

2017 Preseason Study Guide General Rules

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
1	CB 6.1.6.B	K's free kick is bouncing on the ground inside the neutral zone. R1 and K1 are blocking each other. K2 muffs the ball and the ball touches R1 while K3 recovers the ball.	First touching by K2. Touching by R1 is ignored. R ball at spot of first touching or at the dead ball spot.
2	CB 6.1.7.A	K's high free kick comes down over K's 45 and is muffed in flight by K2 and is recovered by K3 on R's 42 yard line.	This is first touching and also kick-catching interference by K2. R may choose to take the ball at the spot of first touching, take the results of the play or accept the 15 yard penalty for KCI.
3	RB 4-2- 2d-1	K1's field-goal attempt hits the ground at R's 5 yard line and is muffed by R2 at his own 3 yard line, the ball rolls into the end zone. In the middle of the end zone, K3 falls on the ball.	Touchback. R's ball on its own 20 yard line. The ball becomes dead and the down ended when a scrimmage or free kick is not a scoring attempt or a grounded scoring attempt breaks the plane of R's goal line.
4	CB 6.1.7.B	The ball is kicked from K's 40 and in flight the ball crosses the 50 yard line before a gust of wind blows it back to K's 45 where it: (a) is touched by K, or (b) touches the ground and is possessed by K.	In (a), KCI. (b) 1-10 for K. The free-kick lines marking the neutral zones for R and K are vertical planes so once the ball breaks the plane it is considered to have gone the required 10 yards.
5	CB 6.2.4	It is 4 th and 10 and K11 punts the ball from K's 40. While R1 and K1 are engaged in blocking downfield at R's 30 yard line, K2 legally bats the ball at R's 28 yard line and the batted ball touches R1, on the leg. Then, K3 recovers the ball at the 30 yard line.	This touching by R is ignored and R will have the choice of taking the ball at the spot of first touching or the dead ball-spot
6	CB 8.4.1.A	A kick try goes over the crossbar between the uprights, but a strong wind blows it back over the crossbar. The ball ends up in the end zone.	The crossbar serves as a plane. Once the ball breaks the plane and the ball is inside the uprights, then the try is successful.

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
7	CB 6.2.3.B	With third and 10 on K's 10 yard line, K1's punt is blocked and recovered on K's 4 yard line: In (a) simultaneously by K2 and R1 or (b) by K2 who advances to K's 15.	In (a) the ball is dead immediately and is awarded to R because of the joint recovery. In (b), since K may recover in or behind the neutral zone and advance, it is 4 th and 5 for K from its own 15 yard line. The series for K did not end because the kick was blocked. (4-2-2-e)
8	CB 6.1.9.G	Team K free kicks from its own 40. K's inside kick is rolling at K's 47 yard line. K2 muffs the ball, the ball then touches R3's leg and goes out of bounds at K's 48 yard line.	Since R's touching is now ignored, this is a free kick that went out of bounds. R can accept the ball at the spot of K's first touching or have the penalty for the free kick out of bounds with all these options: (a) re-kick following a 5 yard penalty, (b) award the ball at the inbounds spot at the yard line where the ball went out of bounds; or (c) accept the ball at the inbounds spot 25 yards from the line of the free kick.
9	RB 7.5.10	Fourth and five from K's 40 yard line. K is lined up in scrimmage kick formation. K1 receives the long snap and throws a high and deep overhand pass toward eligible receiver K2. R3 blocks K2 while the ball is in flight. The ball hits the ground untouched at R's 35 yard line.	This is a pass play and R3 has committed defensive pass interference.
10	RB 6.5.3	R1 gives a valid fair catch signal, however, R2 catches the ball and advances one yard and is tackled hard by K3 and K4. R2 is injured on the play	Only the receiver who gives a valid fair catch signal is afforded protection. If after a receiver signals, the catch is made by a teammate, it is not a fair catch but the ball becomes dead. There is no penalty for tackling R2. Also, R2 cannot advance the ball. Ball will be spotted where it was caught.

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
11	RB 9.4.4 Penalty	A's ball 2 nd and 20 from B's 32 yard-line. After releasing a legal forward pass, QB, A1 is roughed by B90. A1's pass is caught beyond the neutral zone by A88, who runs down to B's 4 yard-line where he is hit and fumbles. The loose ball strikes the goal-line pylon. The play is blown dead by the BJ. The next play will be (and Why?): a. B's ball 1 st and 10 at B's 10 yard-line. b. A's ball 1 st and 10 at team B's 17 yard-line. c. A's ball 1 st and goal at team B's 2 yard-line.	B. Roughing the passer is a 15 yard penalty from the dead ball spot when the pass is complete and beyond the neutral zone and if A retains possession and there is no change of possession. In this case, A's fumble contacting the pylon would give B the ball as a touchback, so as a result the penalty will be assessed from the previous spot and give A the first down at B's 17 yard-line. What if A88 had not fumbled and was downed at the 4 yard-line? What if A88 fumbled the ball at the 4 and there was no foul?
12	RB 7.2.5a, 7.4.2, 7.5.6	A's ball 2 nd and 10 at B's 40 yard-line. Team A breaks the huddle and has 5 players on the line with numbers 50-79. A83 is split on one side of the line. A80 is the tight-end and is covered by split-end A88 on the other side of the line. QB A1 is in a shotgun with split backs A26 and A55. A) Which A players are eligible and why? B) If A88 shifts behind the line of scrimmage 1 yard deep and sets for one second, which A players are eligible and why? C) Can A55 become a passer in this formation?	A) 83,88,1,26 B) 83,88,80,1,26 C) Yes, he is ineligible to catch a forward pass but is not ineligible to throw one or catch a backward pass.
13	CB 7.2.8 & 7.2.4 (Pg. 56)	Between downs, QB A1 informs the referee via a "prearranged" confidential signal that during the next down A will run its trick play involving a planned loose ball. (a) Snapper A50 does not release the ball and guard A66 takes it and begins to advance; or (b) A1 takes the snap and places the ball on the ground after which guard A66, who has legally turned and faced his own goal-line, scoops it up and advances; or (c) A1 takes the snap and hands the ball to guard A66, who has legally turned to face his own goal-line. What are the Rulings here?	In (a), it is a snap infraction, a dead ball foul whether or not the referee was informed. In (b), it is an illegal planned loose ball play, even though the referee was notified. In (c), it is a legal play. Comment: In all cases, the referee should inform A1 immediately that a planned loose ball play is not legal as to attempt and prevent a foul.

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14	CB 7.2.7 (Pg. 55)	The QB by voice command has signaled his teammates to assume a set position while he is standing upright behind the center. The QB steps forward and places his hands under the center to receive the snap: (a) at the instant the snap is made; or (b) which is made after he is motionless, but prior to one second having elapsed; or (c) which is made after he is motionless for one second; or (d) which is made after he is motionless for one second, but while he is stepping backward with one foot as the snap is made. What are the Rulings here?	In (a), it is illegal motion. In (b), it is an illegal shift. In (c), it is legal. In (d), it is legal unless a teammate is also in motion at the snap.
15	RB 7.4.1.& 7.5.2d	A's ball 1 st and 10 on team A's 20 yard-line. QB, A1 is flushed from the pocket and scrambles toward the sideline. As several Team B players move in, A1 turns and, with an underhand motion throws the ball backward and out of bounds at A's 7 yard-line. Is this a legal play? The next play will be (and Why?):	The play is legal and A will have the ball 2 nd and 23 from A's own 7 yard-line. (What would the outcome be if the pass was forward and there were or were not receivers in the area?)
16	CB 7.1.3	A's lineman take their positions and snapper A50 has made preliminary adjustments. Prior to the snap A50: (a) tilts the ball to an angle of 90 degrees; or (b) lifts the ball and pushes it forward in order to make a deep snap; or (c) rotates the ball end for end; or (d) removes both hands. What are the Rulings here?	Legal in (a). It is a snap infraction in (b), (c) and (d). The covering official will sound his whistle immediately, signifying the ball remains dead. A snap infraction is a dead-ball foul and the penalty is 5 yards, administered from the succeeding spot.
17	RB 7.5.12, 7.5.13 & 7.5.6b	A's ball 4 th and goal at B's 3 yard-line. QB, A1 receives the snap and drops back to B's 8 yard-line where he throws a forward pass (a) to eligible A88, the pass is muffed by A88 and bounces off his chest into the arms of ineligible A55, who catches the ball in the end zone. A55 did not go downfield until the pass crossed the neutral zone; or (b) that is tipped by B26 before hitting A88's shoulder pad and deflecting into the arms of ineligible A55, who catches the ball in the end zone. A55 did not go downfield until the pass crossed the neutral zone. What are the Rulings and the next play will be (and Why?):	In (a), an ineligible team A player who bats, muffs or catches a legal forward pass that has not first been touched by Team B is guilty of illegal touching. That is 5 yards and a loss of down. Team B will get the ball, 1 st and 10 at B's own 8 yard-line. In (b), the result of the play is a touchdown for A because the ball was touched by B before the catch was made by A55.

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
18	RB 7.5.2 & 7.5.7	A's ball 4 th and goal from B's 6 yard-line. QB, A1 takes the snap and begins to roll to his right, B90 is in pursuit. A1 scrambles to B's 5 yard-line where he throws a forward pass to eligible A80 in the corner of the end zone. B40 makes contact with A80 while he is airborne and before A80 touches the pass. The pass falls incomplete. (a) What is the Ruling for this play? (b) What is the Ruling if A1 throws the pass from B's 7 yard-line?	In (a), Pass interference is not possible when an illegal forward pass is thrown. The illegal pass penalty is 5 yards from the spot of the foul and loss of down. Team B will get the ball 1 st and 10 from B's 10 yard-line. In (b) DPI on B40, which will be half the distance from the previous spot. A's ball 4 th and goal from B's 3 yard-line.
19	RB 7.4.2	A's ball 4 th and 3 from A's 27 yard-line. From behind the line of scrimmage, QB, A1 throws a backward pass intended for A24. The ball bounces off A24's chest but is recovered by A77, who advances and is downed at team A's 33 yard-line. What is the Ruling here?	This is a legal play. It will be 1 st and 10 for team A from its own 33 yard-line. A muffed backward pass may be advanced at any time by any player regardless of down.
20	RB 7.5.1	A's ball 2 nd and 4 from A's 24 yard-line. QB, A1 carries the ball to team A's 26 yard-line, where he fumbles. The ball bounces backward to team A's 23 yard-line, where A24 recovers and passes to eligible A83 at team A's 40 yard-line. What is the Ruling here?	In NFHS, that is a legal play. Even though, the ball was at one time beyond the neutral zone, A24's pass was from behind the neutral zone. So the result will be A's ball 1 st and 10 from A's 40 yard-line.
21	3.6.2 Sit. B	(a) A1's forward progress is stopped, but he continues to struggle forward despite repeated blasts of the whistle by the covering official (b) B1 intercepts, is tackled, and then intentionally runs off the field with the ball (c) After the play, A1, A2 and A3 play a friendly game of keep away from the Umpire.	Delay of game in (a) and unsportsmanlike conduct in (b). No penalty in (c).
22	9-4-3n	Following B5's interception, B3 blocks A4: a) from the side where A4 cannot see B3 with both hands fully open and extended forward, b) from the side where A4 cannot see B3 with both hands in a crossed arm pattern, or c) from the front of A4 and below the waist.	Legal in a) but illegal in b) and c). The illegal blindside block in b) results in a 15-yard penalty, as does the illegal block below the waist in c).
23	9-3-6	At the snap, A6, who is on the line of scrimmage while in the free blocking zone, blocks B2, who is also in the free blocking zone: a) in the back, above the waist, or b) below the waist, from behind.	Illegal in both a) and b), resulting in a 15-yard penalty. In a continued effort to minimize risk, clipping is now illegal anywhere on the field - including within the free-blocking zone.

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24	9-5-1a 9-5-1c	Following an open field interception late in the game that's returned for a touchdown, B2: a) turns and back-peddles at the 20-yard line while waving the ball back and forth high above his head, b) momentarily kneels with the ball after crossing the goal line as in prayer, or c) runs toward his sideline waving the ball to fans on his team's sideline.	Unsportsmanlike conduct in a) and c) resulting in a 15-yard penalty, along with disqualification <i>if</i> deemed by the official to be flagrant. In b), OK if not excessive or prolonged thus unnecessarily drawing attention to the player.
25	9-6-2 9-6-4	During a pass play: a) back-peddling defender B1's feet cross the sideline before he returns to the field of play to make a legal tackle on receiver A11, b) A12 runs beyond the end line of B's end zone but leaps and while completely airborne bats the ball to eligible receiver A10 who is standing in the end zone to make the catch, or c) player A3 collides with sideline participant A9 who is straddling the sideline. B4 then tackles A3, who otherwise had a clear path for a touchdown.	Illegal participation in all cases by B1, A12 and A9, respectfully, resulting in a 15-yard penalty from the basic spot.
26	9-8-3	Team A has had two earlier sideline warnings. During the third quarter, four coaches are observed in the team box during live action, and again early in the fourth quarter, a substitute player for the next play is observed standing next to the coach in the restricted area between the sideline and the team box. What are the penalty enforcement actions for the third and fourth infractions?	Both restricted area infractions result in 15-yard penalties. The second penalty for a 15-yard unsportsmanlike foul is charged to the head coach, who is solely responsible for the team box. The head coach will be disqualified and removed from the field on the fourth infraction.
27	9-4-3 Referee June 2017	A1's forward legal pass falls incomplete. However, while A1 is still in his throwing motion but after the pass is released, B2 grabs but does not twist A1's facemask. This action results in: a) no foul, b) roughing the passer, 15-yards and an automatic first down, or c) inadvertent facemask, five-yard penalty.	b) roughing the passer, 15-yard penalty and an automatic first down.

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
28	9-4-4 10-5-5 Referee June 2017	Third and 15 for team A from B's 45-yard line. A1 is roughed after releasing a legal forward pass. A4 catches the pass and runs to team B's four-yard line, where he fumbles. The ball then strikes the goal-line pylon. The next play will be: a) Team A's ball, first and goal on team B's two-yard line, b) Team A's ball, first and 10 on team B's 30-yard line, or c) Team B's ball, first and ten on its own 10-yard line.	b) Team A's ball, first and 10 on team B's 30-yard line.
29	10-4-2	During a scrimmage down, A1 throws a backward pass to A2 who then runs 25 yards behind the neutral zone and toward Team A's sideline before throwing a legal forward pass downfield. During the play, A3 holds: a) during the backward pass, b) during the run which preceded the legal forward pass, or c) during the forward pass at the line of scrimmage. For penalty enforcement, where is the basic spot under any of the three scenarios?	The basic spot in all three situations is the previous spot.
30	10-5-4	During the last timed down of the first half, a) A1 retreats five yards into his own end zone and throws a screen pass to A3 who then throws a forward pass to A11 while still two yards deep in the end zone, or b) there is holding by B1.	In a) it is a safety and team B would score two points since the foul occurred in the end zone. In b), if the penalty is accepted it will be enforced from the goal line and the period is extended.
31		1 st and 10 at B's 46. A15 catches a screen pass and runs out of bounds at B's 28 yard line. During the run, holding on A10 at B's 40 yard line. Late hit by B33 out of bounds. Offsetting penalties by both teams, replay the down.	False. The late hit out of bounds is a dead ball penalty. Enforce the live ball penalty first, then enforce the dead ball penalty. 1 st and 10 at B's 35 yard line.

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32	9-4-3m	B14 intercepts a pass at A's 25 yard line, and returns the interception into the End Zone towards the right pylon. During the run, B3 blocks A4 at the two yard line, left hash, from the side where A4 cannot see B3 with his shoulder. The contact by B99 occurred while a) B14 was at B's five yard line, b) B14 was at B's one yard line c) after B14 had crossed the goal line	In a and b, the spot of the foul is the two yard line, the end of the run was the goal line. The penalty should be marked off from the two yard line. In c, when B14 crossed the goal line, the ball is dead, making the foul a dead ball foul, a succeeding spot foul. In this scenario, A has the option of having the penalty enforced from the extra point try or the succeeding free kick.
33	4-2-f	K free kick at the K40 yard line. High short kick, muffed by R4 at the 50 yard line, bounces back to the K40 where K3 recovers the ball and runs to the B45 yard line before being tackled.	K ball at the K40. Ball becomes dead right when K recovers the free kick.