

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2021 Football Bulletin 4

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



PIAA Officials' Staff:

Patrick B. Gebhart, Assistant Executive Director
Ryan D. Hartman, Chapters' Secretary
Jacqueline Rocco, Officials' Secretary
Kim Hill, Officials' Corresponding Secretary

October 2021
Statewide Rules Interpreter
Dave Blair

2021 SEASON UPDATES

As we are heading into the second half of the season we need to stay focused and work hard every game as teams are making a run to the playoffs. We are doing a much better job of equipment and sideline enforcement. Keep up that good work. Remember that we should "STAY" in the rules book, this no time to coast to the end of the season. Some things we need to focus on:

- Focus on the player "going against the grain" looking for a Blind Side Block with possible Targeting. This often happens during a kick or long scrimmage play. Offside officials should not look for the ball but expand your view and look in areas where a player is coming back against the grain to set up a block. These are dangerous blocks and we must see them and get them. **BLIND SIDE BLOCK 9-4-3n**
- Throwing your flag: Officials should be aware how we throw our flag. If you're a H or L, and we have a False Start or Encroachment it's not necessary to throw it towards the offending teams LOS, or bring down rain, and avoid doing it in a non-interested or "Got you" manner. All officials, while the spot can be important, the yard line on which the foul happened is more important than the actual "SPOT". Avoid throwing at or hitting players. And remember to cover your crewmates flag.
- Officials should strive to get to your game as close to 1 ½ hour prior to kick off as we can. There should be no excuse in arriving 30 to 45 minutes before game time. Plan to leave early.
- Deep Wings, keep your cushion, do not allow players to get by you. The only time you have responsibility for a spot is inside the 2 yard line or in reverse mechanics.
- Umpires, it is your responsibility to help with catch/no catch over the middle on a pass, but NOT to call OPI/DPI, allow the wings to get that.

2021 SEASON UPDATES CONTINUED

- Reminder for play #1 Below. We DO NOT require 7 players on the LOS, the minimum number of linemen is 5, numbered properly (50-79) with the exception of the numbering rule and no more than 4 in the backfield.
 - **Play 1:** Team K lines up for a PAT with no players numbered 50-79. The snapper A89 is on the end of the line. The snap is low. The holder A12 stands up and picks up the ball and throws a forward pass to the snapper A89 who catches it in the end zone.

Ruling: 2 Point TD for A. if 89 is on the end of line, and wearing a eligible number, then he is eligible throughout the play, so long as a shift does not "cover him and he no longer is on the end of the line. The rule does Not say the "Snapper" must be between the ends, just the numbering exceptions when in a scrimmage kick formation on 4th down must be inside the ends. The snapper is not a number exception in this case (exception 2) Remember that any time the numbering exception is in effect that the team is NOT required to kick the ball.

Rule 7-2-5 ... Player formation and numbering requirements include:

 - a. No more than four A players may be backs and only one A player may penetrate the vertical plane through the waistline of his nearest teammate who is on his line as in 7-2-3; and
 - b. At the snap, at least five A players on their line of scrimmage must be numbered 50-79.

EXCEPTIONS:

 1. On first, second or third down, when A sets or shifts into a scrimmage-kick formation as in 2-14-2a, the snapper may be a player numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99. If Team A has the snapper in the game under this exception, Team A shall have four players wearing numbers 50-79 on its line of scrimmage. The snapper in the game under this exception must be between the ends and is an ineligible forward-pass receiver during that down unless the pass is touched by B (7-5-6b).
 2. On fourth down or during a kick try, when A sets or shifts into a scrimmage-kick formation, any A player numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99 may take the position of any A player numbered 50 to 79. A player in the game under this exception must assume an initial position on his line of scrimmage between the ends and he remains an ineligible forward-pass receiver during that down unless the pass is touched by B (7-5-6b). Rule 7-2-5 S-19
 - **Play 2:** Ineligible receiver A2 is behind, in or beyond his neutral zone and has committed no act against a defender that could be ruled pass interference when a forward pass by A1:
 - (a) accidentally strikes him in the back; or
 - (b) is muffed by him; or
 - (c) is caught by him.

RULING: In (a), there is no foul for illegal touching. In (b) and (c), it is illegal touching. The acts in both (b) and (c) are intentional and not accidental as in (a). Rule 7-5-13 S-16-9. Remember, this is NOT Offensive Pass Interference or Intentional Grounding.