

2021 Football Bulletin 1

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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2021 SEASON UPDATES

- **DELAYED/SUSPENDED GAMES:** Each official should review Appendix E on page 101 of the rules book. This is pertaining to weather and lightning delays.

Also, review Rules 3-1-6c Exception as well as 3-1-3. There has been some confusion, these are two separate issues but with both coaches in mutual agreement, both sections can be instituted during such weather event in which coaches agree to shorten period or periods and /or shorting of halftime to less than 10 Minutes when the clock reads 2:59 or less in the 2nd quarter.

Note: Officials are NOT to ask coaches if they want to shorten a period or halftime. Officials wait for the coaches to ask and then advise them as per rule.

Rule 3-1-3:

ART. 3 ... A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.

Rule 3-1-6:

ART. 6 ... State high school associations may determine the length of halftime intermission, provided it is not less than 10 minutes and not more than 20 minutes.

- a. 15 minutes is normal for halftime intermission.
- b. Halftime intermission may be increased to a maximum of 20 minutes, provided opponents have been notified no later than five minutes prior to the game.
- c. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches, the halftime intermission may be reduced to a minimum of 10 minutes (not including the mandatory warm-up period).

EXCEPTION: If the game is interrupted due to weather during the last three minutes of the second period, and the delay is at least 30 minutes, the opposing coaches can mutually agree to shorten halftime intermission, provided there is at least a one-minute intermission (not including the three-minute warm-up period).

2021 Season Updates Continued

- **HEAT/HUMIDITY:** Some games are seeing High Heat and Humidity. Officials are reminded to allow extra time after changes of possession, after a score and try for players to hydrate (take on water). Officials must be careful not to interrupt momentum during a drive but do so at times the game has normal breaks as mentioned above. Take the time to also get crew members hydrated as well during these periods.

- **HELMET OFF:** 4-2-2k the ball is dead when the helmet comes completely off the runner.

Any time a helmet comes completely off a runner the ball shall be declared dead immediately. If due to a foul (face mask foul) official should have a flag for the foul, if it comes off from a non-foul official shall bean bag spot and blow whistle to declare the ball dead immediately.

Play 1: With time running out in the first half, A 2/7 at the B19, QB A12 drops back to pass. B72 attempts to tackle A12 but grabs his face mask as A12 ducks under B72 ripping A12's helmet off. Official throws his flag for the face mask foul but allows A12 to roll out and complete a pass to A82 in the end zone.

Ruling: The ball became dead when the helmet came completely off A12, the ball should have been declared dead. Because it was not, the crew should enforce the foul for the face mask, place time back on the clock that ran off from the time the helmet came off till the ball was declared dead in the end zone, (or held one untimed down if time had run out in the qtr.) A 12 does **NOT** have to leave the game as the reason for the helmet coming off was a direct result of a foul.

Remember: A runner is any player that has possession of the ball. Also, when a helmet comes off any NON-RUNNER that player is prohibited from further participation beyond the immediate action in which the player is engaged. (9-6-4g).

- **MOMENTUM:** 8-5-2a Exception

This play was "seen on TV" and questions have been asked about this in our game. So here is the play and ruling. (If you saw this play on TV, for discussion purposes we are ignoring that the runner's knee touched the ground before the pass was thrown).

Play: 4th & 10 from R's 40, K in punt formation. K1's punt is high and coming down at R's 2 yard line between the numbers and the sideline where R21 catches the punt. His momentum carries him into the end zone where he slips, but does not allow any part of his body to touch the ground except his hand. R21 sees K81 approaching him to tackle him, panics and throws a forward pass that goes out of bounds at K's 5 yard line. The B dropped his beanbag at R's 2 yard line when the kick was caught. A flag is dropped by the F at the spot of the pass in R's end zone.

Ruling: Safety, 2 pts for A. Illegal forward pass, enforcement leaves the ball behind B's goal line.

Remember: B must be in Legal possession at the end of the down with the ball in the end zone or out of bounds in the end zone to have momentum.

2021 Season Updates Continued

- **MOMENTUM:** 8-5-2a Exception Continued

ART. 2 ... It is a safety when:

a. A runner carries the ball from the field of play to or across his own goal line, and it becomes dead there in his team's possession.

EXCEPTION: When a defensive player intercepts an opponent's forward pass; intercepts or recovers an opponent's fumble or backward pass; or an R player catches or recovers a scrimmage kick or free kick between his 5-yard line and the goal line, and his original **Momentum** carries him into the end zone where the ball remains in the end zone and is declared dead in the end zone in his team's possession or it goes out of bounds in the end zone, the ball belongs to the team in possession at the spot where the pass or fumble was intercepted or recovered or the kick was caught or recovered.

- **ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT:** 1-6-1

Play 1: During the 2nd quarter the Home team discovers that the Visitors are using a Digital Video camera set up in the end zone that is transmitting the game back to the coaches on the sideline.

Ruling: Legal, as long as it is being used by coaches and non-players, or during player/coaches conference OUTSIDE the 9 yard marks (outside the numbers).

Remember: This is a stationary camera mounted to a pole, it can not be a person sitting in a man lift communicating back to the coaching staff. Also, remind all officials of the Drone Policy as printed below.

- **DRONE POLICY:** Listed below is the formal PIAA Drone Policy which was approved by the PIAA Board of Directors on October 7, 2015. Please be sure to acquaint the members of your chapter with this policy.

USE OF DRONES POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, a drone is any unmanned aerial device ("UAV"). Drones are not permitted above the competition surface or spectator areas during interscholastic Contests, Inter-school Practices and Scrimmages. Drones may not be used to scout opposing team Practices. Member schools may utilize drones for their own school team practice sessions based upon their local school policies.

Persons and/or schools violating this Policy shall be subject to sanctions which may be imposed under Sections 5, 6, 7 and/or 9 of ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, of the PIAA By-Laws.

Upon timely requests submitted to PIAA, the Executive Director is authorized to grant exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis for PIAA broadcast partners in conjunction with any host school/facility local policies.