



# 2018 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES



## NFHS FOOTBALL RULES

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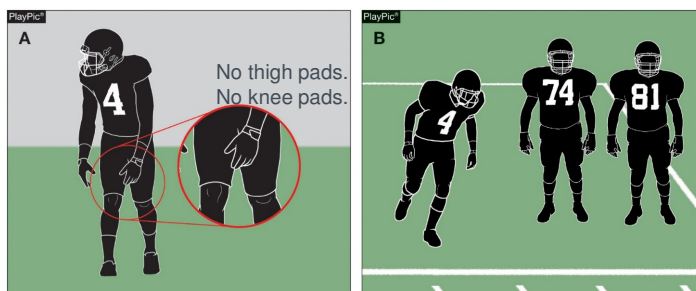
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This statement appears at the bottom of page two in the 2018 NFHS Football Rules Book.

## EQUIPMENT

## RULES 1-5-4, 1-5-5, 3-5-10e (NEW), 3-6-2, 9-8-1h, 9-9

Players who fail to wear required equipment during a down (PlayPic A) must be replaced for one down (PlayPic B).



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### ❖ Rule Change:

#### RULE 1 - SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

**ART. 4 . . .** Prior to the start of the game, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying to the referee and another game official that all of his players are legally equipped in compliance with these rules and will use no illegal equipment. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment or the presence of required equipment shall be resolved by the umpire.

**ART. 5 . . .** When any required player equipment is missing or worn improperly, an official's time-out shall be declared. If the missing or improperly worn equipment is detected during the down or subsequent dead-ball action related to the down without being directly attributable to a foul by an opponent or if a player is wearing otherwise legal equipment in an illegal manner, the player shall be replaced for at least one down, unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs. If proper and legal equipment has become improperly worn through use but prompt repair is possible and does not delay the ready-for-play signal for more than 25 seconds, such repair may be made without replacing the player for at least one down. (3-5-2b, 3-5-5b, 3-5-7e, 3-5-10d, 3-5-10e)

#### RULE 3 - SECTION 5 CHARGED AND OFFICIAL'S TIME-OUTS - INTERMISSIONS

**ART. 10 . . .** An official's time-out (which is not charged to either team) occurs, and the player shall be replaced for at least one down, unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs when: ...

e. Any required player equipment is missing or improperly worn.

#### RULE 3 - SECTION 6 BALL READY FOR PLAY AND DELAY

**ART. 2 . . .** Action or inaction which prevents promptness in putting the ball in play is delay of game. ...

#### RULE 9 - SECTION 8 NONCONTACT UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT BY NONPLAYERS

**ART. 1 . . .** No coach, substitute, athletic trainer or other team attendant shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner once the game officials assume authority for the contest. Examples are, but not limited to: ...

h. Following pregame verification as in 1-5-4, a coach allowing his/her players to use illegal equipment. (1-5-3) ...

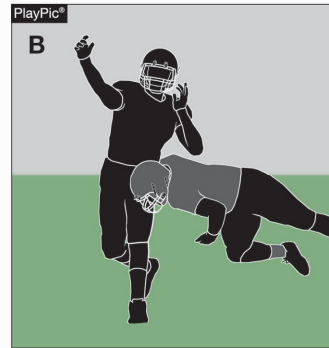
### ❖ Rationale for Change:

Prior to the game, the head coach is responsible for verifying that the players are legally equipped and will not use illegal equipment. The penalty for a player who is not properly equipped has changed from a distance penalty against the team to removal of that player for at least one down. The penalty provisions for any use of illegal equipment remain unchanged and result in an unsportsmanlike conduct foul charged to the head coach.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 1.5.1C, 1.5.1E, 3.5.10H, 3.5.10I, 3.5.10J, 3.5.10K, 3.5.10L

## DEFENSELESS PLAYER RULE 2-32-16a

Player in PlayPic A is defined as a runner and is not defenseless. Once the ball is thrown, he is a passer and is defined as a defenseless player (PlayPic B).



❖ **Rule Change:**

**RULE 2 - SECTION 32 PLAYER DESIGNATIONS**

**ART. 16 . . .** A defenseless player is a player who, because of his physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury. A player who initiates contact against a defenseless player is responsible for making legal contact. When in question, a player is defenseless.

Examples of defenseless players include, but are not limited to:

- a. A passer;...

❖ **Rationale for Change:**

The committee clarified that defenseless player provisions do not apply to a passer until a legal forward pass is thrown. The passer continues to be a defenseless player until the pass ends or the passer moves to participate in the play.

## SIGNAL RULES 6-1-3b PENALTY, 6-1-4 PENALTY

### Signal 19 used for:

- K player(s) more than 5 yards behind its free-kick line
- K player more than 5 yards behind its free-kick line and any other player kicks the ball
- At time of kick, K does not have at least 4 players on each side of kicker



#### ❖ **Rule Change:**

##### **RULE 6 - SECTION 1 THE KICKOFF AND OTHER FREE KICKS**

**PENALTY:** Arts. 2, 11 – Free-kick infraction – (S7-19) – 5 yards; Art. 3a – encroachment – (S7-18) – 5 yards; Arts. 3b, 4 – free kick infraction – (S7-19) – 5 yards; ...

See Signal 19 on the NFHS Official Football Signals

#### ❖ **Rationale for Change:**

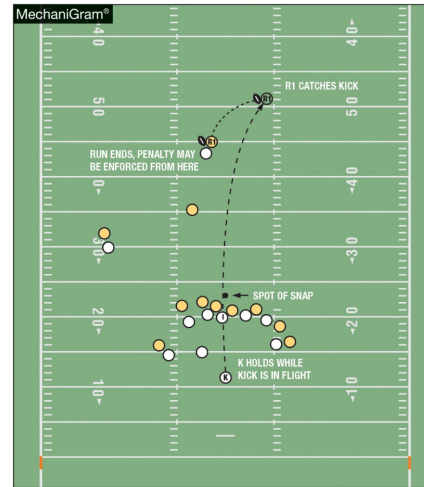
The signal for free kick infractions, other than encroachment of the neutral zone, has been changed from signal 18 to signal 19.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 6.1.3A, 6.1.3B, 6.1.4

## PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

### RULES 6-1-9b (NEW), 6-1-9b PENALTY (NEW), 10-4-2 EXCEPTION (NEW) 10-5-1j (NEW)

R has additional option when K fouls during a free or scrimmage kick down. Penalty may be enforced from succeeding spot if K is not next to put the ball in play.



#### ❖ **Rule Change:**

##### **RULE 6 - SECTION 1 THE KICKOFF AND OTHER FREE KICKS**

**ART. 9 . . .** A free kick shall not be kicked out of bounds between the goal lines untouched inbounds by R. If it is kicked out of bounds and R does not accept a penalty for kick-catch interference on the same kick as in 6-5-4, R has the following choices:

- Accept a 5-yard penalty from the previous spot and have K rekick;
- Accept a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot;
- Put the ball in play at the inbounds spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot; or
- Decline the penalty and put the ball in play at the inbounds spot.

**PENALTY:** ... Art. 9 – free kick out of bounds – (S19) – 5 yards and re-kick, 5 yards from the succeeding spot, or put it in play at the inbounds spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot if previous spot on midfield side of R25.

##### **RULE 10 - SECTION 4 BASIC SPOTS**

**ART. 2 . . .** The basic spot is the previous spot: ...

**EXCEPTION:** The basic spot may, at the option of the offended team, be the succeeding spot for fouls by K during a free or scrimmage kick down (other than kick catch interference) when K will not be next to put the ball in play.

##### **RULE 10 - SECTION 5 SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT RULES**

**ART. 1 . . .** The following fouls have special enforcement provisions and options for the offended team: ...

- Fouls by K during a free or scrimmage kick down. (10-4-2 EXCEPTION)

#### ❖ **Rationale for Change:**

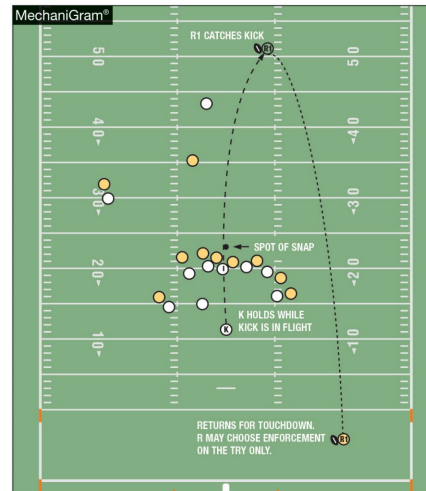
In an effort to reduce re-kicks, further minimize risk and ensure that appropriate penalties are in place for all fouls, the committee has added an option for fouls committed by the kicking team during free and scrimmage kicks. The change would allow the receiving team all of the previous options as well as accepting the distance penalty at the end of the down.

❖ **Case Book:** See SITUATIONS 6.1.9B, 6.1.9D, 6.1.9G, 6.1.9H, 6.1.9I

## PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

### RULES 6-1-9b (NEW), 6-1-9b PENALTY (NEW), 10-4-2 EXCEPTION (NEW) 10-5-1j (NEW)

K fouls during the kick. R returns the kick for a touchdown. Because the foul occurred during the kick and the succeeding spot is the goal line, R may only have the penalty enforced on the try.



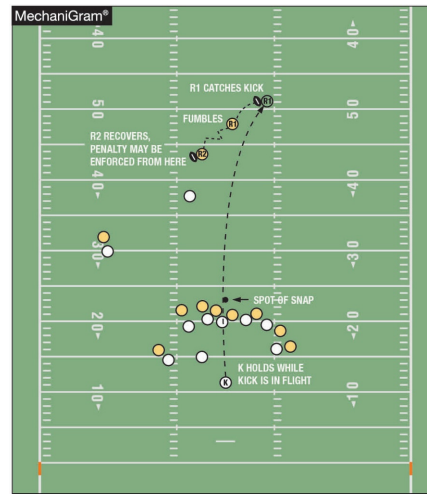
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## PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

### RULES 6-1-9b (NEW), 6-1-9b PENALTY (NEW), 10-4-2 EXCEPTION (NEW) 10-5-1j (NEW)

R has additional option when K fouls during a free or scrimmage kick down. Even though R fumbled, since R will be next to put the ball in play, the penalty may be enforced from the succeeding spot.



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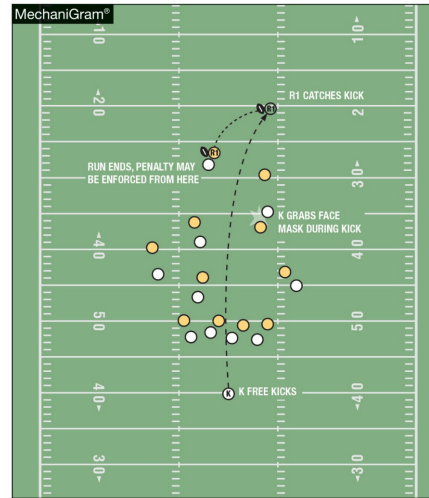
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## PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

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R has additional option when K fouls during a free or scrimmage kick down. Penalty may be enforced from succeeding spot if K is not next to put the ball in play.



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