



2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State
High School Associations





NFHS FOOTBALL RULES

Each state high school association adopting these NFHS football rules is the sole and exclusive source of binding rules interpretations for contests involving its member schools. Any person having questions about the interpretation of NFHS football rules should contact the football rules interpreter designated by his or her state high school association.

The NFHS is the sole and exclusive source of model interpretations of NFHS football rules. State rules interpreters may contact the NFHS for model football rules interpretations. No other model football rules interpretations should be considered.





2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS



POSTSEASON INSTANT REPLAY

RULES 1-3-7 NOTE, TABLE 1-7 — 1-3-7 NOTE



By adoption, state associations may create instant replay procedures that permit game or replay officials to use a replay monitor during state postseason contests to determine if a decision by the on-field game officials is incorrect.

HOME TEAM JERSEYS

RULE 1-5-1(b)3

- The home jersey is to be a dark color that clearly contrasts with white. The home jersey on the left (A) is currently legal. The home jersey on the right (B) will be illegal when the rule takes effect in 2021.



HOME TEAM JERSEYS

RULE 1-5-1(b)3



HOME TEAM JERSEYS

RULE 1-5-1(b)3

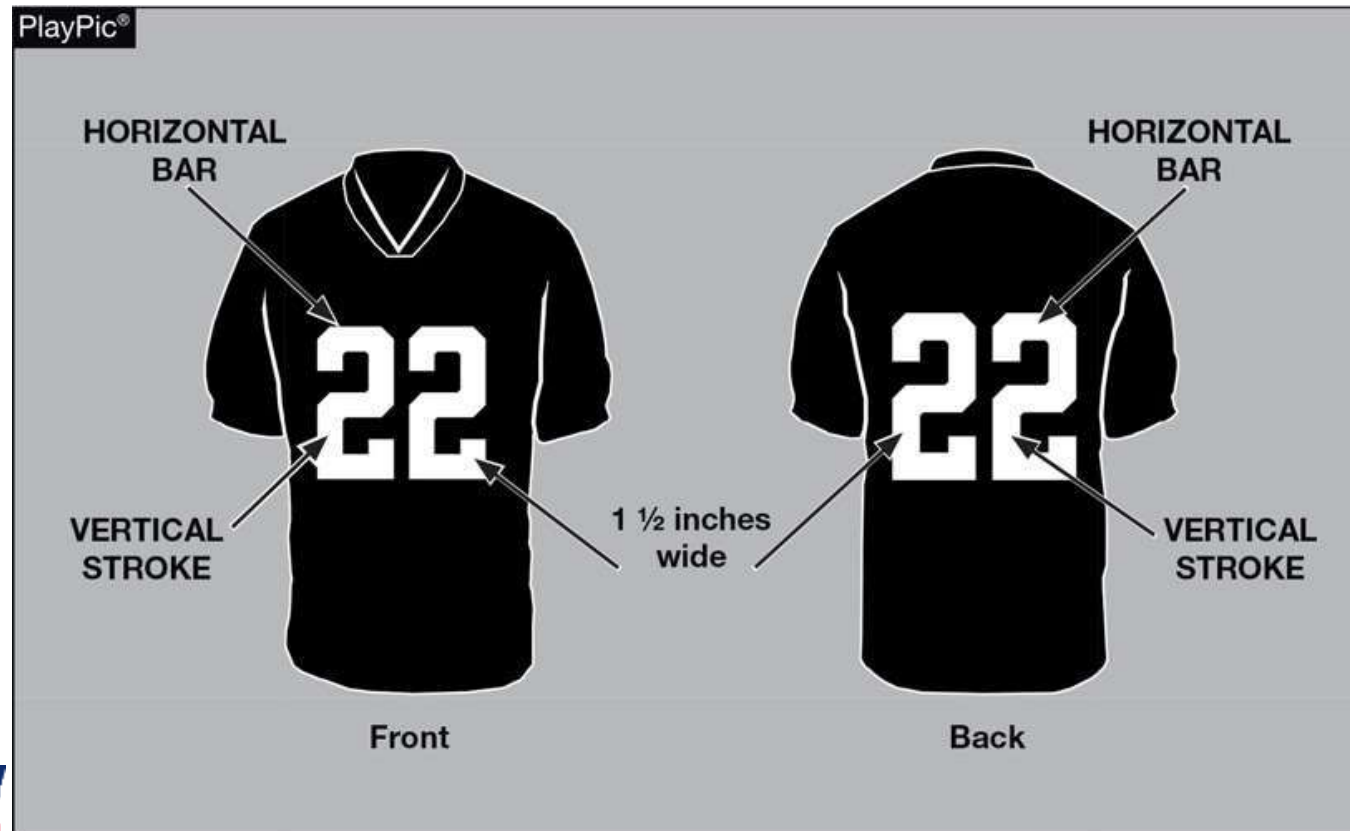


2018 UPDATE

- Vegas Gold colored jerseys will not meet the color requirements for home or away jerseys in 2021.

FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS

RULE 1-5-1c



The entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) exclusive of any border(s) shall be approximately 1½-inches wide, and a single solid color that clearly contrasts with the body color of the jersey starting in 2024.



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



The style of the numbers on all three of these jerseys are legal now and will be in 2024 as well.

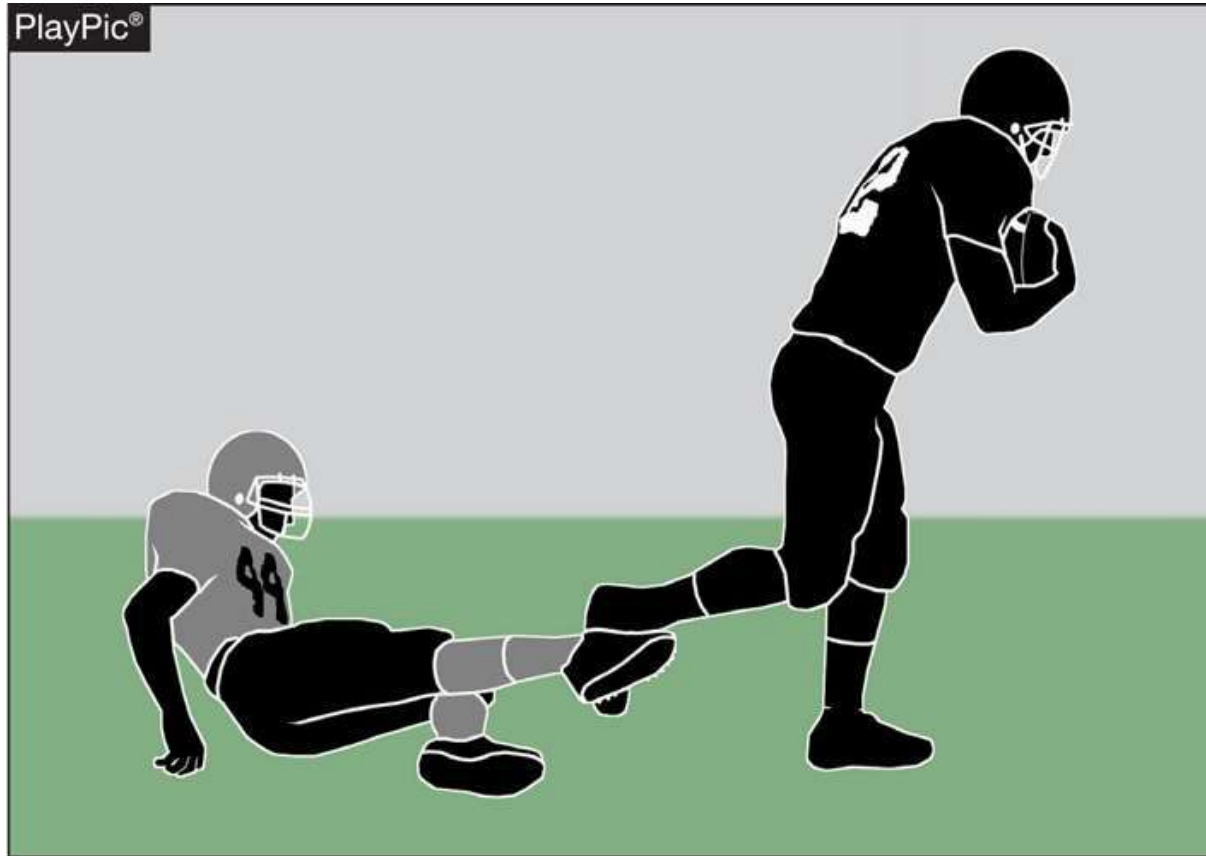
FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6)



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.

TRIPPING

RULES 2-45, 9-4-3o, 9-4-3o PENALTY



The foul for tripping has been expanded to include the runner. It is now illegal to trip any opponent. Tripping is the intentional use of the lower leg or foot to obstruct an opponent below the knee. The penalty is 15 yards.

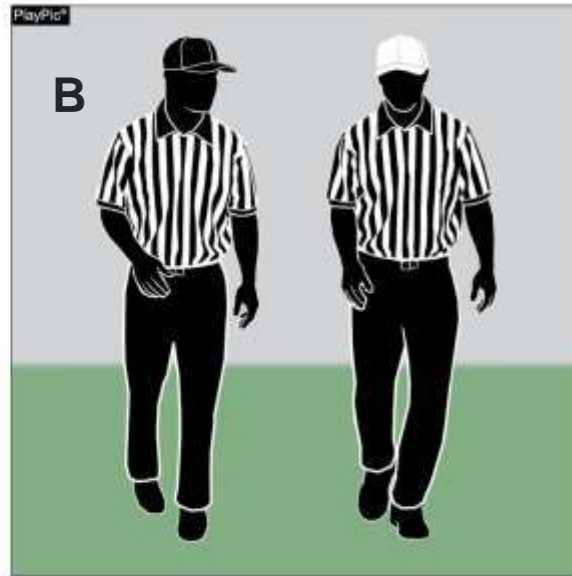
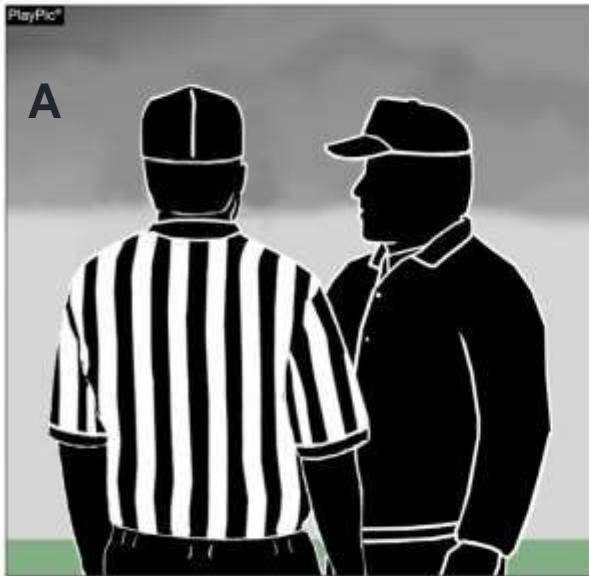


2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES



DESIGNATING TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

RULES 1-4-1, 1-4-4 (NEW), 2-32-5, 3-5-2, 10-1-1, 10-1-2, 10-2-4



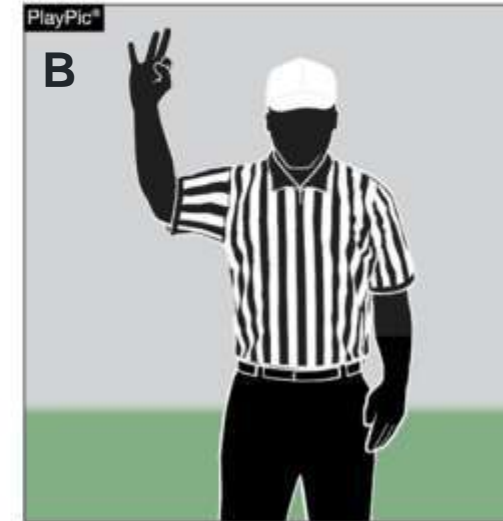
Prior to the game the head coach will notify the referee of the designated representative (coach or player) who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance or declination (PlayPic A). When a foul occurs, the linesman or line judge will inform the referee as to the penalty decision if a coach is the decision maker (PlayPic B).



HALFTIME INTERMISSION OPTION FOLLOWING WEATHER DELAY RULE 3-1-6c EXCEPTION (NEW)



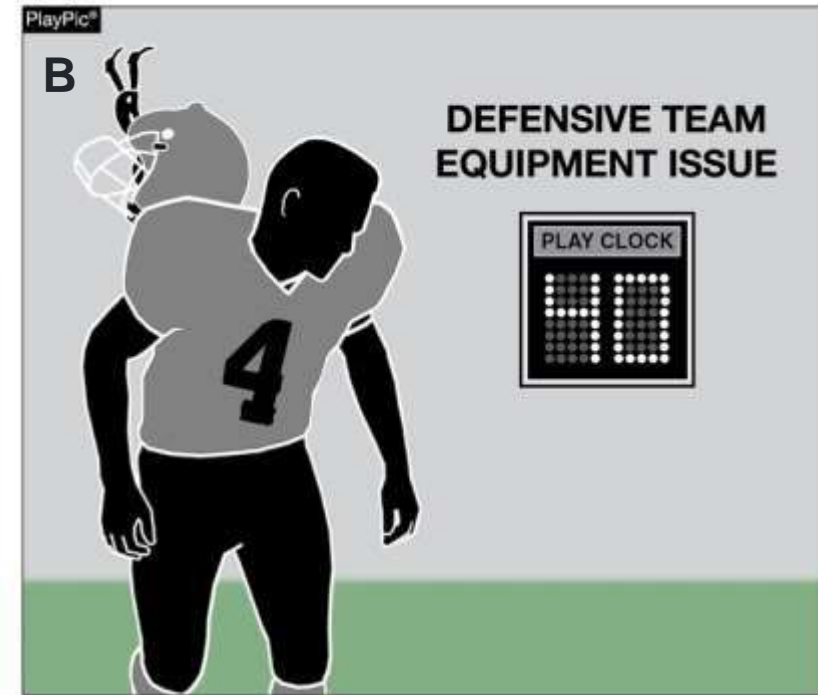
HALFTIME INTERMISSION



If weather causes a delay of at least 30 minutes during the last three minutes of the second period, the opposing coaches may mutually agree to shorten the halftime intermission below the 10-minute minimum (PlayPic A). The mandatory 3-minute warm-up must take place before the third period begins (PlayPic B).



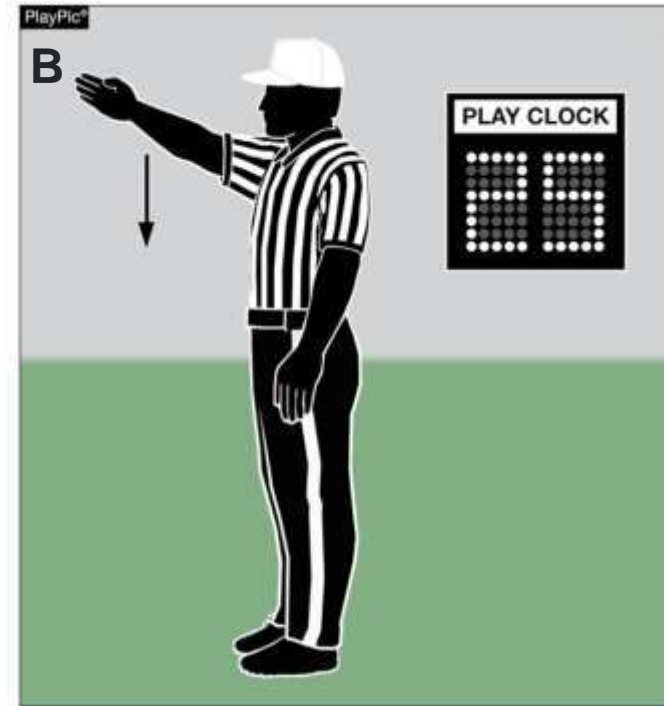
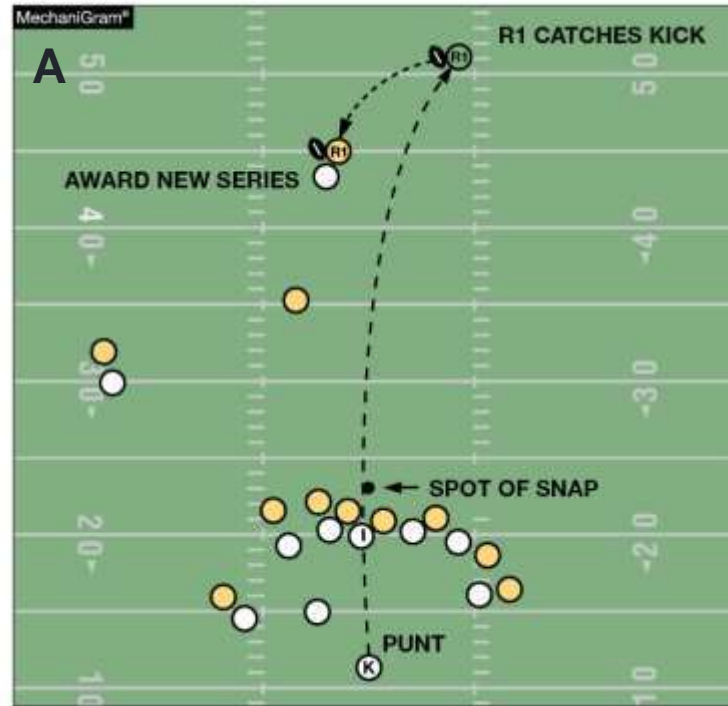
40-SECOND PLAY CLOCK CLARIFICATION RULES 3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTIONS 2 AND 3 (NEW)



The play clock will be set to 40 seconds when an officials' time-out is initially taken for an injury to a defensive player (PlayPic A) or a defensive player has an equipment issue (PlayPic B).



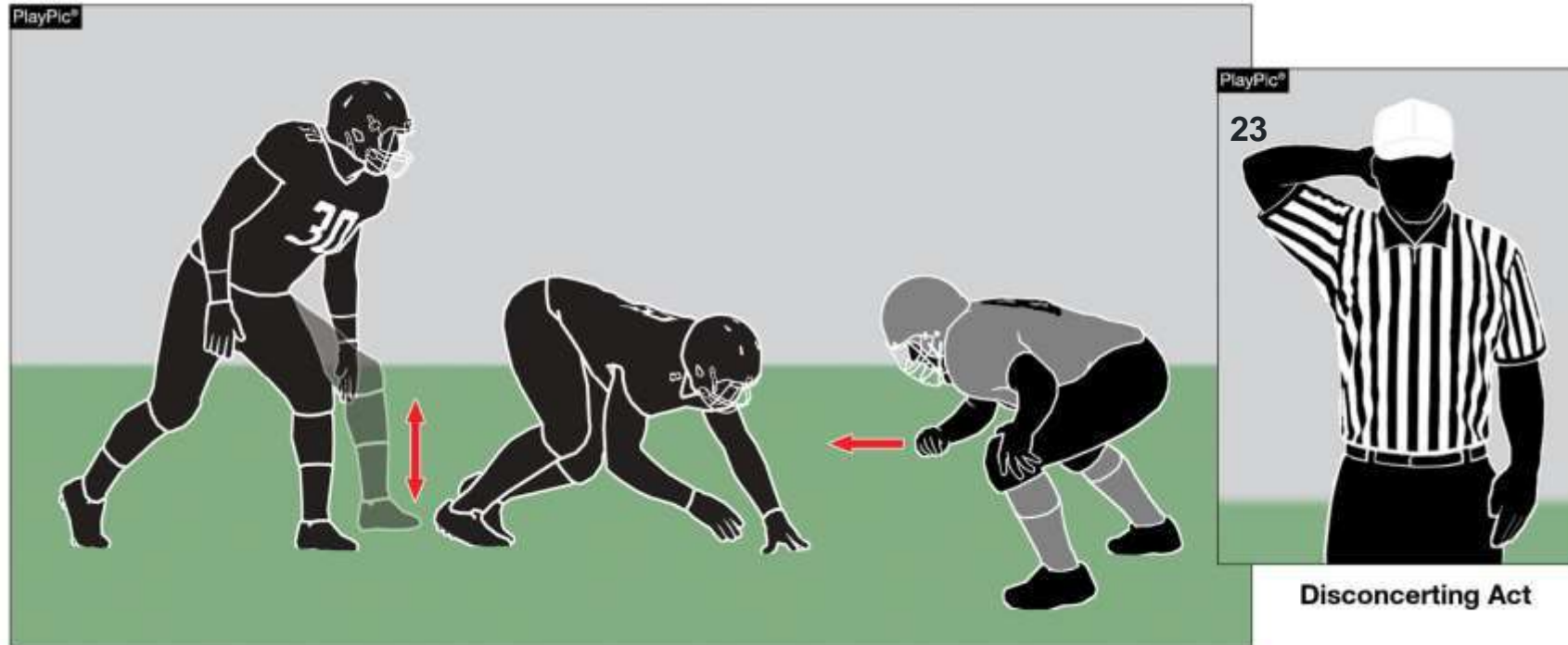
25-SECOND PLAY CLOCK CLARIFICATION RULE 3-6-1a(1)f (NEW)



When either team is awarded a new series after a legal kick (MechaniGram A), the play clock is set to 25 seconds and starts with the ready-for-play signal (PlayPic B).



DISCONCERTING ACT FOUL AND PENALTY RECLASSIFIED RULES 7-1-9 (NEW), 7-1-9 PENALTY (NEW)

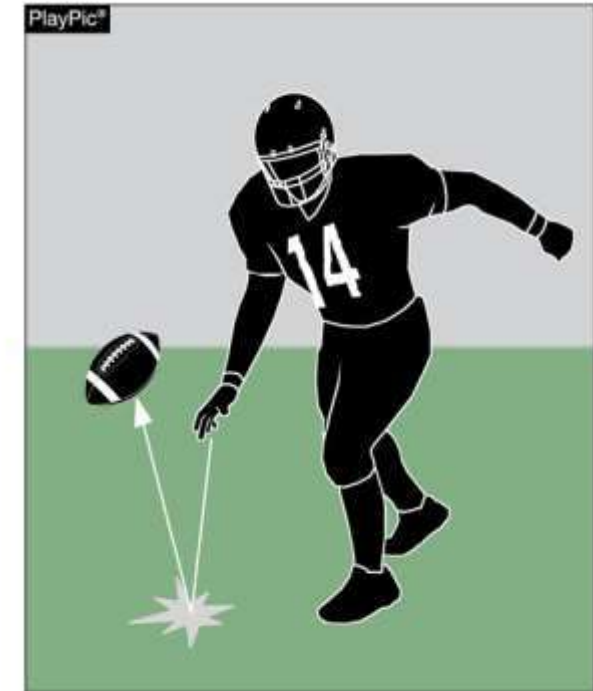
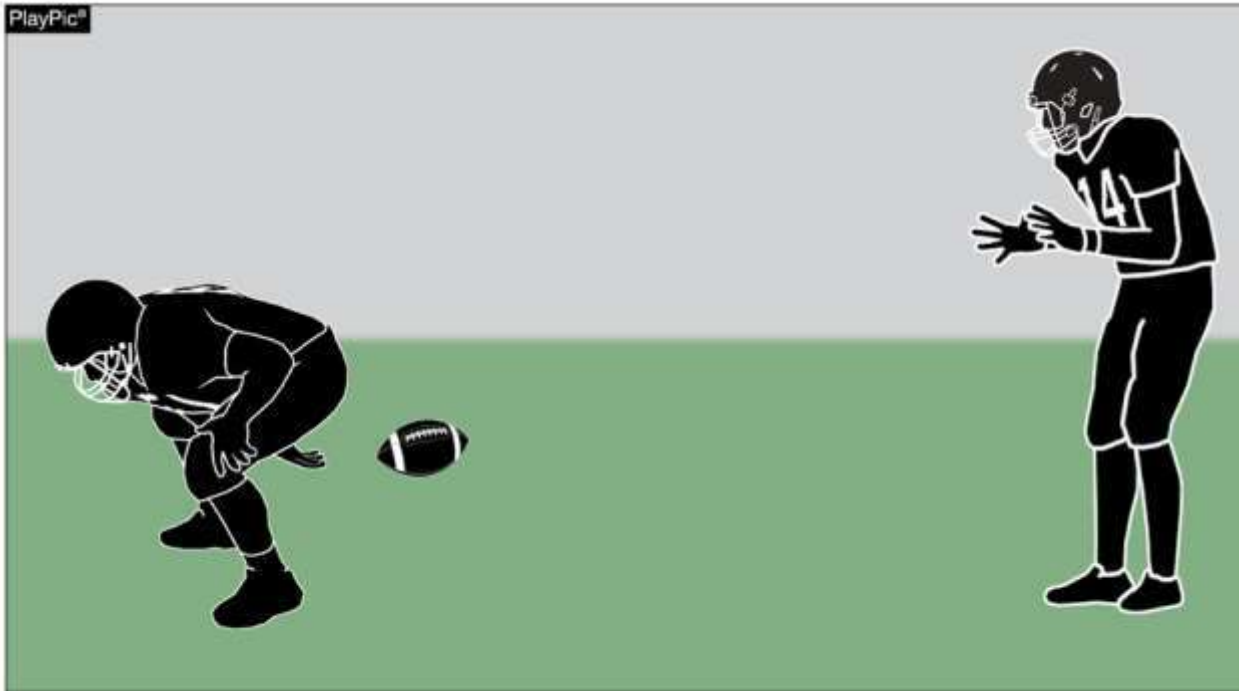


Disconcerting acts or words by the defense has been reclassified from an unsportsmanlike foul to a disconcerting act foul, and the penalty changed from 15 yards to 5 yards. Signal 23 will be used to indicate the foul.



SPIKING THE BALL TO CONSERVE TIME

7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5e EXCEPTION



The exception to allow a player to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving the snap has been expanded. This exception now includes snaps that are not hand-to-hand.

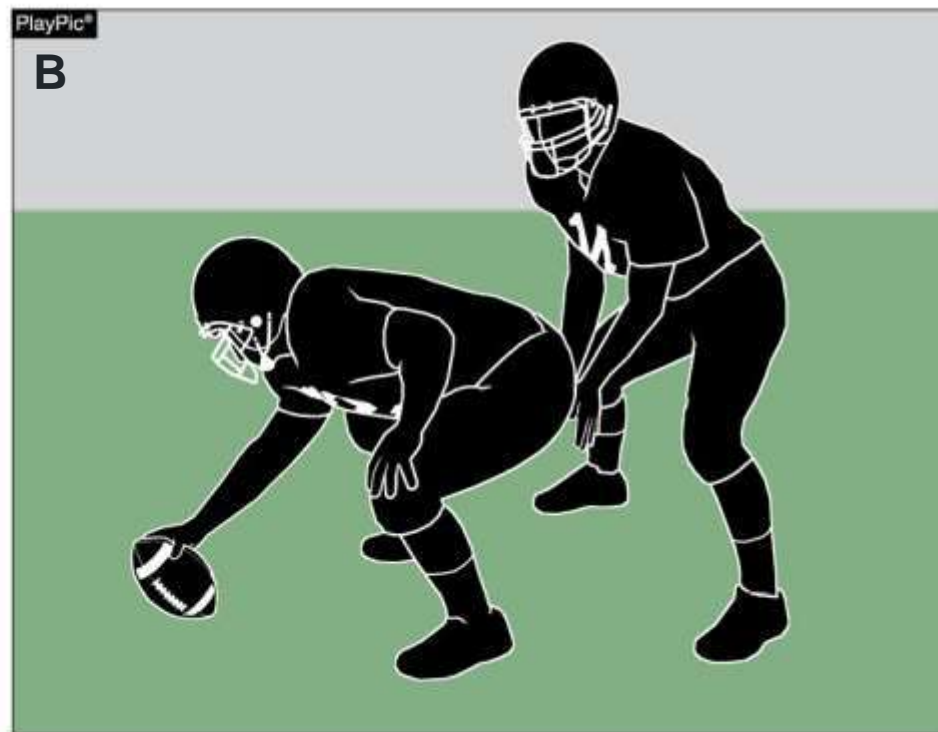


2020 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES





CORRECTING PLAY CLOCK ERRORS RULE 3-4-9 (NEW)



The referee shall have the authority to correct obvious errors in timing by the play clock (PlayPic A) if discovery is prior to the snap (PlayPic B).



2020 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

NOCSAE Warning Label	Updated the language in the NOCSAE Warning Label.
1-3-1d and g	Added reference to “Figure 1-3-1”
1-3-1i (NEW)	Added a new heading for “Method of Measuring the Ball”
Table 1-7	Updated Table 1-7 of allowable State Association Adoptions for football.
2-33-2	Penalty decisions following a foul further clarified.
2-41-9	Further defined the spot where a run ends.
3-1-6 (NEW)	Added a new Article on halftime intermission that use to be in TABLE 3-1.
3-1-7 (NEW)	Added a new Article on three-minute warm-up period that use to be in TABLE 3-1.
TABLE 3-1	Added mandatory three-minute warm-up period to TABLE 3-1.
3-4-8	Grammar edit to the Article.
7-2-5a	Clarified player formation and numbering requirements.
7-5-12	Deleted a portion of the Article that dealt with lineman.

2020 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

TABLE 7-5	Clarified enforcement spots and added rules references to TABLE 7-5.
8-2-4	Deleted “results of the play” and added “penalty.”
9-5-1d	Re-lettered items under Article 1 after deleting item on disconcerting act.
9-9 PENALTY	Deleted a signal reference in Article 3.
10-4-2 EXCEPTION	Added “legal” before “free or scrimmage kick down.”
10-5-1j	Added “legal” before “kick.”
Penalty Summary	New format. Added “Disconcerting Act” foul under loss of 5-yards penalty.
NFHS Official Football Signals	Added New Signal 17 on play clock and revised Signal 23 for disconcerting act.
Appendix H (NEW)	Added a new Appendix H on “Modifications for Competition Below Ninth Grade.”
Index	Added Intermission, Length of Halftime to Index.





2020 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



2020 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship
2. Intentional Grounding
3. Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage Formation



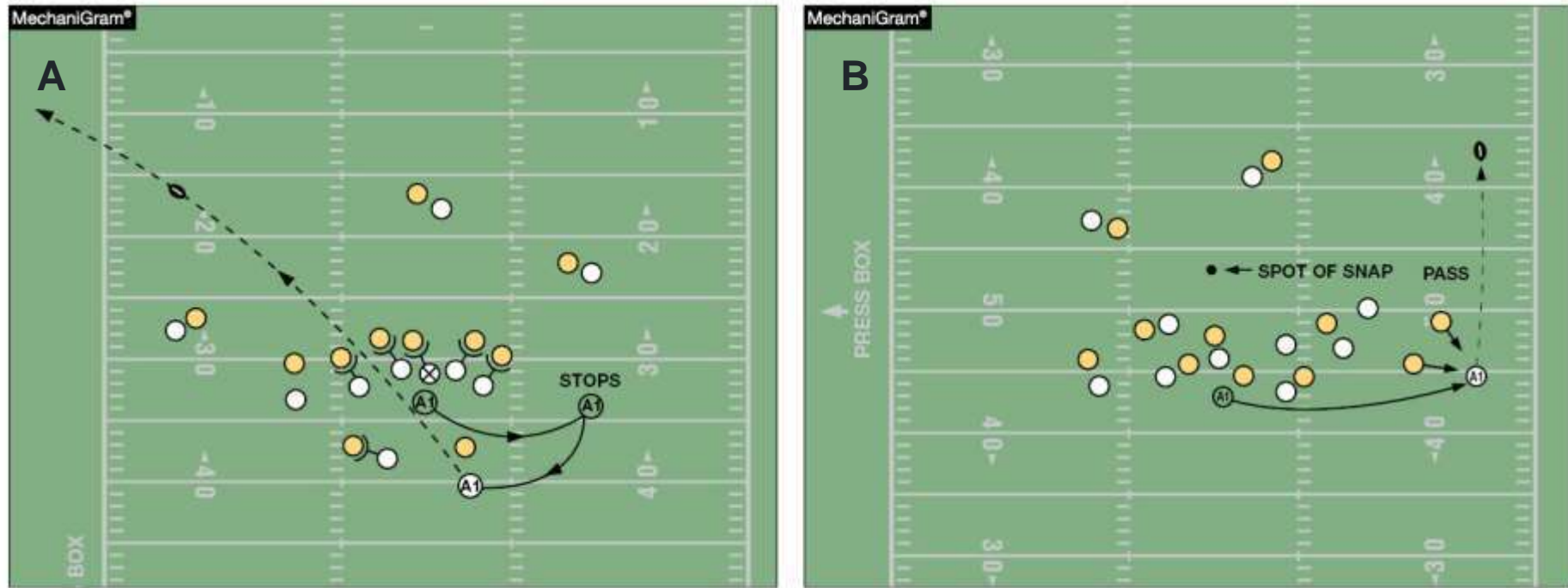
SPORTSMANSHIP



When considering sportsmanship, many may first think only of the game participants (athletes and coaches) within the timeframe of the game. Although players and coaches are the most visible in their displays of sportsmanship, proper sportsmanship also includes public address announcers (PlayPic A), bands (PlayPic B) and spectators (PlayPic C).

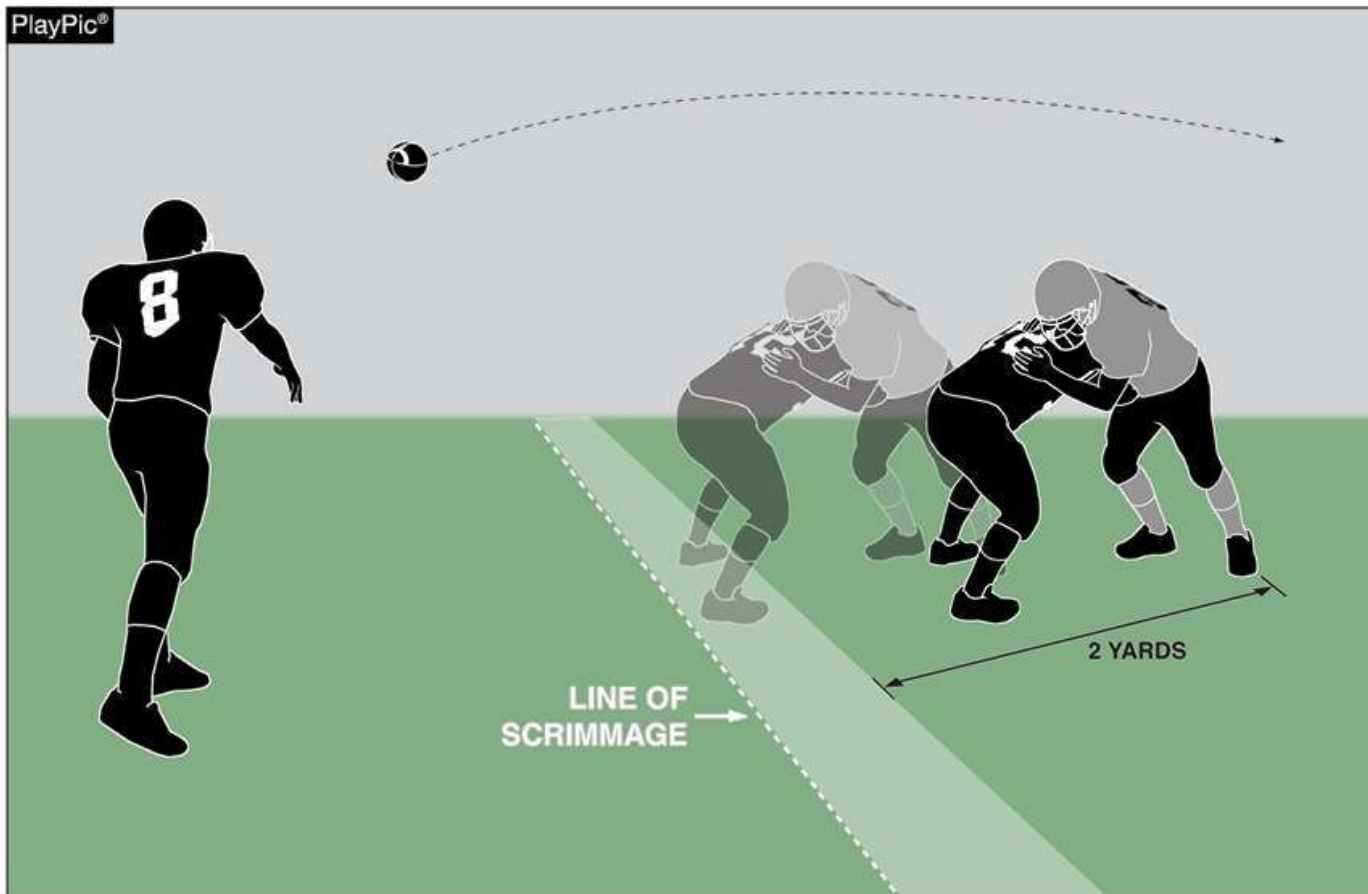


INTENTIONAL GROUNDING



Under NFHS rules, unless using the legal exception in Rule 7-5-2e, intentional grounding is a foul whenever a forward pass is thrown to prevent a loss of yardage or to conserve time (PlayPic A) or to an area not occupied by an eligible receiver (PlayPic B). High school referees need to be aware of these situations and, with the help of the line judge and linesman, make the correct call under NFHS football rules.

INELIGIBLE DOWNFIELD



Ineligible A players may not advance beyond the expanded neutral zone on a legal forward pass play before a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone is in flight. The neutral zone expands two yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage following the snap. When identifying A players who are illegally downfield it is important to make sure that the A player is clearly beyond the expanded neutral zone (2 yards) at the moment that the pass occurs.



2020-2021 NFHS FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL





2020-2021 NFHS FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- 2020 is a print year for the NFHS Football Game Officials Manual.
- 2020-2021 Game Officials Manual Points of Emphasis (See pages 91-93 of the 2020-2021 NFHS Football Game Officials Manual):
 1. Clock Management Communication
 2. Respectful Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials
 3. Preventing Inequities Due to Illegal Substitution and/or Illegal Formation
 4. Responsibility for Minimizing Risk in the Game





2020-2021 NFHS FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- The Game Officials Manual Committee added and/or updated the following items for 2020-2021:
 1. Added new NFHS General Instructions for Football Game and Play Clock Operators.
 2. Changed NFHS Official Signal 23 to Disconcerting Act in the signal chart.
 3. Updated the Pregame Conference Responsibilities for the Crew.
 4. Game officials' uniforms updated.
 5. Strongly recommend that Line-to-Gain Crews be adults.
 6. The referee should have the ball marked ready for play in three to five seconds following the placement of the ball.
 7. In five-person officiating crews, the line judge will now time the game if a visible game clock is not available.





RESET PLAY CLOCK-SIGNAL 17 (NEW) NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS



Reset play clock to 25 seconds
(Use both hands to have play clock
reset to 40 seconds.)





2020-21 NFHS FOOTBALL INFORMATION



2021 NFHS FOOTBALL RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL ONLINE FORM

Due:

November 1, 2020

**Must be submitted to
your state association
office for approval.**



NFHS SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSION IN SPORTS

Appendix B 2020 NFHS Football Rules Page 98



National Federation of State High School Associations

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSION IN SPORTS

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION INCLUDE:

- Dazed or stunned appearance;
- Confusion about assignment or position;
- Forgetfulness;
- Uncertainty of game, score, or opponent;
- Clammy sweaters;
- Slow response to questions;
- Mood, behavior or personality changes;
- Can't recall events prior to or after hit or fall;
- Headache or "pressure" in head;
- Nausea;
- Balance problems or dizziness;
- Double or blurry vision;
- Sensitivity to light or noise;
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy;
- Concentration or memory problems;
- Emotions of "not feeling right" or "feeling down."

Activate the Emergency Medical System or Call 9-1-1 if, after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, an athlete has one or more of these danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other;
- Drowsiness or inability to wake up;
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away;
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination;
- Repeated vomiting or nausea;
- Convulsions or seizures (shaking or twitching);
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation;
- Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out). Even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.

SUGGESTED CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT:

1. No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional as soon as possible.
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.
4. After medical clearance, RTP should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon return of any signs or symptoms at rest, while doing school work or with physical activity.

For further details, please see the "NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports" at www.nfhs.org.

Revised and Approved February 2019

In the Appendix
in all of the
2020-21 NFHS
Rules Book





THANK YOU

National Federation of State High School Associations

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www.nfhs.org | www.nfhslearn.com | www.nfhsnetwork.com

