



# 2014 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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## **INTERPRETATION 1 (Rule 6-1-3):**

Any K player who at the ready for play is lined up more than 5 yards from the free-kick line must become the kicker. No K player other than the K player who must become the kicker is allowed to be more than 5 yards from the free-kick line after the ready for play. No other K player may kick the ball if any other K player is more than 5 yards from the free-kick line.

## **INTERPRETATION 2 (Rule 9-4-4):**

The incidental grasping of the face mask, any edge of the helmet opening, chin strap, or a tooth and mouth protector attached to the face mask (5-yard penalty) will be excluded from the list of fouls in Rule 9-4-3 now considered as Roughing the Passer in Rule 9-4-4. The grasping and twisting, turning or pulling the face mask, any edge of the helmet opening, chin strap, or a tooth and mouth protector attached to the face mask (15-yard penalty) will remain as a part of Rule 9-4-4 and enforced as Roughing the Passer, 15-yard penalty plus an automatic first down.

## **2014 NFHS Football Rules Book Clarifications**

(Underlining shows additions; strikethrough shows deletions.)

### **Page 29, Rule 2-14-3:**

**ART. 3 . . .** A free-kick formation is a formation used for a free-kick down. Following the ready-for-play for a free-kick down and until the ball is kicked:

- All R players must be behind their free-kick line.
- All K players, other than the kicker and holder, must be behind their free-kick line.

c. At least four K players must be on each side of the kicker.

d. No K players, with the exception of the kicker, may be more than five yards behind the kicking team's free-kick line. A player satisfies this rule when no foot is on or beyond the line 5 yards behind K's free kick. If one player is more than 5 yards behind the restraining line and any other player kicks the ball, it is a foul.

### **Page 70, Rule 9-3 PENALTY:**

**PENALTY:** ... Blocking After Signal (Art. 3, ~~S40 43~~, 15 yards); ...

### **Page 86, SIX-PLAYER, RULE 6b:**

**RULE 6:** a. K's free-kick line is its 30-yard line and R's free-kick line is the 40. b. K is required to have at least ~~three~~ two players on ~~one~~ each side of the kicker.

## **2014 NFHS Football Case Book Clarifications**

(Underlining shows additions; strikethrough shows deletions.)

### **Pages 24-25, 3.4.2 SITUATION C:**

Near the end of a period with 28 seconds left, K1 punts on fourth down. During the kick the covering official inadvertently sounds his whistle. The clock is stopped with 23 seconds remaining. **RULING:** The clock will be started with the ready-for-play signal. ~~The down must be replayed as part of that period.~~

### **Page 36, 4.2.3 SITUATION E:**

K's ball, fourth and 12, on R's 45-yard line. K8's punt is rolling on R's 16 when an inadvertent whistle sounds. R76 blocks K84 in the back on R's 22-yard line during the down prior to the

whistle. **RULING:** If the penalty is accepted, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot as K ~~would not~~ will be next to put the ball in play. If the penalty is declined, the inadvertent whistle during a loose-ball play dictates a replay of the down. (2-16-2h; 4-2-2j; 4-2-3a; 4-2-3d; 6-2-7; 10-4-3)

### **Pages 77-78, 9.4.3 COMMENT:**

Last sentence of the comment is revised. ...The game official must draw distinction between: ~~contact necessary to make a legal block or tackle, and that which targets defenseless players.~~

(1) Contact necessary to make a legal block or tackle; (2) Making unnecessary contact on a defenseless player; and (3) Targeting any player at any time. (2-32-16; 9-4-3i(3))

## **2014 NFHS Football Rules By Topic Clarifications**

(Underlining shows additions; strikethrough shows deletions.)

### **Page 75, Blocking After Fair-Catch Signal, Penalty:**

15 yards. Signal ~~40 43~~. Disqualification also if any foul is flagrant. Signal 47.

### **Pages 174-175, 9.4.3 COMMENT:**

Last sentence of the comment is revised. ...The game official must draw distinction between: ~~contact necessary to make a legal block or tackle, and that which targets defenseless players.~~

(1) Contact necessary to make a legal block or tackle; (2) Making unnecessary contact on a defenseless player; and (3) Targeting any player at any time. (2-32-16; 9-4-3i(3))

**Page 299, 3.4.2 SITUATION C:**

Near the end of a period with 28 seconds left, K1 punts on fourth down. During the kick the covering official inadvertently sounds his whistle. The clock is stopped with 23 seconds remaining. **RULING:** The clock will be started with the ready-for-play signal. ~~The down must be replayed as part of that period.~~

**Page 300, 4.2.3 SITUATION E:**

K's ball, fourth and 12, on R's 45-yard line. K8's punt is rolling on R's 16 when an inadvertent whistle sounds. R76 blocks K84 in the back on R's 22-yard line during the down prior to the whistle. **RULING:** If the penalty is accepted, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot as K ~~would not~~ will

be next to put the ball in play. If the penalty is declined, the inadvertent whistle during a loose-ball play dictates a replay of the down. (2-16-2h; 4-2-2j; 4-2-3a; 4-2-3d; 6-2-7; 10-4-3)

**Page 327, SIX-PLAYER, RULE 6:**

**RULE 6:** K's free-kick line is its 30-yard line and R's free-kick line is the 40. K is required to have at least ~~three~~ two players on each side of the kicker.

**2014 NFHS High School Football Rules Simplified and Illustrated**

(Underlining shows additions; ~~strikethrough~~ shows deletions.)

**Page 112, Rule 5-1-3f:**

PlayPic A. R TOUCHES

PlayPic B. ~~K~~ R HOLDS

PlayPic C. ~~R~~ K RECOVERS