

2013 Football Bulletin VI
August 16, 2013

To: All Officials, Commissioners, Curriculum Chairmen, Committee members, media

From: Bill Riccio, Jr., State Interpreter

RE: Various stuff that came up

1. Clinic

Any hand-outs given at tomorrow's clinic should be sent to me in their electronic form, and I will send them to the various interpreters. There is usually a lot of good information given out, and those who cannot attend the clinic should be able to have access to the hand-out information.

2. Situations

A. This week I got a note from a mother whose son is playing Pop Warner. He has a condition that makes a tinted visor necessary, and she was looking for the officials, particularly the CFOA , to grant her a waiver.

My response was that the CFOA and its constituent organizations do not have the authority to grant any such waiver, that we are hired to officiate the rules as given to us. However, if the local or some other organization in Pop Warner were to grant the boy a waiver, we would comply.

This brings up two issues:

1. All of our local boards officiate youth football of some type or other. They all have modifications as to playing rules. Some organizations allow tinted visors. If that's the case, those are the rules we play under. To quote a famous person, "Those decisions are above our pay grade." If an organization has modifications we should officiate by them.

2. That said, where there are no stated modifications, we have to go by the rule book as we have it. Officials should not take it upon themselves to make accommodations not authorized by the people for whom we are working. In other words, leave the executive decisions to the executives. We're only the hired help. Officials and the officiating organizations could find themselves on the wrong end of a lawsuit.

Finally, a reminder: **Don't recruit chain crews during these games.** Let the home organization get the chain crew, and you do your due diligence to instruct them. The CFOA has a longstanding policy against officials recruiting people for the chains.

- B. A question came up regarding the new rule concerning use of media. If there is an officials' timeout for an injury *and the teams remain on the field* (either between the nine-yard marks or outside the nine-yard marks and the sideline), a player may not talk on a headset, look at a video or use any other electronic media. This is not considered an **authorized conference** under the rule.

However, if the injury is of such a type or duration that the referee or officiating crew sends the teams to the sidelines, then we don't care what they do while they are off the field. They can utilize any electronic media while they are off the field. I checked this with Bob Colgate at NFHS, and he confirmed it.

3. Plays

1/10 @B-40. A1's pass is caught by A2 at the B-35 and he fumbles at the B-30. B1 attempts to fall on the ball at the B-25 but the ball squirts out. While the ball is loose at the B-22 an inadvertent whistle is blown. After the pass was thrown B2 was flagged for Roughing the Passer. Ruling: Enforce the penalty from the B-22.

Even though A2 lost possession of the ball, the penalty enforcement by rule is from the "dead-ball spot." The enforcement was changed a couple of years ago from the last completed run. Team A still has "team possession" when the whistle blew, and I think we can presume it will accept the penalty.

Side note: As stated by one astute observer -- The official blowing the whistle will be the one explaining things to the coach along with the referee. A great official, the late Jack Warner, had a great line I always use in cases like this: "Except for the riot, it was a great game."

This next play came up because of the difference between the Federation code and the NCAA code:

A80 is one yard in B's end zone when he jumps and grasps (possesses) the ball. While he is airborne he is hit by B20 and driven back into the field of play. He lands at the B-1. B20 loses contact with A80 and A80 regains his balance at the B-2. He takes a step or two and is hit by B40 and tackled at the B-2.

In a high school game this is a touchdown once the catch is established when A80 touches the ground. A similar play is in the casebook (White cap tip to Skip Chase), 2.15.2(b).

Those of us who work prep school games under the NCAA code this is not a touchdown under Approved Ruling 5-1-3 II. The ball would be placed at the B-2.

However (just to make it more complicated as is the NCAA's wont), if A80 caught the ball and is tackled at the B-2 (grounded), it is a TD. That's AR 5-1-3 I if you're keeping score.

Thanks,

Bill R.