

## June Study Guide

This guide moves rapidly through several rules, especially Rule 1 and 2. More in depth of Rule 8 is covered here. July guide will involve the remaining Rules 9/10. Lots to cover so let's get to it.

**1-1**  
*Know when GHSA officials take jurisdiction prior to kickoff and how far post game jurisdiction extends and for what specific reason(s).*

(1-1-7) The game officials shall assume authority for the contest, including penalizing unsportsmanlike acts, 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time – an earlier time if required by state association – or as soon thereafter as they are able to be present.

(1-1-8) The game officials authority extends through the referee's declaration of the end of the fourth period or overtime. The game officials retain clerical authority over the game through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, that are responsive to actions occurring while the game officials had jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during, or after the game officials' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.

**1-2**  
*How large are team boxes?*

(1-2-3-g) Team boxes shall be marked on each side of the field outside the coaches' area between the 25-yard lines for use of coaches, substitutes, athletic trainers, etc., affiliated with the team. The coaches' area is a minimum of a 2-yard belt between the front of the team box and the sideline, and becomes a restricted area when the ball is live.

*When the pylon(s) are properly placed are they inbounds or out of bounds at the intersection of the goal lines and sidelines?*

(1-2-4) A soft, flexible pylon, which is 4 inches square, 18 inches high, either orange, red, or yellow in color, and does not create risk, shall be placed at the inside corner of each of the intersections of the sidelines with the goal lines and the end lines, as well as with each intersection of the hash marks extended and shall be placed either 3 feet beyond the end lines or on the end lines. When properly placed, the goal line pylon is out of bounds at the intersection of the sideline and the goal line extended.

**1-5**  
*Know required protective equipment and legal and illegal manners they are worn.*

(1-5-1-a) Helmet and face mask. The helmet shall be secured by a properly fastened chin strap with at least 4 attachment points.

(1-5-1-d) Pads and protective equipment – The following pads and protective equipment are required of all players:

1. Hip pads and tailbone protector which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production.
2. Knee pads which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production, which are worn over the knee and under the pants and shall be at least 1/2 inch thick or 3/8 inch thick if made of shock absorbing material.

3. Shoulder pads and hard surface auxiliary attachments, which shall be fully covered by a jersey.
4. Thigh guards which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production.
5. A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral)... you read the rest.

(1-5-1-e) Pants which completely cover the knees, thigh guards, and knee pads and any portion of any knee brace that does not extend below the pants.

(1-5-1-f) Shoes. Gymnastic slippers, tennis shoes cut so protection is reduced, ski and logger boots and other apparel not intended for football use do not meet shoe requirements.

(1-5-2) Auxiliary equipment (not required but may be worn).

- a. Forearm pads, which may be anchored with tape at both ends.
- b. Gloves with NOCSAE or SFIA standard seal. (may be taped) Read through yourselves.

### *Know types of illegal equipment.*

(1-5-3) Illegal equipment. No player shall participate while wearing illegal equipment. This applies to any equipment, which in the opinion of the umpire is dangerous, confusing, or inappropriate. Illegal equipment shall always include but is not limited to: (read from page 22 and page 23).

--- Ball-colored helmets, jerseys, patches, exterior pads, undershirts, or gloves. Hard substances or sharp plastic edges. Slippery OR sticky substances. Items that enhance contact. Tear-away jerseys or knots. Adornments other than a towel or sweat band. Jewelry. Eye shields other than clear. Electronic communications for use with players on field. Exposed bandanas. Biceps bands.

### *What process happens after illegal equipment or legal equipment is worn improperly is discovered?*

(1-5-5) When any required player equipment is missing or worn improperly, an official's timeout 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 delay the ready-for-play 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).

(9-8-1h) Following pregame verification as in 1-5-4, a coach allowing his/her players to use illegal equipment (1-5-3) is considered a noncontact unsportsmanlike foul charged to the head coach and carries a 15-yard penalty.

## 2-3

### *When can an offensive player legally push, pull (obviously requires grabbing) an opponent?*

(2-3-4-c) An offensive player may also use his hands or arms to push, pull, or ward off an opponent when the ball is loose if he may legally touch or possess the ball if such contact is not pass interference, a personal foul, or illegal use of the hands.

### *When can a defensive player push, pull or ward off an opponent?*

(2-3-5) A defensive player may also:

- a. Use unlocked hands, hand, or arm to ward off an opponent who is blocking him or is attempting to block him.

- b. Push, pull, or ward off an opponent in an actual attempt to get at the runner or a loose ball if such contact is not pass interference, a personal foul, or illegal use of the hands.

NOTE: When a player simulates possession of the ball, reasonable allowance may be made for failure of the defense to discover the deception. This does not cancel the responsibility of any defensive player to exercise reasonable caution in avoiding any unnecessary contact.

### *What is a chop block?*

(2-3-8) Chop block is a combination block by two or more teammates against an opponent other than the runner, with or without delay, where one of the blocks is low (at the knee or below) and one of the blocks is high (above the knee) (Table 9-3-6).

### *Define blocking below the waist.*

(2-3-7) Blocking below the waist is making initial contact below the waist from the front or side against an opponent other than the runner. Contact with an opponent's hand(s) below the waist that continues into the body below the waist is considered blocking below the waist. Blocking below the waist applies only when the opponent has one or both feet on the ground.

(9-3-2) A player shall not block and opponent below the waist except:

- a. In the free blocking zone when the contact meets the requirements of 2-17.
- b. To tackle a runner or player pretending to be a runner.

(2-17-2) All players involved in block are on LOS and in the zone at snap. Contact in zone.

(2-17-4) The free blocking zone disintegrates when ball has left the zone, so no BBW.

### *Define a blindside block.*

(2-3-10) A blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner, who does not see the blocker approaching.

(9-4-3-n) No player or nonplayer shall execute a blindside block outside the free blocking zone with forceful contact unless executed with open hands.

## 2-4

### *Define a catch.*

(2-4-1) A catch is the act establishing player possession of a live ball which is in flight, and first contacting the ground inbounds while maintaining possession of the ball or having the forward progress of the player in possession stopped while the opponent is carrying the player who is in possession and inbounds.

(2-4-2) Catching is always preceded by touching the ball; thus, if touching causes the ball to become dead, securing possession of the ball has no significance.

(2-4-3) A simultaneous catch or recovery is a catch or recovery in which there is joint possession of a live ball by opposing players who are inbounds.

Also, if the player controls the ball while airborne, but loses possession when he lands, there is no catch. Put another way, the ground can cause an incomplete pass.

### **Other Critical Definitions**

#### *Clipping/Blocking in the back*

(2-4-5-1) Clipping is a block against an opponent when the initial contact is from behind, at or below the waist, and not against a player who is a runner or pretending to be a runner.

(2-4-5-2) Blocking in the back is a block against an opponent when the initial contact is in the

opponent's back, inside the shoulders and below the helmet and above the waist, and not against a player who is a runner or pretending to be a runner.

### *Fair catch Valid and Invalid*

(2-9-3) A valid fair-catch signal is the extending and lateral waving of one arm, at full arm's length above the head, by any R player.

(2-9-4) An invalid fair-catch signal is any signal by a receiver before the kick is caught or recovered:

- a. That does not meet the requirements of a valid signal.
- b. After the kick has touched a receiver.
- c. After the kick has touched the ground.

(2-9-5) An illegal fair-catch signal is any signal by a runner:

- a. After the kick has been caught.
- b. After the kick has been recovered.

### *Encroachment- please learn new definition based on new ready for play definition*

(2-8) Encroachment occurs when a player is illegally in the neutral zone during the time interval starting at the ready for play and until the ball is snapped or free kicked as in 6-1-3a or 6-1-3b. For the purposes of enforcing encroachment restrictions, an entering substitute is not considered to be a player until he is on his team's side of the neutral zone. Encroachment also occurs when a player violates the free kick restrictions as in 6-1-4.

### *Force- this is an essential definition*

(2-13-1) Force is the result of energy exerted by a player which provides movement of the ball. The term force is used only in connection with the goal line and in only one direction, i.e., from the field of play into the end zone. Initial force results from a carry, fumble, kick, pass, or snap. After a fumble, kick, or backward pass has been grounded, a new force may result from a bat, an illegal kick, or a muff.

(2-13-2) Responsibility for forcing the ball from the field of play across a goal line is attributed to the player who carries, snaps, passes, fumbles, or kicks the ball, unless a new force is applied to either a kick, fumble, or backward pass that has been grounded.

(2-13-3) The muffing or batting of a pass, kick, or fumble in flight is not considered a new force.

(2-13-4) Force is not a factor:

- a. On kicks going into R's end zone, since these kicks are always a touchback regardless of who supplied the force.
- b. When a backward pass or fumble is declared dead in the end zone of the opponent of the player who passed or fumbled, with no player possession.

### *Fouls - different types*

(2-16-1) A foul is a rule infraction for which a penalty is prescribed.

(2-16-2) Types of fouls are:

- a. Dead Ball – a foul which occurs in the time interval after a down has ended and before the ball is next snapped or free kicked.
- b. Double – one or more live-ball fouls (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike) are committed by each team at such a time that the penalties offset.
- c. Flagrant – a foul so severe or extreme that it places an opponent in danger of serious injury, and/or involves violations that are extremely or persistently vulgar or abusive conduct.
- d. Live ball – a foul which occurs during a down.

- e. Multiple – two or more live-ball fouls (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike) are committed during the same down by the same team at such a time that the offended team is permitted a choice of penalties.
- f. Nonplayer or unsportsmanlike – a noncontact (other than unintentional contact as specified in 9-4-8) foul while the ball is dead or during the down which is not illegal participation and does not influence the play in progress.
- g. Player – a foul (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike) by a player in the game hereafter referred to as a foul.
- h. Post-scrimmage kick – a foul by R (other than an illegal substitution or illegal participation foul that occurs at the snap) when the foul occurs:
  1. During scrimmage kick plays, other than a try or successful field goal.
  2. During a scrimmage kick play in which the ball crosses the expanded neutral zone.
  3. Beyond the expanded neutral zone.
  4. Before the end of a kick.
  5. And K will not be next to put the ball in play.
- i. Simultaneous with the snap – an act which becomes a foul when the ball is snapped or free kicked.

### *Two different types of scrimmage kick formations*

(2-14-2) A scrimmage kick formation is one in which no player is in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap from between the snapper's legs, and at the snap, either:

- a. A player is in position with a knee on the ground 7 yards or more behind the line of scrimmage, in position to be the holder and receive the long snap and with another player 3 yards or less behind that player in position to attempt a place kick, or
- b. A player is 10 yards or more behind the line of scrimmage and in position to receive the long snap.

### *Free Blocking Zone*

(2-17-1) The free-blocking zone is a rectangular area extending laterally 4 yards either side of the spot of the snap and 3 yards behind each line of scrimmage. A player is in the free-blocking zone when any part of his body is in the zone at the snap.

### *Kick - when starts and ends, what is a legal and illegal kick and different types of kicks*

(2-24-1) A kick is the intentional striking of the ball with the knee, lower leg, or foot. – This is when the kick starts, whether legal or illegal, free kick or scrimmage kick, punt, drop kick, or place kick.

(2-24-2) A kick ends when a player gains possession or when the ball becomes dead while not in player possession. – Out of Bounds, Touchback, Inbounds laying still with no player attempting to gain possession...

(2-24-6) A drop kick is a legal kick... (can be used for free kick or scrimmage kick)

(2-24-7) A place kick is a legal kick...(can be used for free kick or scrimmage kick)

(2-24-8) A punt is legal kick...(can be used for scrimmage kick) (can be used for free kick following safety)

(2-24-9) An illegal kick is any intentional striking of the ball with the knee, lower leg, or foot which does not comply with Articles 3 and 4. When the ball is loose following an illegal kick, it retains the same status as prior to the illegal kick.

## *Muff*

(2-27) A muff is the touching of a loose ball by a player in an unsuccessful attempt to secure possession.

## *Out of Bounds*

(2-29-1) A player or other person is out of bounds when any part of the person is touching anything, other than another player or game official that is on or outside the sideline or end line.

(2-29-2) A ball in player possession is out of bounds when the runner or the ball touches anything, other than another player or game official that is on or outside the sideline or end line.

(2-29-3) A loose ball is out of bounds when it touches anything, including a player or game official that is out of bounds.

## *Post-scrimmage kick enforcement*

Definition for PSK is above (2-16-2-h).

(2-41-6) The post-scrimmage kick spot is the spot where the kick ends. R retains the ball after penalty enforcement from the post-scrimmage spot when a post-scrimmage foul occurs. Fouls by R behind the post-scrimmage spot are spot fouls.

(10-4-3) The basic spot is the spot where the kick ends when R commits a post-scrimmage foul (2-16-2-h). R fouls behind the PSK spot are spot fouls.

## *Ready for Play- new definition*

(2-35) Ready-for-play signifies that the ball may be put in play by a snap or a free kick with 25 seconds or 40 seconds on the play clock.

## *What is a lineman and what is a back by definition?*

(2-32-3) A back is any A player who has no part of his body breaking the plane of the imaginary line drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the nearest teammate who is legally on the line, except for the player under the snapper, who is also considered a back.

(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 to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the snapper when the ball is snapped.

## *Substitute*

(2-32-15) A substitute is a team member who may replace a player or fill a player vacancy. A substitute becomes a player when he enters the field and communicates with a teammate or a game official, enters the huddle, is positioned in a formation, or participates in the play. An entering substitute is not considered to be a player for encroachment restrictions until he is on his team's side of the neutral zone.

## *Defenseless player*

(2-32-16) 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.
- b. A receiver attempting to catch a pass who has not had time to clearly become a runner.
- c. The intended receiver of a pass in the action during and immediately following an interception or potential interception.

- d. A runner already in the grasp of a tackler and whose forward progress has been stopped.
- e. A kickoff or punt returner attempting to catch or recover a kick, or one who has completed a catch or recovery and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a runner.
- f. A player on the ground including a runner who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet first.
- g. A player obviously out of the play or not in the immediate vicinity of the runner.
- h. A player who receives a blindside block with forceful contact not initiated with open hands.

## *Spots*

(2-41-1) The basic spot is a point of reference for penalty enforcement (10-4).

(2-41-2) The enforcement spot is the point from which a penalty is enforced.

(2-41-3) The dead-ball spot is the spot under the foremost point of the ball when it becomes dead by rule. **EXCEPTION: Rule 5-3-4**

(2-41-4) The inbounds spot is the intersection of the hash marks and the yard line:

- a. Through the foremost point of the ball when the ball becomes dead in a side zone
- b. Through the foremost point of the ball on the sidelines between the goal lines when a loose ball goes out of bounds.
- c. Through the spot under the foremost point of the ball in possession of a runner when he crosses the plane of the sideline and goes out of bounds.

**NOTE:** If a penalty measurement leaves the ball in a side zone, the new inbounds spot is fixed by the yard line through the foremost point of the ball after measurement.

## 8-2

*What are the options to scoring team when opponent commits a live ball foul during a touchdown scoring play in terms of enforcement?*

(8-2-2) If an opponent of the scoring team commits a foul (other than unsportsmanlike conduct or a nonplayer foul) during a down in which a touchdown is scored and there was not a change of possession during the down, A may accept the results of the play and choose enforcement of the PENALTY:

- a. On the try; or
- b. On the subsequent kickoff.

*Does a change of possession during the down affect these options?*

(8-2-3) If an opponent of the scoring team commits a foul (other than unsportsmanlike conduct or a nonplayer foul) during a down in which a touchdown was scored and there was a change of possession during the down, and such a foul occurs after the change of possession, the scoring team may accept the results of the play and choose enforcement of the PENALTY:

- a. On the try; or
- b. On the subsequent kickoff.

*What are the options if there is an unsportsmanlike or non-player foul?*

(8-2-4) If either team commits an unsportsmanlike conduct or nonplayer foul during a down in which a touchdown is scored, the opponent may accept the results of the play and choose enforcement of the PENALTY:

- a. On the try; or
- b. On the subsequent kickoff.

### 8-3

#### *When does the try start and end?*

(8-3-2) The try begins when the ball is ready for play. It ends when:

- a. B secures possession.
- b. It is apparent a drop kick or place kick will not score.
- c. The try is successful.
- d. The ball becomes dead for any other reason.

#### *How does a foul on K/A or B/R affect the outcome of a successful try? Unsuccessful?*

(8-3-4) If during a successful try, a loss of down foul by A occurs, there is no score and no replay.

RCH: If try is successful and there is a foul by A that does not carry loss of down, B will more than likely accept the penalty and the try will be replayed; if B declines the successful try stands and the associated points are awarded.

(8-3-5) If during a successful try, a foul by B occurs, A is given the choice of:

- a. Accepting the penalty and replaying the down following enforcement; or
- b. Accepting the result of the play and enforcement of the penalty from the succeeding spot.

(8-3-6) If during an unsuccessful try:

- a. A foul by A/K occurs, the penalty is obviously declined, the results of the play stand and there is no replay.
- b. A foul by B/R occurs, and the penalty is accepted, the down is replayed after enforcement.

(8-3-7) If a double foul occurs, the down shall be replayed.

### 8-4

#### *What are options for Team K for a foul by R on a successful field goal?*

(8-4-3) If during a successful field goal, a foul by R occurs, K is given the choice of:

- a. Accepting the penalty and replaying the down following enforcement; or
- b. Accepting the result of the play and enforcement of the penalty from the succeeding spot.

#### *Does Post-scrimmage kick enforcement apply to an unsuccessful field goal?*

From Redding SG, page 154: Yes. If the field goal attempt is unsuccessful, the PSK enforcement does apply, just like after any other scrimmage kick that cross the expanded neutral zone.

### 8-5

#### *How does force affect whether there is a touchback or safety?*

(8-5-1) Responsibility for forcing the ball from the field of play across a goal line is attributed to the player who carries, snaps, passes, fumbles, or kicks the ball, unless a new force is applied to a grounded backward pass, kick, or fumble.

- a. The muffing or batting of a pass, kick, or fumble in flight is not considered to be a new force; and
- b. The accidental touching of a loose ball by a player who was blocked into the ball is ignored and does not constitute a new force.

#### *Define the ways a safety is scored*

(8-5-2) It is a safety when:

- a. A runner carries the ball from the field of play to or across his own goal line, and it becomes dead there in his team's possession. EXCEPTION: When a defensive player intercepts an opponent's forward pass; intercepts or recovers an opponent's fumble or backward pass; or an R player catches or recovers a scrimmage kick or free kick between his 5-yard line and the goal line, and his original momentum carries him into the end zone where the ball remains in the end zone and is declared dead in the end zone in his team's possession or it goes out of bounds in the end zone, the ball belongs to the team in possession at the spot where the pass or fumble was intercepted or recovered or the kick was caught or recovered.
- b. A player who is either in the field of play or in his end zone, forces a loose ball from the field of play to or across the goal line by his kick, pass, fumble, snap, or by a new force to a grounded loose ball with his muff or bat or illegal kick (when the penalty is declined), provided the ball becomes dead there in his team's possession (including when the ball is declared dead with no player in possession), or the ball is out of bounds when it becomes dead on or behind their goal line. This does not apply to a legal forward pass which becomes incomplete.
- c. A player on offense commits any foul for which the penalty is accepted and enforcement is from a spot in his end zone; or throws an illegal forward pass from his end zone and the penalty is declined in a situation which leaves him in possession at the spot of the illegal pass and with the ball having been forced into the end zone by the passing team.

*Define the ways a touchback occurs*

(8-5-3) It is a touchback when:

- a. Any free kick or scrimmage kick:
  1. Which is not a scoring attempt or which is a grounded three-point field-goal attempt, breaks the plane or R's goal line unless R chooses a spot of first touching by K.
  2. Which is a three-point field-goal attempt, in flight touches a K player in R's end zone, or after breaking the plane of R's goal line is unsuccessful.
- b. Any scrimmage kick or free kick becomes dead on or behind K's goal line with the ball in possession of K (including when the ball is declared dead with no player in possession) and the new force is R's muff or bat of the kick after it has touched the ground.
- c. A fumble is the force, or a muff or bat of a backward pass or a fumble after either has touched the ground is the new force, which sends the ball to or across the opponent's goal line and provided such opponent is in team possession or the ball is out of bounds when it becomes dead on or behind its goal line.
- d. A forward pass is intercepted in B's end zone and becomes dead there in B's possession.