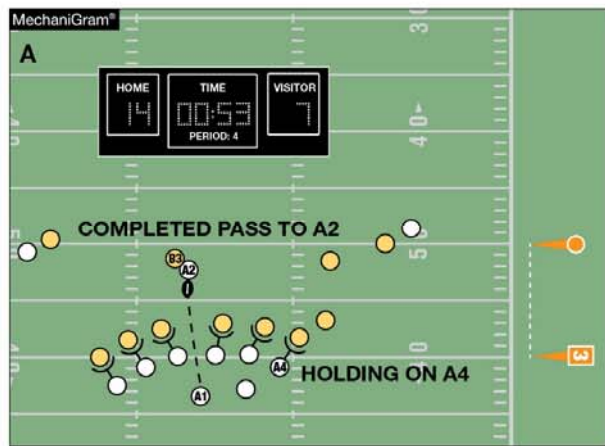
CHOP BLOCK RULE 2-3-8



A chop block is combination block by two or more teammates against an opponent other than the runner, with or without delay, where one of the blocks is below the waist and one of the blocks is above the waist.



GAME CLOCK OPTION RULE 3-4-7

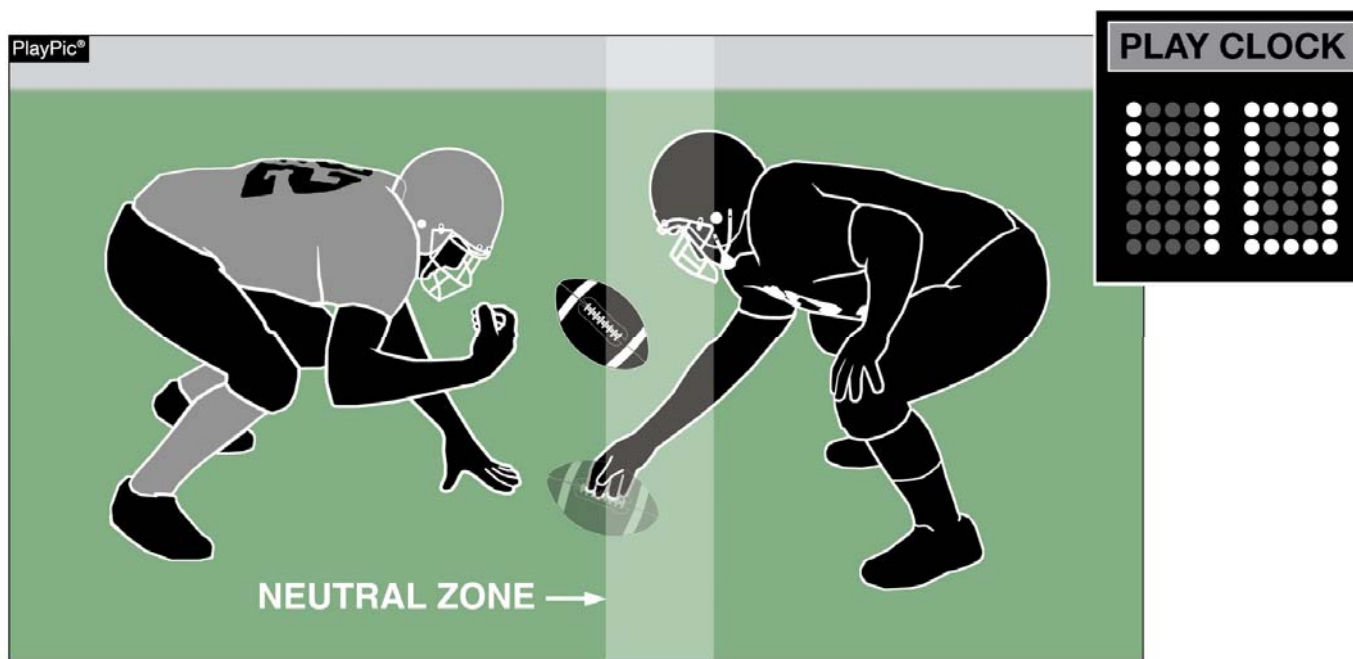


When a foul is committed with less than two minutes remaining in either half, the offended team has the option to start the game clock on the snap. In MechaniGram A, Team B trails when Team A fouls. Team B's coach is consulted (PlayPic B), choosing to decline the penalty and have the clock started on the snap (PlayPic C).





PLAY CLOCK RULE 3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTION 2. (NEW)

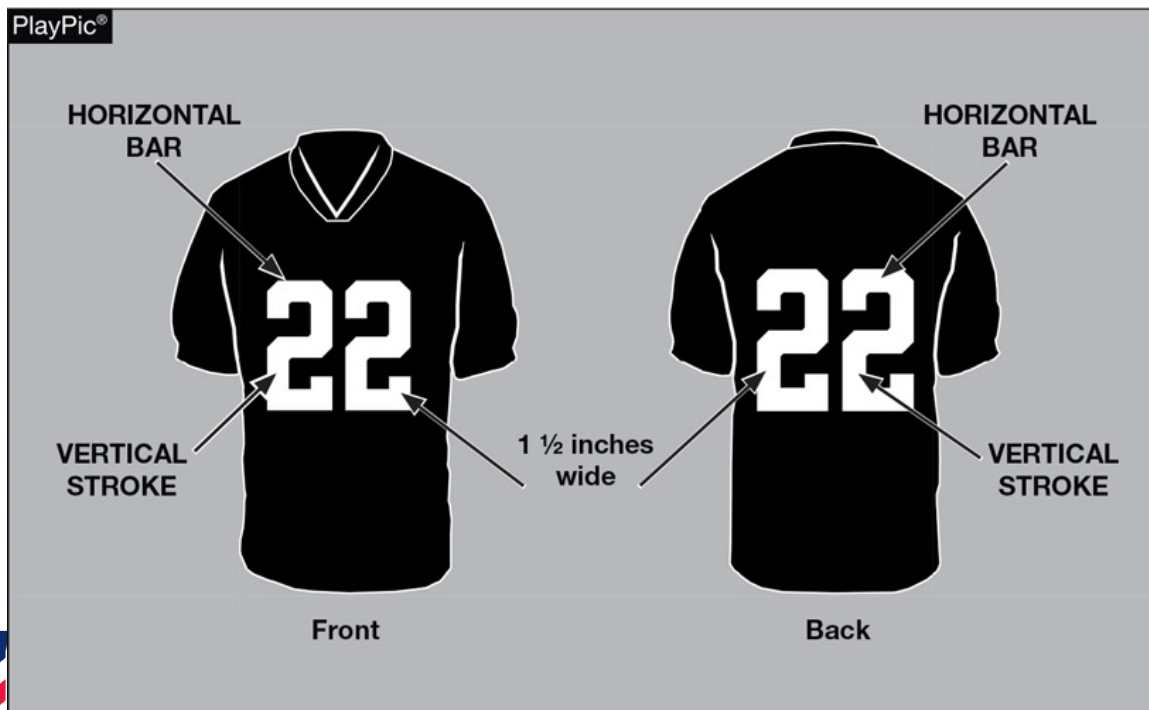


When the clock is stopped due to Rule 3-5-7i and Team B is the only team to foul, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds.



FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS

RULE 1-5-1c(3)



The entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) exclusive of any border(s) shall be approximately 1 1/2 – inches wide.

2024 - FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c; 1-5-1c(6)



Effective with the 2024 season, the entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) shall be a single solid color that clearly contrasts with the body color of the jersey.

2024 – FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c; 1-5-1c(6)



The style of the numbers on all four of these jerseys are legal now and will be in 2024 too.



2024 – FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c; 1-5-1c(6)



The style of the numbers on these jerseys are legal through the 2023 season. **The following four types of number designs will be illegal in 2024.**



2024 – FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6)



- ✓ The style of the numbers on these jerseys are legal through the 2023 season.
- ✓ The dark number without the border do not clearly contrast with the jersey and thus will not be legal come 2024.



2023 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



2023 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Helping the Runner
2. Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials
3. Game Management



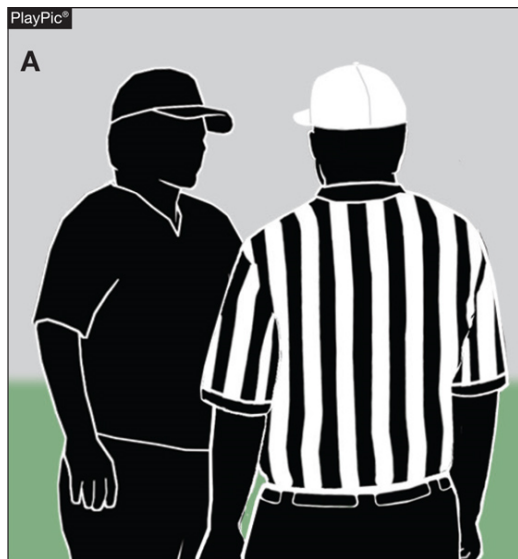
HELPING THE RUNNER

Rule changes have been made at higher levels allowing offensive teams to pile in behind and directly push the runner. Similar plays are trickling down to the high school level. Allowing teams to help the runner by illegal techniques swings the balance heavily in favor of the offense. Pushing the pile is legal; direct contact and pushing, pulling, lifting of the runner is not.





COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND GAME OFFICIALS



Game officials must actively listen to what a coach is saying, then respond factually and unemotionally (PlayPic A). If coaches show little respect for game officials and make derogatory comments, their players will likely treat game officials similarly (PlayPic B).



GAME MANAGEMENT

Each school community must take pride in hosting an athletic contest or event. Beginning with the arrival of players, game officials and spectators, each school must have a purposeful plan to address any and all expected issues, as well as the unforeseen. Meeting and greeting the visiting team is certainly the beginning of good sportsmanship. Clearly communicated information, such as parking information, location of ticket booths and entry gates, when given to the visitors is another step in assuring a great experience for all participants.





MERCY RULE- HS AND MS

- NFHS Football Rule 3-1-2 (Mercy Rule); Beginning in the second half, if the point differential is 30 points or more, a continuous clock will be used. The clock will only stop for charged time-outs, injuries, and scores. The try will always be an un-timed down. The clock shall start when the ball is kicked on the kickoff. If the point differential goes below 30 points, go back to regular timing rules.





UNIFORMS - HS AND MS

- The jerseys of the home team shall be a dark color that clearly contrasts to white.
- The jerseys of the visiting team shall be white.
- Penalty – Unsportsmanlike charged to the Head Coach.
- At the Middle School level, the home team wearing dark and the visiting team wearing white does not apply.



DRONES

- Drones are the responsibility of the home administration. The only time the Referee gets involved would be if the drone gets too low and interferes with the game.





LED LIGHTS

Audio, video, and/or lighting systems operators shall not create any noise or distraction that inhibits a team from hearing its signals or obstructs play. LED light shows cannot be conducted during the coin toss, when the ball is marked ready for play (the 40- or 25-second play clock is running), or during a live ball. In the event that audio, video, and/or lighting systems are distracting during the times not allowed, a warning will be given by the Referee to the home administrator to stop the distraction. If this continues after the warning, an unsportsmanlike penalty will be charged to the home team and a written report will be sent to TSSAA by the Referee.





2022-2023 TSSAA FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL





2023-24 TSSAA FOOTBALL INFORMATION



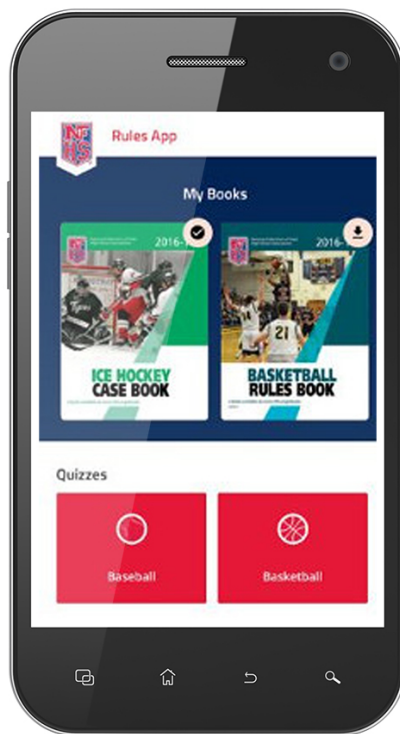


2023 PLAY-OFFS

- Play-Off Information
- 7 Man Crews will be used for 2nd round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship games.
- In play-offs, play clocks must be run by registered football officials.
- Chain Crews will be run by the schools in the 1st and 2nd Rounds. Local Associations assign chain crews for quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship games.



NEW NFHS RULES APP



- Rules App features:
 - Searchable
 - Highlight notes
 - Bookmarks
 - Quizzes for all sports
 - Easy navigation
 - Immediate availability
 - Free to paid members of the NFHS Coaches and Officials Associations
 - www.nfhs.org/erules for more information





QUESTIONS

