

WEEKLY RULES CHECKUP

Rule 1

Player Equipment -- EXPLANATIONS

- The Umpire observes that A25 has one of his four chinstrap snaps unfastened as he takes his position in the backfield. By rule, the Umpire should
 - Ignore it if the other three snaps are fastened. **If the player is injured and it is determined that the unsnapped strap contributed to the injury AND the Umpire admits that he saw it but chose to ignore it, there could be civil liability here.**
 - Wait until the ball is snapped to throw the flag so as to assess a 15 yard penalty instead of 5 yards if called prior to the snap. **Just plain poor judgement. The old adage that if we don't get it before the snap, we don't get it at all because a snap could have come loose as a result of contact after the snap.**
 - Blow his whistle, throw a flag, signal time out and report A25 for not being legally equipped prior to the snap. Best option because this is the rule.**
 - Blow his whistle, throw a flag, signal time out and tell A25 to fasten his chinstrap **The rule cannot be properly set aside. It would cause inconsistency from week to week with different crews enforcing or not enforcing this rule.**
- B18 is wearing a jersey that is not tucked in and extends to the bottom of his thigh pads
 - Legal
 - Illegal. He should be immediately penalized if he is on the field and not a substitute.
 - Illegal. He must tuck the jersey in before he can participate.**
 - Illegal but should be ignored.

We need to be more consistent in enforcing this rule.
- A88 has tightened up his jersey by taping excess fabric into a knot that sticks out.
 - This is a penalty anytime when observed. **Technically, true but B or C are better options.**
 - The official observing this should have the player remove the tape but the clock may not be stopped to do this. **Correct. This is not a stop the clock situation. If the knot can be eliminated on the field prior to the snap, it's legal.**
 - A88 must leave the game until the illegality is corrected. **This is the best option.**
 - This rule only applies at the varsity level. **It applies to any level using NFHS rules unless the league governing the game has published an exception**

Remember that if you go with A, you are penalizing the head coach 15 yards. A GHSA emphasis last year was proper wear of equipment and uniforms.
- A required tooth and mouth protector may not be clear or white.
 - True
 - False This changed last season. White or clear mouthpieces are legal.**
- B77 pants barely cover his knees and knee pads when he is standing erect but often ride up during the play.
 - He must change into longer pants. **He may but is not required to do so.**
 - This is legal The pants might ride up over the knee during a play but the general guideline has always been to make the judgement on legality when the player is standing erect.**
 - This is a 15 yard penalty and loss of down **There is no loss of down associated with this.**
 - This is a 5 yard dead ball foul **If a foul is called, it is a 15 yarder charged to the head coach.**
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6. Knee braces may not be worn over the pants.
- A. **True**
 - B. False
7. Several players on the same team are wearing towels of different colors and with a team logo.
- A. **Illegal only because of the different colors**
 - B. Team logos on towels are legal if embroidered. Logos may be embroidered but do not have to be. Screen printing, for example is legal.
 - C. To be legal, all towels must be of the same solid color and a manufacturer's logo is permitted. Strictly speaking, this is not completely correct because there are size of towel restrictions. Rule 1-5-3-a-5-(a)
 - D. None of the above
- This is also something we have not enforced. Should we?**
8. The coach shows a covered cast on a player to the officials and said it was covered the same way in his last game and the player was allowed to play. The Umpire rules it unsafe and says the player may not participate until additional padding padded is applied and the player is rechecked.
- A. The Referee may overrule the Umpire after the coach appeals to him. The Referee has no say in ruling on player equipment and cannot over rule the Umpire's decision. The U, particularly an inexperienced one, might ask for an opinion from the R, but the Umpire is responsible for the final ruling.
 - B. **The Umpire's decision is final.**
 - C. The coach may present a note from last week's Umpire showing approval of the padding. No way to know how it was padded last week. Notes are no longer part of the process of approving player equipment.
 - D. All of these are possible options.
9. After the head coach has verified that all of his players are legally equipped, Captain # 68 comes to the coin toss and is wearing grease eye shades that are in the shape of a triangle and extend from his cheekbones down to the corners of his mouth.
- A. The umpire should flag the head coach. He's not a player at this point.
 - B. The Referee should not allow #68 to participate in the coin toss. The rules do not govern appearance or dress at the coin toss. Now, if a captain were to be dressed in some way as cause the Referee to invoke 9-10-5, the captain could be sent off the field.
 - C. #68's eye shading is legal. This became illegal several years ago. Also, no writing is permitted on the eye shade.
 - D. **#68 must remove all of the eye shading before he can participate in a play but he can have one solid stroke under each eye.**
10. QB A12 has a play card holder with a play card inside.
- A. **He can only wear the play card on his wrist/arm.**
 - B. He may wear it secured by his belt. This changed in 2014 (2013)...at any rate he cannot have it on his belt.
 - C. He is the only player who can have a play card on the field. All players may have a play card worn on the wrist.
 - D. All of the above are false