



Football Bulletin

No. 2

For Athletic Directors, Football Coaches, Football Officials and Observers

September 20, 2007

WE NEED TO KEEP SIDELINES CLEAR

This is not a request of our football crews for the remainder of the season. **This is a mandate.** Keep coaches off the field except for the appropriate by rule times. We are having offensive and defensive coaches, sometimes out as far as the numbers the numbers, calling plays or alignment changes. **This shall not be permitted.** If coaches are having problems with their visibility from the sideline, then I would say it is up to them to back their players up. We have room on the sidelines, we do not have room on the field at anytime for coaches to be doing the things we are allowing some of them to do. Clean it up. Take care of business. That is the bottom line.

OFFICIATE YOUR AREA

On each and every play, we have defined areas to officiate. Those primary areas change as the play develops. For instance, wing people have the responsibility for taking care of all backside action behind the referee and umpire when plays roll away from them. Unsportsmanlike conduct and safety issues must be call anywhere, anytime, anyhow by any official who observes this type of behavior. Other type calls best be left to officials who have primary coverage on the action.

SUBSTITUTIONS TO DECEIVE

When substituting or simulating substitution, Team A may not rush quickly to the line of scrimmage and snap the ball to obviously create a disadvantage for the defense. If the ball has been declared ready for play, the officials (primarily the umpire but it could also be the referee) will not allow Team A to snap the ball until the defense has had a reasonable length of time to change its personnel. There will be a five yard penalty against Team A for causing the play clock or against Team B if it is obviously slow in making its personnel changes (3-5-2e). After the five yard penalty is enforced, the referee will tell the Team A head coach that there will be a 15 yard unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty if this happens again.

Example: The referee has whistled the ball ready for play when Team A having made no substitutes since the previous play, quickly breaks the huddle, rushes to the line of scrimmage, sets for one second, and snaps the ball. Ruling: Legal play, because Team A did not make any substitutions.

Example: Sub A89 enters the TeamA huddle as a replaced player leaves the field. After the referee has declared the ball ready for play, Team A breaks the huddle and quickly rushes to the line of scrimmage. Ruling: the umpire stands over the ball until Team B has had a reasonable opportunity to change personnel. If the 25 second clock expires, Team A is charged with a five yard penalty for delay of game and the referee warns the head coach that another such instance will constitute an unsportsmanlike penalty. If the umpire, seeing that Team B has made its changes in a timely fashion, moves away from the ball so that Team A may snap it before the 25 second clock runs out, there is no foul. If Team B is so slow in changing its players that the 25 second clock expires, the dealy of game foul is against Team B

This same rules also governs the situation where on 4th down the referee makes the the ball ready for play and Team A decides at that time to send in the punt team. The umpire will stand over the ball, allowing no snap until Team B has a reasonable length of time to make player personnel adjustments.

OFFENSIVE ALIGNMENTS

We sometimes are way to lax on offensive team alignments especially as to the wide out people as to whether there are on the line of scrimmage or not. Rules are pretty definite as to when a player is on the line of scrimmage or not. If it is close, get to the quarterback or head coach and let him know. Get it cleaned up.

KICKOFFS

Observer and coaches reports note that we are perhaps giving the kicking team a big advantage too often. With the new free kick rules, if we allow the kicking team to cross the restraining line before the ball is kicked, it negates what the rules makers were looking for when the wrote the rule. Make the kicking team remain onside during these situations.