

2021 Football Bulletin 5

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 head down the back stretch of the 2021 season we must stay focused on our mechanics and work every game to improve in those areas. While mechanics are what the Players and Coaches base their perception of us on, we must not misapply a rule either. Stay in the book, we have seen this past week the lack of understanding the hurdling rule that differs from the Saturday or Sunday rule. There has also been a few games that have "lost a down." This should not happen when there are 5 or 6 officials on the game. We have also seen defensive teams using disconcerting signals more often during crucial situations of games, we must be aware of these situations and penalize when they occur. Let's review these below.

- **HURDLING:** While this may be legal on TV, it is NOT in a NFHS/PIAA game. Hurdling may be an athletic move, but it is illegal and must be penalized. Rule 2-22
 - Hurdling is an attempt by a player to jump (hurdle) with one or both feet or knees foremost over an opponent who is contacting the ground with no part of his body except one or both feet.
 - Rule 9-4-3d
 - **ART. 3 ...** No player or non-player shall:
 - a. Swing the foot, shin or knee into an opponent, nor extend the knee to meet a blocker.
 - b. Charge into or throw an opponent to the ground after he is obviously out of the play, or after the ball is clearly dead either in or out of bounds.
 - c. Pile on any player who is lying on the ground.
 - d. Hurdle an opponent.
 - **Play 1:** A 1/10 @ A 35, As A 26 breaks into the open B 17 closes to make the tackle, and with one or both feet on the ground B17 bends at the hips to attempt to tackle A26 at the A45, A26 leaps/hurdles over B17 and runs for a TD.
 - **Ruling:** Hurdling, A 1/15 @ A 30 15 yard penalty from the A 45 yard line Spot of the foul.
Signal: 38
 - **Illegal Hurdling:** <https://twitter.com/joeldreports/status/1446683165184217092?s=21>
- **DISCONCERTION:** Rule 7-1-9 No defensive player shall use disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with A's signals or movements.
 - **Play 1:** B1 calls defensive signals loudly: (a) before A takes its set position; or (b) during the time A1 is giving his cadence count; or (c) while A1 is using audibles.
 - **RULING:** Legal in (a). In (b) and (c), if in the covering official's judgment the action by B1 was for the purpose of disconcerting or hindering A, it is a foul for a disconcerting act. In this case, the covering official should sound his whistle before the snap. (7-1-9)
Signal: 7-23

2021 SEASON UPDATES CONTINUED

- **FIELD GOAL/PAT: Holder with Knee on the Ground:** At the snap, K1 is in position to kick and K2 is in position to hold for a place kick with one knee on the ground. The snap is high or bounces once and it is necessary for K2 to lift his knee off the ground in order to catch or recover the ball. K2 catches the snap and: (a) immediately drops to one knee and places the ball for a kick; or (b) immediately drops to his knees and then rises and passes the ball; or (c) takes several steps and then drops to his knees to place the ball; or (d) takes several steps and fumbles the ball which is subsequently recovered and advanced by K1 or K2.
 - **RULING:** The ball remains live in (a), (b) and (d). In (c), the ball is dead when K2's knee touches the ground, because he did not go back down immediately after catching or recovering the errant snap. In (d), the advance by K1 or K2 is legal. (4-2-2a Exception)
- **LINEMEN:** What is required to place a player on the line as a LINEMAN?
 - Rule: 2-32-9: A lineman is any A player who is facing his opponent's goal line with the line of his shoulders approximately parallel thereto and with his head or foot breaking an imaginary plane drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the snapper when the ball is snapped.
 - **NOTE:** Officials need to clean this up early in the game and get the formations clean early. Be aware of the Guard or Tackle that sets up deep to either pull or pass block.
- **LOSING A DOWN:** We have seen this happen this year in our games and even at the next level. This MUST not happen when we have 5, 6 or 7 officials on the field. It is not just the Referees or Head Linesman responsibility to know what down it is. This is a Crew responsibility! If you think there is a problem as a crew member, stop play, conference as a crew, use the statistician charting the play if necessary. Do what it takes to get the play and Down Correct!! Don't allow the "Box Person" to ruin your game. Often we see this when a "Loss of Down" penalty is enforced, and is usually a factor of lack of concentration and focus.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL DISQUALIFICATION:** Remember - we have to be correct when ejecting. We must have rules support for the ejection and the correct player or coach that we are ejecting.
 - Also, remember the criteria for a Supplemental Disqualification—act(s) of confronting, contacting or addressing a Coach, contestant or official using foul or vulgar language, ethnic or racially insensitive comments or physical contact.
 - * A punch or a fight are both criteria for a Supplemental Disqualification since they involve a confrontation and/or physical contact between the involved persons.
 - * The name of the ejected coach or player must be listed. Numbers alone do not work.

