



# media information



1661 ramblewood drive east lansing, mi 48823 517.332.5046 fax-517.332.4071 www.mhsaa.com

## MEDIA ADVISORY

August 25, 2006

Contact: John Johnson or Andy Frushour

517.332.5046 or www.mhsaa.com

### You Make The Call – Football Rules Questions

We are pleased to share with you a feature that our friends at the Iowa High School Athletic Association have developed to test your rules knowledge, as well as that of your respective audiences; and to help you develop an appreciation for game officials and the job they have. You Make The Call is a feature that reviews sports rules interpretations, and how they are applied at the high school and college levels.

— — — — —  
A denotes team on offense; B on defense; K is the kicking team and R is the receiving team. After reading each situation, determine the best answer for high school rules (NFHS) and/or NCAA rules.

- 1 With A leading 20-12 in the final minute of the game, they punt to B. B-23 is in position to catch the punt and while it is in the air, he extends his right arm above his head and laterally waves it twice, before using that hand to shade his eyes from the glare of the lights. He catches the punt at his 31, but makes no attempt to advance.**
- (A) B-23 had made a legal fair catch
  - (B) B-23 has made an illegal fair catch signal and his act should be penalized from B's 31 or A can replay the down.
  - (C) B-23 has violated but there is no yardage penalty and the ball is dead at the spot of his catch.
- 2 Team A has the ball, first and goal at B's six yard line with 19 seconds remaining in the game and Team B leading 12-7. Center A-58 in legal position snaps the ball to quarterback A-9 before the referee has given the ready for play whistle. A-9 then sweeps right end of a touchdown. The flag on the play means:**
- (A) there is no touchdown, penalize A five yards and give the rolling fists signal; A's ball first and goal at B's 11
  - (B) a 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalty will be assessed to A; do not allow the touchdown; first and goal for A at B's 21.
  - (C) do not allow the touchdown, penalize A five yards for delay of game; A's ball first and goal at the B's 11
  - (D) there is no penalty and touchdown; referee will warn team A to wait for the ready before snapping; replay the down.
- 3 It is fourth and goal for A on B's eight yard line with the score tied 13-13 and 45 seconds remaining in the game. A lines up for a field goal and B responds with several substitutes. B-11 quickly and incorrectly counts his team and thinking he is the 12th man leaves the field through the end line just before the snap and returns to his bench. A's field goal is good.**
- (A) Legal play
  - (B) Team B has committed a dead ball foul for illegal participation and penalized half the distance to the four.
  - (C) Team B has committed a dead ball foul for substitute infraction and will be penalized half the distance to the four.
  - (D) A can decline the penalty and take the made field goal and kick off to B.

(more)

## 2-2-2 – You Make The Call - Football

**4** With 45 seconds left in the first half and the score tied at 7, A has the ball at their 45-yard line, third and ten. Quarterback A-9 drops back to pass and throws an underhand pass forward to legal receiver A-22 at the 43. A-22, still behind the line of scrimmage then throws a backward pass to A-44 at B's 39. A-44 then throws a forward pass toward A-88 at B's 35 yard line. B-16 blocks A-88 away from the ball and intercepts the pass and returns it to the 50 yard line. The next snap, down and distance and line of scrimmage is:

- (A) First and ten for B at B's 40
- (B) First and ten for A at B's 40
- (C) First and ten for B at the 50
- (D) A retains possession, fourth down and 21 at A's 34; there is no interference by B on the second (and illegal) forward pass

**5** It is fourth and 15 for K on their own 30. K-12's punt lands on R's 35 yard line and bounces high into the air. After the ball strikes the ground, R-31 gives a fair catch signal, catches the bounce at his 35, where he is immediately tackled by K-63.

- (A) the ball remained alive when R-31 recovered it on the bounce therefore all action is legal.
- (B) R-31's signal was invalid and R is liable to be penalized 5 yards from R's 35
- (C) this was a valid signal since it was given when the ball was in the air; therefore K-63 is guilty of a late hit, personal foul. Penalize K 15 yards to mid-field and award a first down.
- (D) R-31 gave a fair catch signal that was illegal, but there is no penalty and the ball was dead when R-31 possessed it.

**6** Second and six for A from their own 35 yard line in the second quarter with 1:20 remaining and the clock running. B-63 grabs but does not twist or pull the face mask of A-33 who is blocking for A-16 behind the neutral zone at A's 34. The foul occurs before a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone and is caught by A-88 at A's 40 yard line.

- (A) If the penalty is accepted it is enforced from A's 41
- (B) If the penalty is accepted it is enforced from the spot of the foul
- (C) The five yard penalty if accepted is five yards is enforced from the previous spot and is an automatic first down.
- (D) The five yard penalty if accepted is enforced from the previous spot

**7** With 24 seconds left in the game and B leading 14-6, on a third and 8 from B's 19, A-55 snaps the ball before the referee has given the ready for play signal. After blowing the whistle to stop the play, the referee should

- (A) warn A
- (B) give the delay of game signal, penalize five yards to B's 24 and mark the ball ready
- (C) give the illegal procedure signal and mark the ball ready

**8** A trails B, 21-19 with 2:45 remaining in the game. It is second and 10 for A from B's 19 yard line. A-21 takes a pitchout and carries to B's 14. After the ball is dead, B-66 piles on and A-73 subsequently spears B-66. The next down and distance for A will be:

- (A) Third and five from B's 14 since the fouls by B-66 and A-73 offset
- (B) Second and five from B's 14 since the fouls by B-66 and A-73 offset
- (C) Third and 13 for B from A's 22
- (D) Third and 8 for B from A's 17

**9** With team A leading 21-12 and the game clock running with 1:10 remaining, it is second and seven from midfield. Quarterback A-10 takes the snap, turns away from the line of scrimmage, fakes placing his knee on the ground and then laterals to A-47 who sweeps around right end for a touchdown.

- (A) legal play
- (B) illegal play penalize 15 yards from the previous spot for unsportsmanlike act by A

(more)

### 3-3-3 – You Make The Call - Football

**10 Third and ten for A on A's six yard line. A-12 drops back and has to scramble deep into his end zone. He throws to ineligible A-9 who muffs the ball while two yards deep in the end zone. The pass falls incomplete.**

- (A) no penalty – just an incomplete pass
- (B) illegal touching by A-9 in end zone, penalty from the spot – safety for B
- (C) illegal touching by A-9 in the end zone, penalty is assessed from previous spot, half the distance to the three for fourth and 13.
- (D) offensive pass interference by A-9

**11 A's ball, first and 19 on A's 43. A trails 10-7 with 2:19 remaining in the game. Quarterback A-11 drops back to pass and his pass is deflected by rushing lineman B-63 at A's 40, while B-55 interferes with legal receiver A-44 at A's 42. The pass is then intercepted by B-49 at A's 45 yard line where he is tackled. Following the pass A-11 is roughed by B-63 at A's 38. The next snap, down and distance and line of scrimmage is:**

- (A) A's ball, first and four at B's 43
- (B) B's ball first and ten at B's 25
- (C) A's ball first and ten at B's 42
- (D) B's ball first and ten at B's 30

**12 With 55 seconds left in the half and the score tied, A is at B's 20 yard line. On first and 10, Quarterback A-10 runs to B's 16, retreats to B's 25 where he throws a pass into the end zone that is caught by eligible A-92. Your call is:**

- (A) A-10 has thrown an illegal forward pass with the penalty being 5 yards from the spot of the pass and loss of down.
- (B) Penalize A five yards from the spot of the pass for an illegal forward pass, however there is no loss of down.
- (C) legal play – touchdown.
- (D) Illegal play – penalty is assessed from the previous spot (A's 20).

**13 A is leading 28-20 with 10 seconds remaining. A is in possession, third and one at B's 41. On a quarterback sneak A-15 fumbles the ball into the air. B-75 catches the fumble at the B's 40 and runs 60 yards for a touchdown, as time expires. During the run B-25 deliberately taunts A-15 at B's 41. The correct ruling is:**

- (A) Touchdown for B; 15 yard penalty assessed on the try.
- (B) Touchdown nullified; 15 yard penalty assessed from B-41 making it first and ten for B from their 26
- (C) disregard the taunting and warn B-25
- (D) Touchdown for B; if they are successful on a two-point conversion; the 15-yard penalty will carry over to the overtime.

**14 It is fourth and 10 for team K from its own 30 yard line. R-5 rushes punter K-22 dives in an effort to block the kick but misses. He slides on the ground and winds up under the punter's kicking leg, which is still in the air. As K-22's leg returns to the ground, he accidentally steps on R-5. That causes K-22 to lose his balance and fall. The call is:**

- (A) roughing the kicker – penalize 15 yards from the 30 and award an automatic first down to K
- (B) running into the kicker – K has the option of a 5 yard penalty and re-playing the down or refusing the penalty
- (C) personal foul on K for stepping on an opponent on the ground. R has the option of penalizing K 15 yards to the 15 and replaying the down or they can refuse the penalty and take the result of the play.
- (D) there is no foul

(more)

#### 4-4-4 – You Make The Call - Football

**15** It is third down and 20 for team A from its own 24 yard line with 1:30 remaining in the half and B leading 14-10. A-15's forward pass falls to the ground untouched and incomplete at A's 48. Before the pass was released, B-59 was flagged for holding tight end A-81 at A's 32 yard line. The penalty is accepted and is:

- (A) 5 yards only
- (B) 5 yards and an automatic first down
- (C) 10 yards only
- (D) 10 yards and an automatic first down

**16** K's onside free kick travels 14 yards and touches the ground untouched by R, when K-11 scoops it up and advances for a touchdown.

- (A) legal play
- (B) ball is dead where K-11 recovers and K starts a new series
- (C) ball is dead where K-11 recovers and he is flagged for kick catch interference

**17** K-40 is attempting a field goal from R's 19 when he instructs the holder to discard the tee, catch the snap, leave it on the ground, and block. K-40 then proceeds to kick the ball between the uprights. Your call is

- (A) field goal is good – score 3 points for K
- (B) illegal act since this scoring kick is not a drop kick it must have a holder or a tee
- (C) R can have K penalized for illegal procedure and replay the down

**18** Third and 5 for A from B's 45. A-33 plunges ahead and runs to B's 36. At B's 39, B-66 in an attempt to tackle, reaches and pulls out A-33's mouth guard strap. Your call is:

- (A) penalize B five yards from the spot of the foul for incidental infraction.
- (B) all such infractions are 15-yard penalties
- (C) there is no penalty

**19** A is forced to punt to B with 4 minutes left in the first half of a scoreless game. B-41 catches the punt at A's 46 yard line and returns to A's 20. During B-41's return, teammate B-66 blocks A-49 at A's 30. B-66's block is with his shoulder below A-49's waist. The result is:

- (A) Legal Block
- (B) This is blocking below the waist, assess the penalty from A's 46 yard line
- (C) This is blocking below the waist, assess the penalty from A's 20 yard line
- (D) This is blocking below the waist, assess the penalty from A's 30 yard line

**20** K-3 field goal attempt is short and hits the ground at R's 6-yard line and subsequently touches R-33 at his two-yard line before rolling into the end zone, where K-78 falls on the ball.

- (A) The ball remained alive when it crossed the plane of the goal line, therefore K-78's recovery results in a touchdown for K
- (B) The ball became dead the moment it crossed the plan of the end zone, resulting in a touchback; it will be R's ball first and ten at its own 20-yard line.
- (C) K's recovery in the end zone is ruled a safety
- (D) R-33's touching is illegal touching and post scrimmage kick enforcement will give R the ball at R's one yard line.

#### Answers:

- 1 – NFHS & NCAA – A
- 2 – NFHS – C; NCAA - A
- 3 – NFHS & NCAA – C
- 4 – NFHS –D; NCAA - C
- 5 – NFHS – B; NCAA – D
- 6 – NFHS – D; NCAA - C

(more)

**5-5-5 – You Make The Call - Football**

- 7 – NFHS – B; NCAA – C
- 8 – NFHS – C; NCAA – A
- 9 – NFHS & NCAA – A
- 10 – NFHS & NCAA – C
- 11 – NFHS & NCAA – C
- 12 – NFHS – C; NCAA – A
- 13 – NFHS & NCAA – A
- 14 – NFHS & NCAA – D
- 15 – NFHS – C; NCAA – D
- 16 – NFHS & NCAA – B
- 17 – NFHS – B; NCAA – A
- 18 – NFHS & NCAA – C
- 19 – NFHS & NCAA – D
- 20 – NFHS – B; NCAA – A

-0-

**RL07-007**

---

**AT&T, Farm Bureau Insurance, Henry Ford Health Systems & MEEMIC Insurance  
are year-round MHSAA Corporate Partners**