

2017 Preseason Study Guide New Rules

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
1	1-5-1b	Effective with the 2017 season, the jerseys of the home team <i>must</i> be a dark color that clearly contrasts with white.	This rule doesn't go into effect until 2021, although there are numerous current restrictions on the use of white on the uniform.
2	1-5-3c	In keeping current with the expanded use of technology, the NFHS governing body now allows for a sideline player (or coach) to sign plays or defensive schemes via use of electronic signage (versus hand-held cards or posters).	False. Electronic signage is considered illegal equipment.
3	2-3-10	Second and 10 from A's 20-yard line. As running back A32 makes a sharp cut near the sideline to avoid advancing defender B11, defender B4 approaches from the opposite direction and applies a blindside block on A32 at Team A's 27-yard line. A32 fumbles the ball upon impact, which is then recovered by B6 at Team A's 25-yard line. Ruling: Illegal blindside block. First and 10 for Team A at their own 42-yard line.	First and 10 for Team B at Team A's 25-yard line. A blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner.
4	2-24-10	The NFHS has determined that so-called pop-up kicks are meant to deceive an opponent and are therefore not allowed. Ruling: Unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against the head coach of the offending team.	False – A pop-up kick is a legal form of free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately into the ground before the ball goes into the air, as if kicked directly off the tee.
5	1-5-4	Prior to the start of any game, the head coach is responsible for verifying to at least one official (the referee) that all his players are legally equipped and in compliance with player equipment rules. True or false?	False – another game official needs to be present to witness the verification of player equipment. Normally, the umpire serves in this capacity and will address and resolve any equipment issue(s).

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
6	3-4-7	With 45 seconds remaining in the first half, team B trails 10-7. Team A is in possession of the ball on third down when a screen pass play is stopped well short of the line-to-gain at Team A's 12-yard line, resulting in 4 th and 7. Following the tackle, A87 is slow to stand up so the covering official drops a flag. A) What action is warranted in this situation, and b) What if no penalty marker was thrown?	<p>a) Delay of game and the clock won't start before the snap</p> <p>b) If no marker is thrown, the clock will continue to run.</p>
7	7-1-6	Snapper A52 assumes position over the ball and places both hands on the ball. As A52 begins his motion to snap the ball, B66 swipes at the ball in an effort to dislodge the ball a) prior to the release of the ball by A52, or b) after A52 has released the ball on the snap.	<p>a) Foul for encroachment and possible unsportsmanlike conduct penalty if the action is repeated, and</p> <p>b) No foul</p>
8	7-5-10	On a deep sideline pass pattern, A89 is in a position to catch the legal forward pass from A1 when defender B1 turns his back to the ball, wildly waving his arms in an attempt to block the vision of A89. No contact is made by B1 on A89. Ruling: this is pass interference.	False – no foul.
9	8-2-2	Following a touchdown by Team A, Team B commits a: a) dead-ball, b) unsportsmanlike, or c) non-player foul prior to the initial ready for play on the try. Where is the enforcement spot for each situation in a), b) and c)?	In all situations, Team A may elect to enforce the foul at the succeeding spot or on the subsequent kickoff.
10	RB 2-3-10 Referee Magazine June 2017	B1 intercepts a pass and begins to advance. B1 is pursued by A2, who cannot see B3 approach. B3 contacts A2 above the waist in the side with (a) his shoulder, or (b) open hands.	<p>a) Illegal blindside block</p> <p>b) Legal block</p>
11	RB 9-4-3n Referee Magazine June 2017	During a run by A1, A2 blocks pursuing B3. The contact is in B3's back with (a) open hands, or (b) a shoulder.	<p>Illegal block in the back in (a) and (b). In (a), a block from behind initiated with open hands is an illegal block in the back, not a legal blindside block.</p>

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
12	RB 2-24-10 CB 6.1.11	K1 executes a free-kick from K's 40. K1 kicks the ball off of the kicking tee and drives the ball immediately into the ground where the ball strikes the ground once and bounces into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee.	This is an illegal pop up kick. The play is immediately blown dead, K is penalized 5 yards for a free-kick infraction and, if the distance penalty is accepted, K must re-kick from the K35. If the distance penalty is declined, K shall re-kick from the K 40.
13	CB 9.4.3A	As A1 is advancing for a touchdown from B's 10-yard line, B1 commits a block with open hands against A2 who was obviously out of the play at B's 15-yard line. The contact was clearly unnecessarily rough and flagrant.	The penalty for the foul may be enforced from the succeeding spot or the succeeding kick off and A's touchdown stands. B1 is disqualified because the foul was judged to be flagrant.
14	CB 9.4.3W	A1 is in possession of the ball in the backfield running parallel to the line of scrimmage with B1 trailing attempting to make a tackle. A2 executes a blindside block with forcible contact against B1 that is not otherwise excessive or unnecessary with: (a) open hands; or (b) leading with the forearms and shoulders against B1, while (c) inside the free blocking zone; or (d) outside of the free-blocking zone.	In (a), this is a legal block regardless of where the ball is located. In (b), the block would be legal if executed in (c), inside the free blocking zone, but illegal if executed in (d), outside of the free-blocking zone. (2-3-10).
15	CB 9.4.3X	R1 is running downfield with a punt return when R2 executes a blindside block against K1: (a) in the immediate vicinity of R1; or (b) five yards behind R1.	In (a), the game official must determine if the block is executed with forcible contact and if so, it must be made with open hands and not viewed as excessive or unnecessary. In (b), the block must be executed with open hands and not viewed as excessive or unnecessary in order to be legal. (2-3-10)

No.	Rule	Situation	Answer / Notes
16	RB 2-32-16	Discuss the examples of a defenseless player as per Rule Book 2-32-16a-h. Examples include but are not limited to the following:	A player in the act of or just after throwing a pass. A receiver attempting to catch a pass who has not had time to clearly become a runner. The intended receiver of a pass in the action during and immediately following an interception and or potential interception. A runner already in the grasp of a tackler and whose forward progress has been stopped. 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. A player on the ground including a runner who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first. A player obviously out of the play or not in the immediate vicinity of the runner. A player who receives a blindside block with forceful contact not initiated with open hands.
17	CB 9.4.4 (Sit. B)	A's ball 1 st and 10 at A's 40 yard-line. A1 takes the snap and drops back and throws a pass, B78 hits and roughs A1 after he releases the ball. The pass is completed: a) to A2 who is downed on A's 47 yard-line; or b) behind the neutral zone to A22 who is downed on A's 38; or c) to A22 behind the neutral zone and his fumble at the A's 35 yard-line goes out of bounds. What are the rulings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The roughing penalty is enforced from the 47 yard-line and results in a 1st and 10 for A at B's 38 yard-line. b) The penalty, if accepted, will be enforced from the previous spot. Resulting in a 1st and 10 from B's 45 yard-line. c) Same as b).
18	CB 9.3.6 (Sit. B) RB 2.17.3	Linebacker B66 is lined up 3 yards from the line of scrimmage and is in the free-blocking zone. A51, who is on the line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone, when the ball is snapped, blocks: a) B66 below the waist and from behind or b) B66 in the back, above the waist. In both situations, the contact is in the zone when contact occurs. What are the rulings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) This is clipping and is a 15 yard penalty assessed from the basic spot. b) This is a legal block.

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19	CB 1.5.1 (Sit. E)	During the down, A4 is noticed to a) have a clear or white tooth and mouth protector; or b) to have a tooth and mouth protector that is only covering the upper, front teeth. As the umpire what are your rulings?	<p>a) These protectors are legal.</p> <p>b) This type of protector is illegal. All protectors must cover the posterior teeth as well as upper and front teeth. Officials should attempt to verify that each player is legally equipped before the ball is live. Players illegally equipped will fix the problem or leave the game until so.</p>
20	CB 2.20.1 (Sit. C)	During a running play which is beyond the neutral zone, A1 is temporarily in the clear and B10 comes up to make the tackle. B10 keeps his head in an upright position with his eyes on the numbers of A1 and: a) moves his head at the last moment so that he contacts A1 with his shoulder; or b) moves his head to attempt a shoulder tackle, but because of a sharp cut by A1, there is some contact with the side of the helmet of B10. What are the rulings?	These are legal tackles in both a) and b). Not spearing. (2-42)
21	CB 6.1.3 (Sit. B)	K's Free Kick. After the ready for play and prior to the ball being kicked, Team K has 5 players to the left of the kicker and 5 players to the right of the kicker with the ball spotted at the K-40. Prior to the ball being kicked, player K2: a) has both feet just beyond the K-35 (toward midfield); b) has a foot touching the K-35; c) has one foot touching beyond the K-35 toward the 36 and one foot behind the K-35 toward the 34; or d) has both feet clearly beyond the K-35 but his hand is touching behind the K-35 toward the 34. What are the rulings?	Legal in a) and d). Encroachment in b) and c) and a 5 yard penalty.

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22	CB 6.1.4	K's Free Kick. After the ready for play and as the ball is being kicked: a) Team K has 3 players to the left of the kicker and 7 players to the right of the kicker; or b) Team K has 4 players to the left of the kicker and 6 players to the right of the kicker. What are the rulings?	<p>a) This is encroachment by team K. The ball shall be blown dead immediately and R given the option to accept the distance penalty of 5 yards for the dead-ball foul.</p> <p>b) This is legal. (RB 6.1.4)</p>
23	CB 9.4.3 (Sit. C)	QB A1 has: a) handed the ball off to A2 and is walking away observing the progress of the play; of b) thrown a legal forward pass and is moving away from the play after the pass was caught by A80. In both situations, B10 tackles A1. What are the rulings?	This is illegal personal contact by B10 in both cases. It is a foul for illegal personal contact when a player charges into or throws an opponent to the ground after he is obviously out of the play. The 15 yard penalty is administered in accordance with the all-but-one principle. If the act is judged to be flagrant, B10 must be disqualified. (Is the QB defenseless?)
24	CB 9.3.8	During a free kick (including an onside kick attempt): a) K1 initiates contact against R1 prior to the ball traveling past the receiving team's restraining line. No member of R had initiated a block against K in the neutral zone; or b) R touches the ball prior to it traveling 10 yards after which K contacts R and recovers the ball; or c) after R initiates a block against K in the neutral zone, K recovers the ball. What are the rulings?	<p>a) Live ball foul, illegal block on K. If the foul is accepted, the 10 yd. penalty is enforced from the previous spot.</p> <p>b) Legal recovery by K.</p> <p>c) Legal recovery by K.</p>
25	CB 9.4.3	Defensive back B10 sees receiver A80 running a crossing route while A24 is taking the under route. As they near each other, B10 takes aim at A80 and a) makes contact to A80 above the shoulders with the shoulder pads of B10; or b) makes contact to A80 above the shoulders with the helmet of B10. What are the rulings?	<p>a) B10 has committed a foul for targeting. That is a 15 yard penalty.</p> <p>b) B10 has committed both a targeting foul and a foul for illegal helmet contact. A 15 yard penalty and if the contact is deemed flagrant, then B10 would also be disqualified.</p>

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26	2016 CB 9.4.3(comment)	<p>A defenseless player is a player who, because of his physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury. Identify which of the following situations would be an example of a defenseless player: a) a QB moving down the line of scrimmage who has handed the ball or pitched the ball to a teammate and makes no attempt to participate any further in the play. b) a kicker in the act of kicking the ball or who has not had a reasonable amount of time to regain his balance after the kick. c) a ball carrier already in the grasp of an opponent and whose forward progress has already been stopped. d) a pass receiver whose concentration is on the ball and the contact by the defender is unrelated to attempting to catch the ball. Discuss.</p>	<p>Each of these situations in a,b,c, and d would be considered a player who is defenseless. There are other situations that would also apply. See the 2016 case book, CB 9.4.3 Comment for other examples.</p>