

NYSACFO Syracuse Chapter

August 25, 2025

Rules 7 & 9

Passing Game with  
Snapping, Handing, &  
Formations

All Major Fouls

# ▶ QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

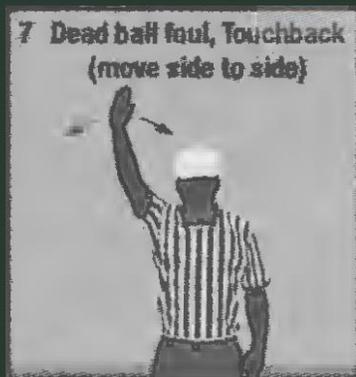
- 🏈 None!
- 🏈 Coaches Meeting – General Discussion 🗣️ 🗣️ 🗣️
- 🏈 Memo from State – Delays for ⚡ lightning ⚡ and 🚁 drones 🚁
- 🏈 NFHS Proposed Rule Changes – Due October 1
  - 🏈 Must include old rule, new rule, changes to or proposals for new casebook situations, mechanics changes (if any)

# PASSING GAME

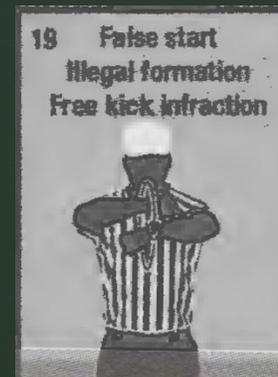
## RULE 7

### 🏈 Snapper (R. 7-1-1 through 7-1-4; Casebook 7-1-3)

- 🏈 Only player allowed inside NZ, hovering over ball, but only his hands may be beyond NZ (feet must be back);
- 🏈 Once established, can spin or tilt the ball, but can not lift or rotate the ball, remove hands from the ball, or simulate a snap (R. 7-1-3, Casebook);
- 🏈 Must pause before snapping;
- 🏈 Snap must be backwards pass or handing that is a “quick and continuous backward motion of the ball” that leaves snapper’s hand(s) (R. 2-40)
  - 🏈 All of the above are DBFs for either snap infraction (or encroachment)



Where's the 'between the legs' requirement???



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### 🏈 Encroachment (R. 7-1-5 through 7-1-6)

- 🏈 Center/Snapper placing hand on ball establishes the NZ
- 🏈 Once established, no player may enter the NZ or contact the center/snapper or ball (DBF)
  - 🏈 Mechanics/Preventive Officiating: L/H communication w/ DBs & WRs about LOS (on / off LOS)
    - 🏈 🗣️ H/L: how do we communicate with each other, the players, and coaches? 🗣️



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### Encroachment & Substitutions (R. 7-1-5 through 7-1-6)

- The substitute *entering* during the down are live ball fouls (R. 3-7, 7-1-6)
  - Reminders from **Rule 3.7**: A/B substitute can not be encroaching until he enters his side of the LOS, i.e. they are permitted, prior to the snap, to enter/exit through or beyond their side of LOS (R. 7-1-6, Situation D [No Foul])
  - Reminders from **Rule 3.7** : If A/B's entering substitute is on the field but the wrong side of ball at the snap, it is illegal substitution (5 yards - LBF) until he participates and it then becomes illegal participation (15 yards - LBF) (R. 3-7-5; R. 3-7 Casebook Comment [4], [6])
    - This applies to the 11<sup>th</sup> man entering during the down (R. 9-6-4[a]) or 12<sup>th</sup> man being on the field at the snap (R. 9-6-4[c])
    - 2025 Rule Change**: R.9-6-4 ILP is no longer special enforcement (basic spot enforcement); spot of the participation is not the same as where he enters, and is continuing downfield, so we use the least advantageous spot for ENFORCEMENT (R. 9.6, Casebook Comment 2)
    - For subs/replaced players: If  $\geq 12$ , shut it down (DBF); if  $\leq 11$ , use your discretion on DBF/LBF (R. 3-7); if next step places *exiting replaced* player OOB, let it go (no flag)

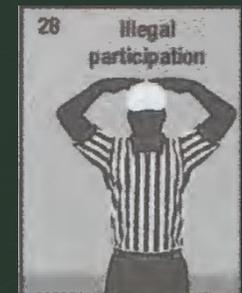
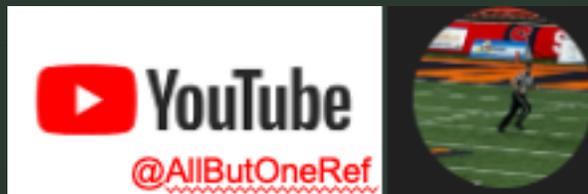


Table 10-4: Default Rule is Previous Spot Enforcement

This table is not intended to encompass all fouls and possible options, but to focus on certain fouls that occur during running plays.

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	Spot of Foul for Foul Behind End of Run or Related Run	10-4-4f
A	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	End of Run or Related Run for Foul Beyond End of Run or Related Run	10-4-6c
B	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-2d
B	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Previous Spot	10-4-5f
B	Behind Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	End of Run or Related Run	10-4-6a
B	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	Beyond Line of Scrimmage	End of Run or Related Run	10-4-6a

🏈 Must know: who fouled, the spot of the foul, and result of the play

🏈 Once we know that, we can then use the chart to tell us our basic spot enforcement for the penalties to which it applies

🏈 *Generally Speaking*, for Fouls by **A**, Previous Spot **UNLESS** we have **BEYOND-BEYOND**

🏈 *Generally Speaking*, for Fouls by **B**, Previous Spot **UNLESS** we have **BEHIND-BEYOND** or **BEYOND-BEYOND**

🏈 *Generally Speaking*, this chart **does** apply to LBFs like Holding, BIB, BBW, CLIP, CHOP, FM, etc. (R. 10-4)

🏈 *Generally speaking*, this chart does **NOT** apply to DBFs, KOO, KCI, nonplayer, UNS, unfair acts, fouls on try/score, roughing, Illegal batting or kicking, \_\_\_\_\_, IFP/IG ((i.e. tack-on or spot fouls), etc. (R. 10-4-4, 10-4-5, 10-5-1) – **SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT RULES**

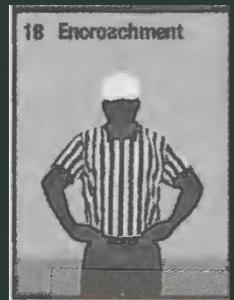
🏈 *Generally speaking*, this chart does **NOT** apply to THE OLD SAFETY RULE which remains (R. 10-5-3) - **SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT RULES**

# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### False Start & Disconcerting Acts (R. 7-1-6 through 7-1-9)

- False Start (FST - DBF): Anything that (i) feigns a snap; (ii) is intended to make B encroach; (iii) any *interior* lineman (i.e. player between snapper and end of line) with a hand on the ground either (a) making any quick movement or (b) moving his hand (unless a legal shift occurs per R. 7-1-7, Casebook Situation D)
  - If B encroaches because of A's false start, penalize only A's FST
    - 2025 Test Question: if both ENCROACHING – NO FLAG, TALK TO
    - 2023 State Interpretation: It is NOT FST or encroachment for A players, after being set, in either a 2- or 3-point stance, to move their arms to tap their teammate or give blocking signals or point to defenders, so long as it doesn't feign snap or intended to cause B to encroach (R. 7-1-7[c], Pat English)
    - QB Silent/Fake Clap = FST (feigns snap)
  - Disconcerting Signals: highly discretionary call for U/R, but it's a DBF if any B player's acts or words interfere w/ A's signals or movements (R. 7-1-9)



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### Formations & Numbering (R. 7-2)

- Formation for B: **none**, can be anywhere, any number, on their side of the NZ
- All A players must be, momentarily, inside the “9s” before the snap (LBF)
- A lineman may interlock legs before the snap, but only be G-C-G, however after the snap all linemen may do so (R. 7-2-2, Casebook Situation)
- Legal Scrimmage Formation for A/Offense: no more than four ( $\leq 4$ ) backs with at least five ( $\geq 5$ ) linemen and numbered 50-79, *unless a numbering exception applies (covered next slide)* (R. 7-2-5)
- Backs/Lineman Defined**: A’s lineman head or feet should penetrate the waistline of the snapper *when ball is snapped*, while **backs** have **no** part of their head or feet penetrating the waistline of the nearest player that’s on the line (R. 2-32-3, 2-32-9)
  - QB Exception: the player in position to receive the snap ***is the only back that may also penetrate the waistline of the nearest lineman***, however he need not receive the snap (R. 7-2-3, 7-2-5[a], 2-32-3)

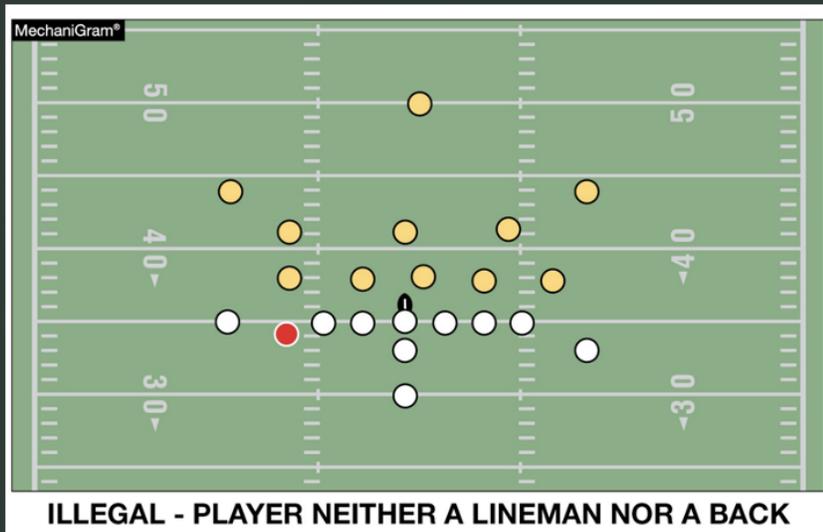
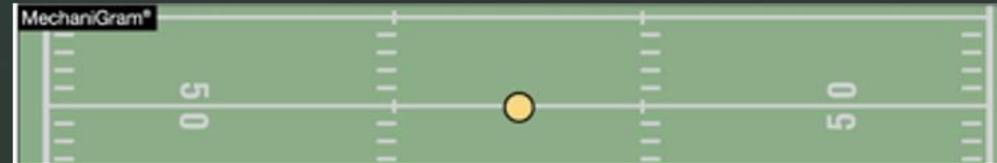


# Legal Formation?



# Formations (2024 Editorial Change)

## ▶ WRs breaking plane of Center/Lineman



- The offensive slot receiver (red) is gaining an advantage to get downfield to block.
- Clarification: since the RED player is in "no man's land" we consider this neither a lineman nor a back and thus this is ILF even though they have only 3 backs depicted here; *only the QB* can do what the RED player is doing (R. 7-2-3 ["only one may penetrate the vertical plane through the waistline of his nearest teammate who is on his line"]; 2-32-3 ["back is any A player who has no part of his body breaking the plane of an imaginary line drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the nearest teammate who is legally on the line"]).

- If an offensive player lines up as a split by intersecting the waistline of the split end, but not the center, and is not threatened, the Team A receiver is not gaining an advantage.

- Why? Because the State said so! We want to be **CONSISTENT.**

Back)

**Penalized as fouls (ILF) – NO WARNINGS, NO EXCEPTIONS**  
Need "Daylight" between slot receiver and Tackle in **TIGHT** formation

# PASSING GAME

## 🏈 Formations & Numbering Exceptions (R. 7-2-5) RULE 7

### 🏈 Scrimmage Kick Formation (SKF):

- 🏈 Holder 7 yards (or more) back with kicker 3 yards (or less) (R. 2-14-2[a]); or
- 🏈 Punter 10 yards (or more) (R. 2-14-2[b]).
- 🏈 If in SKF, Snapper Numbering Exception on 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> Down: may lineup or shift such that snapper can be any number (0–99) so long as snapper is “between the ends” (still **In**eligible)
- 🏈 If in SKF, on 4<sup>th</sup> Down/Try: all interior lineman numbering exception applies such that any player (0–99) may lineup or shift into any interior lineman position (still **In**eligible)
- 🏈 Once snapper touches the ball, NZ/ENZ is set and **In**eligibility is **LOCKED IN!** (R. 7-2-5, Casebook Situation E)
- 🏈 Mechanics: Back Judges and Umpires (or H/L if under)!



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### 🏈 Shifting & Motion (R. 7-2-6, 7-2-7)

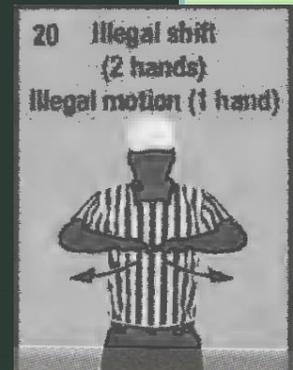
🏈 Upon initial formation or after shift (R. 2-39 [1 or more A player are set then move]), all A players must be set for 1 second before the snap (LBF)

🏈 Only 1 A player may be in motion at the snap and that motioning player must be a back moving perpendicular to or away from his opponents GL at the moment of the snap (S. 20, 1 v. 2 hands →)

🏈 > No Shaving >

🏈 QB Shotgun to under Center is OK (R. 7-2-7, Casebook Situation [QB or other back may motion toward LOS so long not snapped and then stationary for 1 second])

🏈 Lineman Becoming Motioning Back (e.g. **TEs**): any lineman that went into motion must first step back and remain stationary for 1 second to establish himself as a back before beginning his motion (otherwise any A player starting their motion from the line “shall be at least 5 yards behind his [LOS]” during their motion)

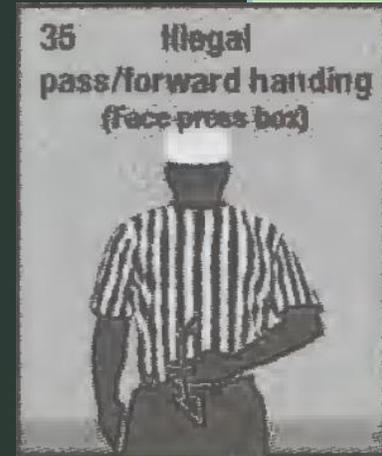


# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### Handing the Ball (R. 7-3)

- Backwards is always OK (even to a lineman)
- Forward is only OK for A behind its LOS so long as it occurs before COP, provided that the receiving player is either
  - (a) lineman who faced his own endline/EZ and received the ball at least 1 yard behind LOS; or
  - (b) any (1) back or (2) lineman on the end of line that was not the Snapper or Adjacent to the snapper (i.e. fwd handoff to TE or WR are OK, but not OK to fwd handoff to any G-C-G on end of line unless he turns and faces own endline/EZ)
- B can never hand forward forward; A can not after a COP (A/B/A situation)



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

- 🏈 Planned Loose Balls (e.g. the fumble rooskie) (R. 7-2-8)
  - 🏈 Snap must touch a back or the ground before touching another lineman (if lineman touches it first, **DBF** for snap infraction) (R. 7-2-4, 7-3-2[a])
  - 🏈 A lineman may not advance a planned loose ball (R. 7-2-8)
    - 🏈 Obviously, an unplanned loose ball, i.e. fumble, is different
  - 🏈 If it appears to be a planned loose ball that touches the ground first before a player, it is still a foul, just a **LBF** (R. 7-2-8); Casebook 7.2.8)

7.2.8 SITUATION: Between downs, quarterback A1 informs the referee via a "prearranged" confidential signal that during the next down A will run its trick play involving a planned loose ball. (a) Snapper A2 does not release the ball and guard A3 takes it and begins to advance; or (b) A1 takes the snap and places the ball on the ground after which guard A3, who has legally turned and faced his own goal line, scoops it up and advances; or (c) A1 takes the snap and hands the ball to guard A3, who has legally turned to face his own goal line. RULING: In (a), it is a snap-infraction, **dead-ball foul** whether or not the referee was informed. In (b), it is an **illegal planned loose ball play** even though the referee was notified (7-2-8). In (c), it is a legal play. (7-2-4) COMMENT: In all cases, the referee should inform A1 immediately that a planned loose ball play is not legal and thus attempt to prevent a foul.



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

- 🏈 Fumbles (i.e. Unplanned Loose Balls) or Backwards Pass (R. 7-4)
  - 🏈 May be caught or scooped and advanced by any player of A or B
  - 🏈 Ball out of bounds behind a goal line will belong to the team defending that goal line (possibly for a free kick) and will either be a touchback or safety *depending upon the force* and whether a penalty occurred (R. 7-4-4, 8-5)
    - 🏈 Force (R. 2-13, 8-5) w/r/t goalline (covered last 2 weeks)
  - 🏈 Batting forward is not a new force, but it might be illegal batting if done by A – 2025 test questions (R. 9-7-3)

2025 new  
forward/backward  
fumble OOB rules

### SECTION 13 FORCE

ART. 1 ... Force is the result of energy exerted by a player which provides movement of the ball. The term force is used only in connection with the goal line and in only one direction, i.e., from the field of play into the end zone. Initial force results from a carry, fumble, kick, pass or snap. After a fumble, kick or backward pass has been grounded, a new force may result from a bat, an illegal kick, or a muff.

ART. 2 ... Responsibility for forcing the ball from the field of play across a goal line is attributed to the player who carries, snaps, passes, fumbles, or kicks the ball, unless a new force is applied to either a kick, fumble or backward pass that has been grounded.

ART. 3 ... The muffing or batting of a pass, kick or fumble in flight is not considered a new force.

ART. 4 ... Force is not a factor.

- On kicks going into R's end zone, since these kicks are always a touchback regardless of who supplied the force.
- When a backward pass or fumble is declared dead in the end zone of the opponent of the player who passed or fumbled, with no player possession.

# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### Forward Passes (R. 7.5)

- Any A player may throw the ball so long as “both feet of the passer [are] in or behind the NZ when the ball is released”
  - Casebook Situations/2025 Test: 1 foot beyond is IFP; moving beyond and then returning behind is LEGAL (different NFL/NCAA rules)
- Illegal forward passes (LBF) – may be advanced by either A or B
- Only A may legally FWD PASS (never B or K on a KO) and only prior to any COP
- Any FWD PASS after COP is illegal but does NOT include loss of down
- Only 1 FWD PASS per down (👁️ quick shovel on motion 👁️)
  - Penalty: 5 yards + LOD from spot of illegal forward pass or intentional grounding by A (**special enforcement**) (R. 7-5-3)



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

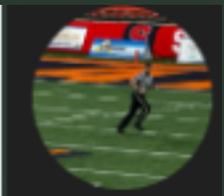
### 🏈 Forward Pass Exceptions (R. 7-5-1 & 7-5-2)

🏈 A may not throw FWD PASS to an area not occupied by an eligible A receiver to conserve time or yardage, however there are 2 exceptions.

🏈 Exception 1: conserve time (spiking it)

🏈 QB may throw an *immediate forward* pass to conserve time when “positioned directly behind the snapper” (i.e. under center or shotgun) without the ball being muffed or touching the ground

🏈 R. 7-5-2, Casebook Situation B: highlights muff/fumbled snap and spike striking another player and rebounding back to QB (both **ILLEGAL FORWARD PASSES**)



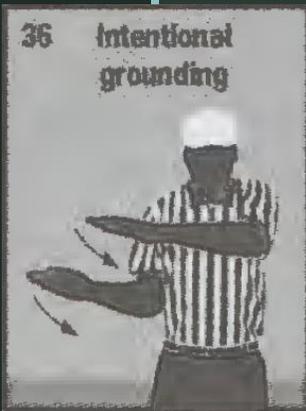
# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

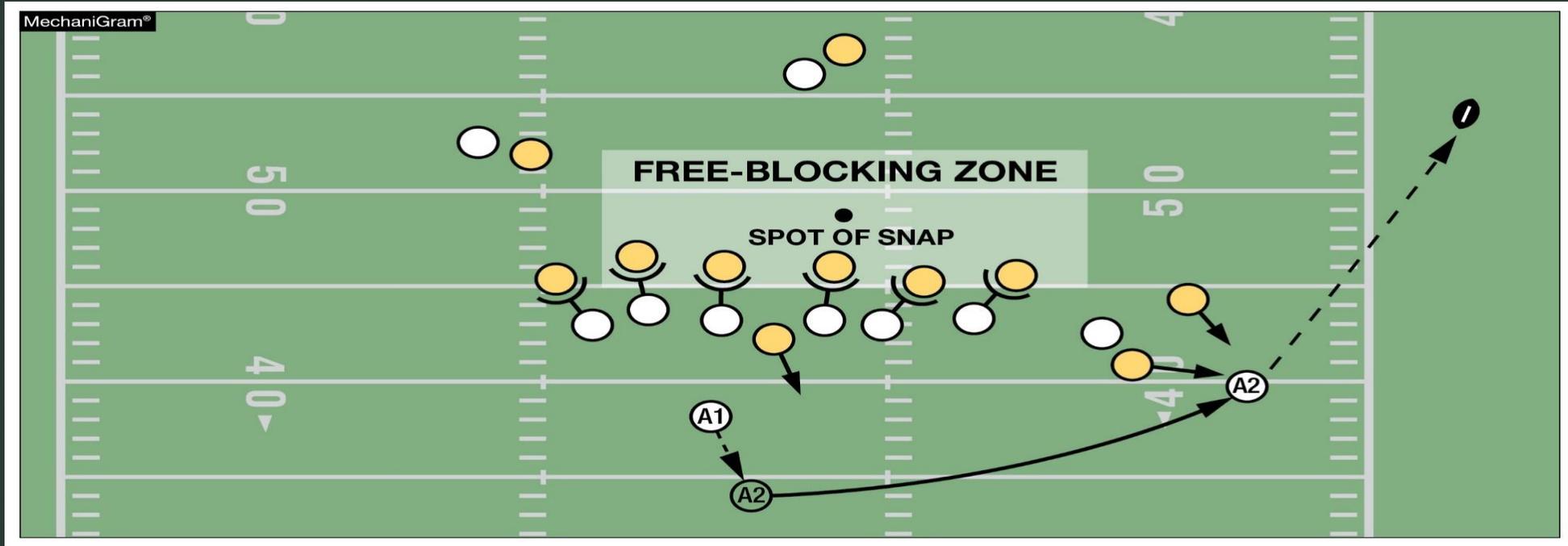
### Forward Pass Exceptions (R. 7-5-1 & 7-5-2)

#### Exception 2: Intentional Grounding Exception

- To conserve time or yardage, QB may throw it to an area unoccupied by any eligible A receiver if (all 3 must be present):
  - the QB “possessed the ball” outside the lateral FBZ (4 yards either side of snapper) (R. 2-17-1); AND
  - Pass reaches the NZ (in or out of bounds); AND
  - Passer is the only player to possess the ball after the snap ends (NEW RULE from 2023)
- Receiver in the Area – VERY LIBERAL (~5 yards around flight of ball)
  - EVEN MORE LIBERAL if QB contacted at release (CREW CALL)



# PASSING GAME RULE 7



- 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**
  - In this example, A2 committed a foul for IFP (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, and that player must be the passer and the only player to possess the ball after the snap ends.
  - Mechanics – crew call, help the R
  - **Special Enforcement** – Spot of the Foul – 5 yds + LOD (R. 10-4-4[c])

# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

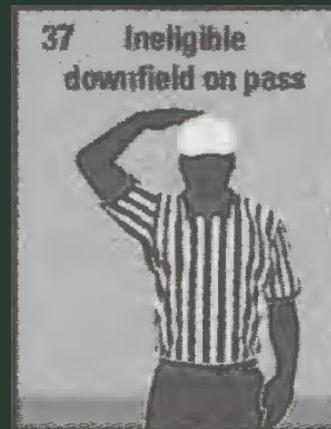
- 🏈 Eligibility (R. 7-5-6)
  - 🏈 All B always eligible
  - 🏈 Eligible A players are by position and number
    - 🏈 Must be either a back or on the end of the line; and
    - 🏈 Must NOT be #50–79.
  - 🏈 Ball TIPPED BY B makes ALL A PLAYERS ELIGIBLE (mechanics – signal it)
  - 🏈 Remember Eligibility is not lost after the snap (football fundamentals, pp. 84–85), but we *might* have illegal participation if A is intentionally OOB and intentionally touches the pass (R. 9-6-2, Casebook Situation A [accidental / unintentional OOB is OK])
    - 🏈 Mechanics/Rules Different for NCAA/NFL 🏈 🏈 🏈

# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### 🏈 Eligibility (R. 7-5-6, 7-5-12 & 7-5-13)

- 🏈 Ineligible players may not go beyond ENZ when a forward pass crosses the LOS (i.e. >2 yards beyond LOS) (R. 2-28-2, 7-5-12) (Penalty: 5 yards)
- 🏈 Ineligible players may not touch a FWD PASS by batting, muffing, or catching it (remember: all A eligible when B tips) (5 yards + LOD)





# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### 🏈 OPI/DPI (R. 7-5-7 through 7-5-11) - Fundamentals

- 🏈 OPI/DPI occurs when a player “beyond the NZ interferes with an eligible opponent’s opportunity to move toward, catch, or bat at the pass” (R 7-5-10)
- 🏈 Restrictions begin for A at the snap and for B when the pass is in the air
- 🏈 It is not OPI for ineligible lineman to legally ward off a block even before B tips the pass (R. 7-5-9[b])
- 🏈 No OPI/DPI until FWD PASS crosses the NZ (might still have holding)
- 🏈 All eligible A/B players are protected until pass is touched by A or B (R. 7-5-9)
- 🏈 Tip negates OPI/DPI (mechanics – signal it)



# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### 🏈 OPI/DPI (R. 7-5-7 through 7-5-11)

- 🏈 OPI/DPI occurs when a player “beyond the NZ interferes with an eligible opponent’s opportunity to move toward, catch, or bat at the pass” (R 7-5-10)
- 🏈 No OPI/DPI if (R. 7-5-11)
  - 🏈 Unavoidable contact occurs during *bona fide* attempt to move toward, catch, or bat (e.g. legs caught up)
  - 🏈 A contacts B lineman at LOS up until end of ENZ (2 yards)
  - 🏈 B’s contact is obviously away from the play (might still be holding)
- 🏈 OPI: A clearing out DBs or the “pick play” (KEYS!)
- 🏈 Penalty: 15 yards from the previous spot (declined if caught, unless a TD for A, then **special enforcement** allows subsequent Try or KO [R. 8-3-5, SITUATION C])

# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

- 🏈 OPI/DPI (R. 7-5-7 through 7-5-11)
  - 🏈 No OPI/DPI, still might be Defensive Holding (DH)
    - 🏈 If the pass hasn't been released, or, if the pass goes to the opposite side of the field, you *might* have defensive holding downfield (R. 9-2-3; Casebook 7-5-11, Situation A)
    - 🏈 If the contact would be DPI (or OPI) but the pass is behind the NZ/LOS, you *might* have defensive holding (Casebook 7-5-6 [permutation (b)]).
    - 🏈 Tip by B will **NOT** preclude defensive holding



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

### PENALTY SUMMARY

LOSS OF 5 YARDS		
Foul	Reference	Signal
Delay of game	3-6-2, 3-6-4, 6-5-5	7-21
Illegal substitution	3-7	22
Free-kick infraction	6-1-2, 6-1-3b, 6-1-4, 6-1-11	7-19
Encroachment	6-1-3a, 7-1-1, 7-1-5, 7-1-6	7-18
Free kick out of bounds	6-1-9	19
Invalid or illegal fair-catch signal	6-5-7, 6-5-8	32
Snap infraction	7-1-2, 7-1-3	7-19
False start	7-1-7	7-19
Disconcerting act	7-1-9	7-23
Illegal formation	7-2-1, 7-2-2, 7-2-3	19
Less than five players on A's line or numbering violation	7-2-5	19
Illegal shift or illegal motion	7-2-6, 7-2-7	20
Planned loose-ball infraction	7-2-8	19
Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	7-3-2, 7-3-3	35-9
Illegal forward pass (by A; also loss of down)	7-5-2	35-9
Illegal forward pass (by B)	7-5-2	35
Intentional grounding (also loss of down)	7-5-2d	36-9
Ineligible receiver illegally downfield	7-5-12	37
Illegal touching (also loss of down)	7-5-13	16-9
Helping runner	9-1	44
Incidental grasping of an opponent's face mask (or any helmet opening, chin strap or attached tooth and mouth protector)	9-4-3	45
Running into kicker/holder	9-4-5	30
Sideline interference	9-8-1k	7-29
Attendant illegally on field	9-8-2	19
Nonplayer outside of the team box, but not on field	9-8-3	7-29
LOSS OF 10 YARDS		
Foul	Reference	Signal
Illegal kicking or batting the ball	6-2-1, 9-7	31
Illegal blocking technique	9-2-1a, 9-2-3a	42
Interlocked blocking	9-2-1b	44
Holding	9-2-1c; 9-2-3c, e	42
Runner grasping a teammate	9-2-2	42
Illegal use of hands or arms	9-2-1a; 9-2-2; 9-2-3a, b, d	42
Illegal block in the back	9-3-5	43
Illegal block on free kicks	9-3-7	43

👁️  
look at all  
the  
references  
to  
Rules 7 & 9



LOSS OF 15 YARDS		
Foul	Reference	Signal
Unsportsmanlike conduct by player or nonplayer	9-5, 9-8-1	27
Illegal helmet contact against a defenseless player	2-32-16, 9-4-3i(3)	38-24
Illegal block after valid or invalid fair-catch signal	6-5-1, 9-3-3	43
Kick-catching interference	6-5-6	33
Forward-pass interference	7-5-10	33
Illegal block below the waist	9-3-2	40
Illegal block on free-kicker or holder	9-3-4	30
Clipping	9-3-6	39
Chop block	9-3-6	41
Tripping	9-4-3o	38-46
Illegal personal contact outside restricted area	9-4-3	38
Charging into an opponent obviously out of the play	9-4-3	38
Grasping an opponent's face mask (or any helmet opening, chin strap or attached tooth and mouth protector)	9-4-3	38-45
Hurdle an opponent	9-4-3d	38
Butt block, face tackle or spear (Illegal Helmet Contact)	9-4-3i	38-24
Horse-collar	9-4-3	38-25
Initiate contact with a helmet-less opponent	9-4-3	38
Targeting an opponent	9-4-3m	38-24
Illegal blindside block	9-4-3n	38-26
Roughing passer (also first down)	9-4-4	38-34-8
Roughing kicker or holder (also first down)	9-4-5	38-30-8
Roughing snapper (also first down)	9-4-6	38-8
Slapping blocker's head	9-4-7	38
Illegal personal contact in restricted area	9-4-8	38-29
Illegal participation	9-6	28
Participating without a helmet beyond immediate action	9-6-4	28
Sideline interference (third and subsequent)	9-8-1k, 9-8-3	7-29-27
Nonplayer illegally on field	9-8-3	27
Unfair acts	9-9	27
DISQUALIFICATION ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN 15-YARD PENALTIES		
Foul	Reference	Signal
Fighting by player or nonplayer	9-4-1	38-47
Intentionally contacting a game official	9-4-2	38-47
Striking, kicking, kneeling	9-4-3j	38-47
Any act if unduly rough or flagrant (give proper signal and follow with 47)	9-4	47
A second unsportsmanlike foul by player or nonplayer	9-5, 9-8	27-47
A substitute leaving team box during a fight	9-8-11	27-47



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

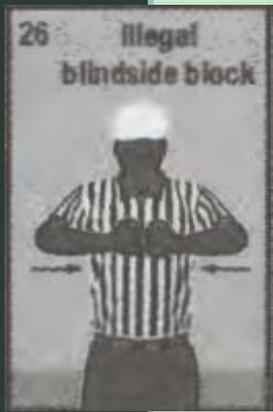


- A few fouls we have NOT yet reviewed
- Personal Fouls or “Illegal Personal Contact” Fouls (R. 9-4)
  - Fighting/punching/elbowing, an opponent, intentionally contacting an official, or kicking/kneeing an opponent require disqualification (+ 15 yards)
  - Horse collar: includes the name plate and pulling backward or to either side (and to the ground)
    - Should not result in COP because even if he fumbles, it is enforced as LBF
  - Hurdling: opponent with both feet on ground (thanks Saquon!)
  - Late hit (R. 9-4-3[b]), Piling On, UNR for late hit against sliding or defenseless player (R. 9-4-3-[g])
    - After the play is DBF and succeeding spot (**careful on 4<sup>th</sup> down!**)
  - Facemask (5 v 15 yards)



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9



🏈 A few fouls we have NOT yet reviewed

🏈 Blindsides Blocks – PF, 15 Yards (R. 2-3-10, 2-32-16[i])

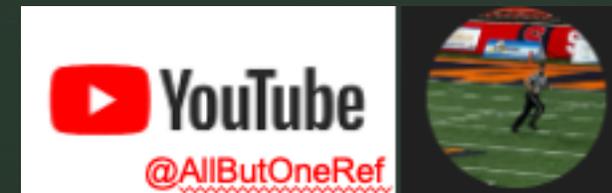
🏈 “A blindside block is a block against an opponent *other than the runner*, who does not see the blocker approaching”

🏈 Defenseless players include “A player who receives a blindside block with forceful contact not initiated with open hands”

🏈 “Execute a blindside block outside of the free-blocking zone with forceful contact unless initiated with open hands”

🏈 Never allow BSB on Kickoffs

🏈 KEYS: on scrimmage plays, B/L/H stay with your receivers who might execute BSB



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

### 🏈 Fouls We Have NOT Yet Reviewed

#### 🏈 Holding (R. 9-2-1[c], 9-2-3[c])

- 🏈 Offensive and Defensive players shall not “Use his hands, arms, or legs to hook, lock, clamp, grasp, encircle or hold in an effort to restrain an opponent” (other than the runner)
- 🏈 Mechanics/Philosophy: if the running play goes to the opposite side of the field, we do not want to see a holding call.



# Illegal Kicking and Batting

## SECTION 7 ILLEGAL KICKING AND BATTING

ART. 1 ... No player shall intentionally kick the ball other than as a free or scrimmage kick.

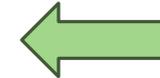
ART. 2 ... No player shall bat a loose ball other than a pass or a fumble in flight, or a low scrimmage kick in flight which he is attempting to block in or behind the expanded neutral zone.

**EXCEPTION:** A K player may bat toward his own goal line a grounded scrimmage kick which is beyond the neutral zone and may also bat toward his own goal line a scrimmage kick in flight beyond the neutral zone, if no R player is in position to catch the ball.

ART. 3 ... Any pass in flight may be batted in any direction, by an eligible receiver unless it is a backward pass batted forward by the passing team.

ART. 4 ... A ball in player possession shall not be batted forward by a player of the team in possession.

**PENALTY:** Arts. 1, 2, 3, 4 - Illegal kicking or batting - (S31) -10 yards.



2025 Test Questions

- ❖ An illegal kick can NOT score FG or PAT (R. 9-7-1, Casebook Situation A)
- ❖ **Special Enforcement** for Illegal Kicking and Batting on scrimmage plays
  - ❖ Typically occurs during loose ball play so Table 10-4 would NOT apply;
  - ❖ Enforce from spot of the foul (R. 10-4-4[a]), however this *usually* occurs by A/K on 4th down & B/R *usually* will decline & take the result of the play to get the ball (unless it results in a safety)
    - ❖ Nevertheless, if the play results in a first down for A/K, we then enforce the penalty from the spot of the illegal kick / foul (R. 9-7-1, Casebook Situations B & C)
  - ❖ Exceptions: Remember, the team NOT in possession (i.e. B/R) may bat the ball *forward* – B may bat toward B's EZ particularly on scrimmage kicks (punts) where they are trying to avoid a touchback (R. 9-7-2, Situations A & B; R. 9-7-4, Casebook Situation) but this is also **first touching** so mark it with a **blue** bean bag

# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

### Reminder on Some Fouls We Have Covered

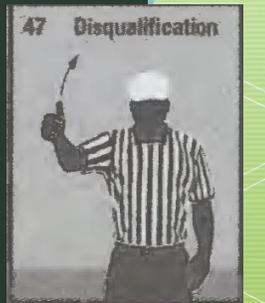
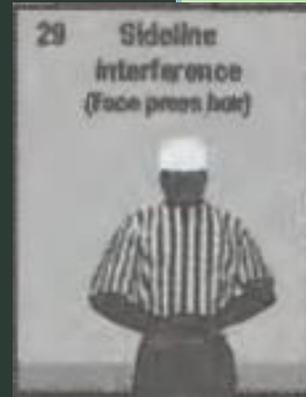
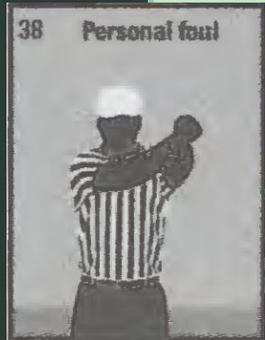
#### Roughing/Running Into (R. 9-4-4 through 9-4-6)

- Roughing the QB: must make a definite effort to avoid charging into a passer, who threw the ball from in or behind the NZ (might tack on) (auto-first)
- Running into the kicker or holder: should not run into or displace him (5 yards, previous spot)
- Roughing the kicker or holder: block, tackle, or charge into him (15 yards, previous spot) (auto-first)
  - It is not running into nor roughing if the contact was unavoidable because the (1) kick “is not reasonably certain” to be made, (2) kick was blocked, (3) the kicker’s movement caused the contact, or (4) due to K blocking R into the contact (see Rule 6 slides [last week])
- Roughing the Snapper: charge directly into the snapper when K is in SKF (can’t land on snapper by B player attempting to block the kick) (auto-first)

# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

- 🏈 Sideline Interference – Personal Foul (not UNS)
  - 🏈 CLEAR THE WHITE: If anyone associated with the team other than a player (nonplayer, substitute, coach, trainer, etc.) makes unintentional contact with you during live ball action, it is 15 yards for the first offense and then 15 yards and DQ of the HC for the second offense (both succeeding spot) – Personal Foul (R. 9-4, Penalty Enforcement ¶)
- 🏈 Sideline Warning (UNS)
  - 🏈 Running around anyone associated with the team other than a player is UNS: SL warning, then 5 yards, then 15 yards (succeeding spot)
  - 🏈 Can have multiple running around in single play resulting in 5-yard penalty (R. 9-4-8, Casebook Situation B [i.e. warning & 5-yarder in same play])
  - 🏈 SLI & SLW different under NCAA/NFL rules
- 🏈 Any Foul Deemed Flagrant = DQ



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

- 🏈 UNS by Players (non-contact) (15 yards, succeeding spot)
  - 🏈 Baiting, taunting, using profanity/vulgarity/insults (v opponent), showboating, kicking the ball (after the play), spiking the ball, throwing the ball “high” into the air (e.g. into the stands), leaving between down to gain an advantage (Casebook 9-9-1[B] [“where’s the tee?”]), refusing an official’s request, use of alcohol or tobacco, failing to place the ball on the ground or return it to the nearest official, committing unfair acts (repeated ½ distance fouls, ball under jersey, or makes a “travesty of the game”)
  - 🏈 2 UNSs = DQ; Flagrant UNS = DQ



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

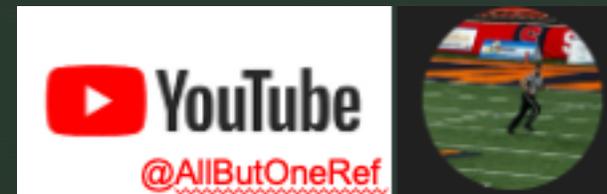
- 🏈 UNS by Non-players (non-contact) (15 yards, succeeding spot)
  - 🏈 using profanity/vulgarity/insults, taunting, acting disrespectful toward game official, attempting to influence or objecting to an official's call (never called this – coach isn't doing his job if he doesn't try), *illegal equipment* or **conferences**, not on time for the start of either half, outside the team box (warning, 5 yards, then 15 yards), leaving the team box during a fight
  - 🏈 2 UNSs = DQ; Flagrant UNS = DQ



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

- ❏ Illegal Participation (ILP) (R. 9-6) – **All Basic Spot Enforcement in 2025**
  - ❏ OK to be blocked/pushed OOB by opponent and return, but you must return “at first opportunity” (i.e. can’t run 10 yards downfield while OOB and then return to field) (R. 9-6-1)
  - ❏ Player *Intentionally* going OOB and returning, touching the ball, influencing the play, or otherwise participating are all ILP (R. 9-6-2)
    - ❏ Packers Plays on KOO (see Rule 6 slides from last week);
    - ❏ Same applies to receivers (R. 2-29-1, 9-6-2, Casebook Situation A).
  - ❏ Obvious ILP: Any non-player (replaced player, coach, etc.) doing anything to influence the play or participate is also ILP (R. 9-6-3)



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

### Unfair Acts (R. 9-9)

#### **SECTION 9 UNFAIR ACTS**

ART. 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.

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

ART. 3 ... No player shall hide the ball under a jersey.

ART. 4 ... No player shall use a kicking tee in violation of Rule 1-3-4.

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

**PENALTY:** Arts. 1, 2, 5 - Unfair act - (S27) - the referee enforces any penalty he/she considers equitable, including the award of a score; Art. 2 - Repeated fouls - the game may be forfeited; Art. 3 - Hiding the ball under a jersey - (S27) -15 yards basic spot; Art. 4 - Using illegal kicking tee (S27) -15 yards basic spot.

**NOTE:** The penalties in Rules 9-9-3 and 9-9-4 are not charged to the coach or player for the purpose of unsportsmanlike conduct disqualifications.

### Award a score against Coach Tomlin?



# MAJOR FOULS

## RULE 9

- 🏈 Illegal Participation (ILP) (R. 9-6-4) – Continued (Basic Spot Enforcement in 2025)
  - 🏈 Enter during the down (late sub) (11th Man enters late & participates) (R. 9-6-4[a])
  - 🏈 ILP for injured player refusing to sit out 1 down (again, no TO buyout; only halftime or TO intermission can save him) (R. 9-6-4[b])
  - 🏈 ILP for 12 or more players to participate during the down (R. 9-6-4[c])
    - 🏈 Reminder: catch & kill before the snap so its only 5-yard Ill Sub
  - 🏈 Using players or nonplayers to deceive opponent (e.g. player lying on the ground to blend in with turf or logo) (R. 9-6-4[d], [e])
  - 🏈 For DQ'd player to enter the game (R. 9-6-4[f])
  - 🏈 Helmet Off (1) Initiating contact with an opponent who lost his helmet; or (2) participating without your helmet beyond the action that causes the helmet to come off (R. 9-6-4[g])

# NEXT Meeting in THREE (3) Weeks! September 15, 2025

- Short Meeting –our only September meeting
  - Review in-season film to discuss coaches' gripes (if any) or highlight calls of the week (Rs need to send them into me)
- 5 days till football!
- Parting Thoughts
- Larry's Presentation on Modified Rules

Page 105      2023 NFHS Football Rules      Appendix H



National Federation of State High School Associations

## MODIFICATIONS FOR COMPETITION BELOW NINTH GRADE

Interscholastic competition at the middle school/junior high level can make valuable contributions to educational programming, provided the sport is properly organized, supervised and regulated. Students in this particular age group have unique physical, psychological, emotional and developmental needs. In order to minimize risk of injury, it may be necessary to modify regulations to offer meaningful competition for different groups.

These recommended modifications are for middle school/junior high competition. State associations may adopt additional modifications and/or use other rules codes for middle school/junior high competition.

**Rule 1-3-1:** By state high school association adoption, the ball to be used in games involving only players below the 9th grade may have dimensions as found in the following table.

**TABLE 1-3-1 – BALL SPECIFICATIONS**

	9th grade and above	8th grade and below
Weight	14 to 15 ounces	12 to 14 ounces
Long circumference	27¼ to 28½ inches	26 to 27 inches
Long Axis	10¾ to 11¾ inches	10 to 11 inches
Short circumference	20¼ to 21¼ inches	19 to 20 inches
Inflation pressure	12½ to 13½ psi	12½ to 13½ psi

**Table 3-1 – Game Clock Times:** Games involving only students below the 9th grade shall be played in eight-minute periods. By state high school association adoption, games involving combinations of 9th grade students with students in the 8th and/or 7th grades may be played in 10-minute periods.