



2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State
High School Associations



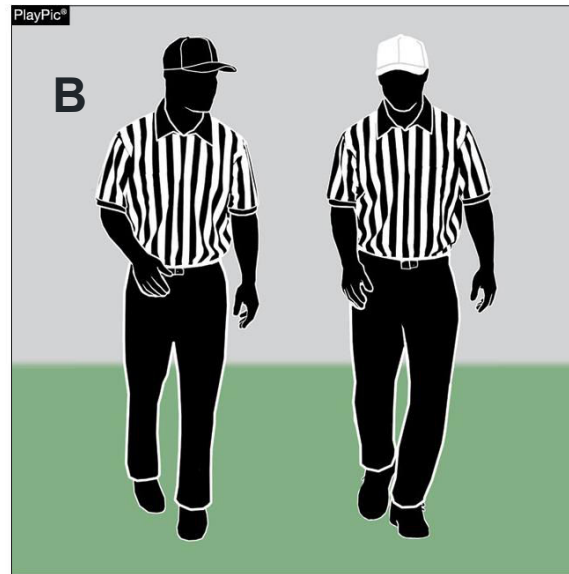
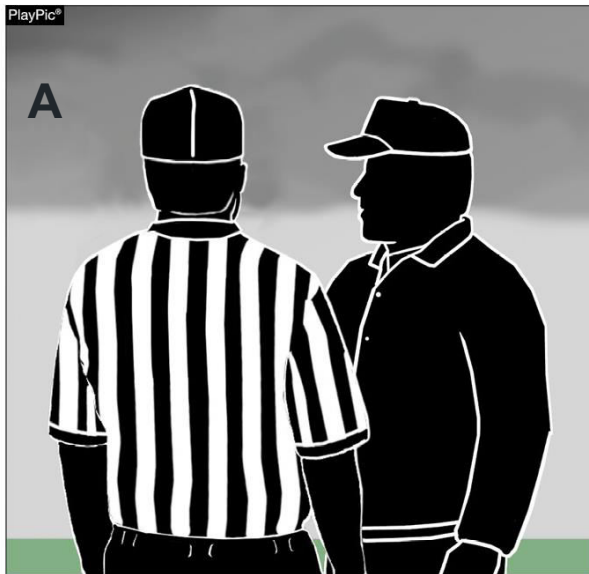


2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES



DESIGNATING TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

RULES 1-4-1, 1-4-4 (NEW), 2-32-5, 3-5-2, 10-1-1, 10-1-2, 10-2-4



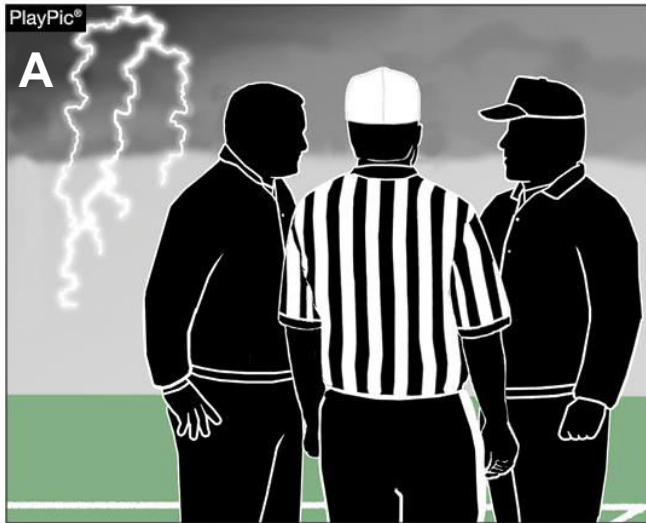
Prior to the game the head coach will notify the referee of the designated representative (coach or player) who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance or declination (PlayPic A). When a foul occurs, the linesman or line judge will inform the referee as to the penalty decision if the coach is the decision maker (PlayPic B).



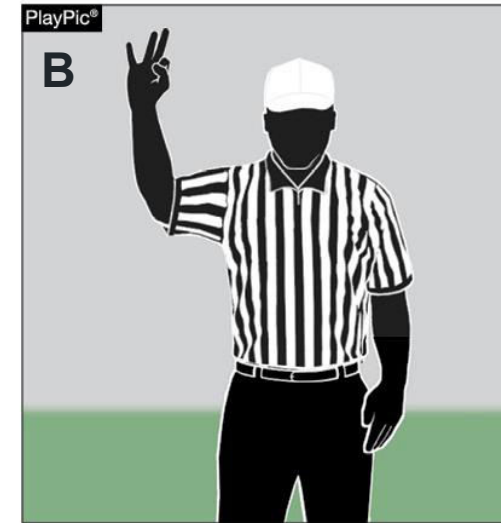
NFHS PARTNER



HALFTIME INTERMISSION OPTION FOLLOWING WEATHER DELAY RULE 3-1-6c EXCEPTION (NEW)



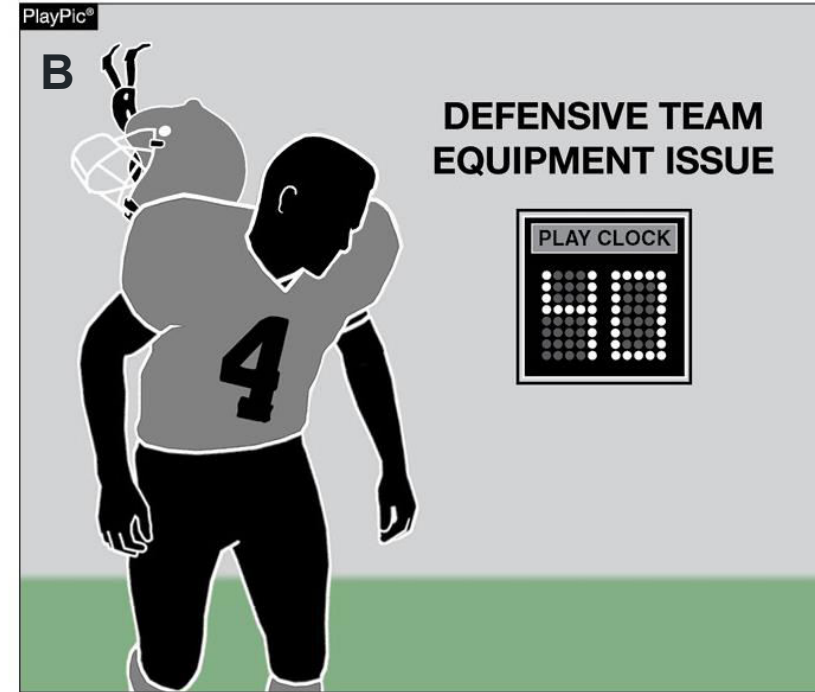
HALFTIME INTERMISSION



If weather causes a delay during the last three minutes of the second period, the opposing coaches may mutually agree to shorten the halftime intermission below the 10-minute minimum (PlayPic A). The mandatory 3-minute warm-up must take place before the third period begins (PlayPic B).



40-SECOND PLAY CLOCK CLARIFICATION RULES 3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTIONS 2 AND 3 (NEW)

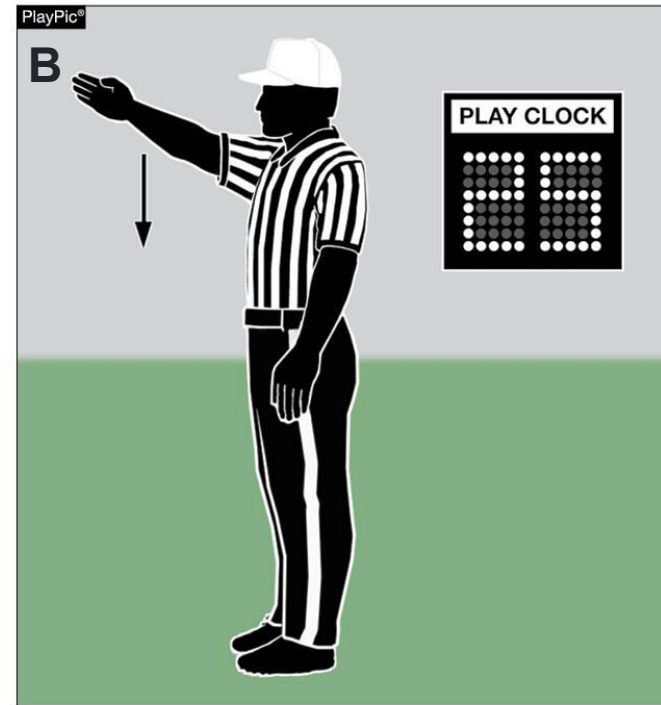
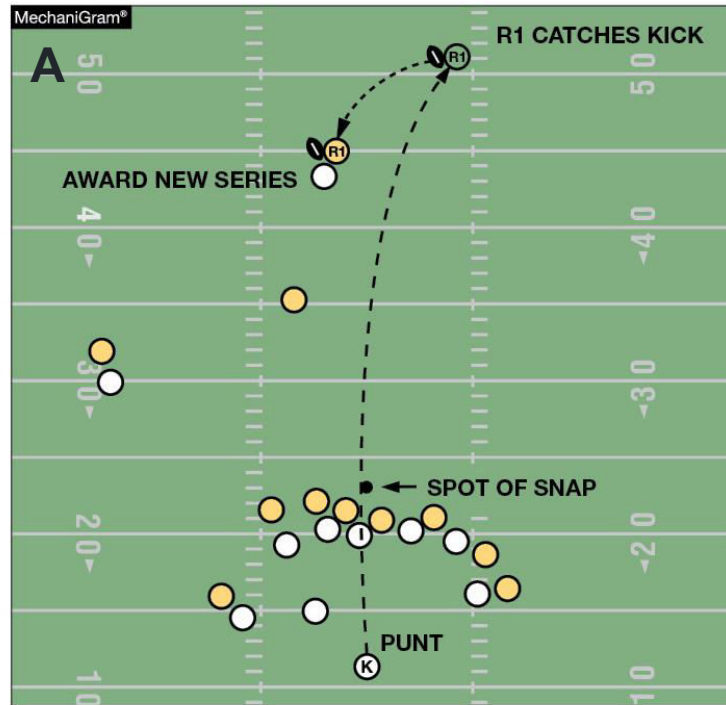


The play clock will be set to 40 seconds when an officials' time-out is initially taken for an injury to a defensive player (PlayPic A) or a defensive player has an equipment issue (PlayPic B).





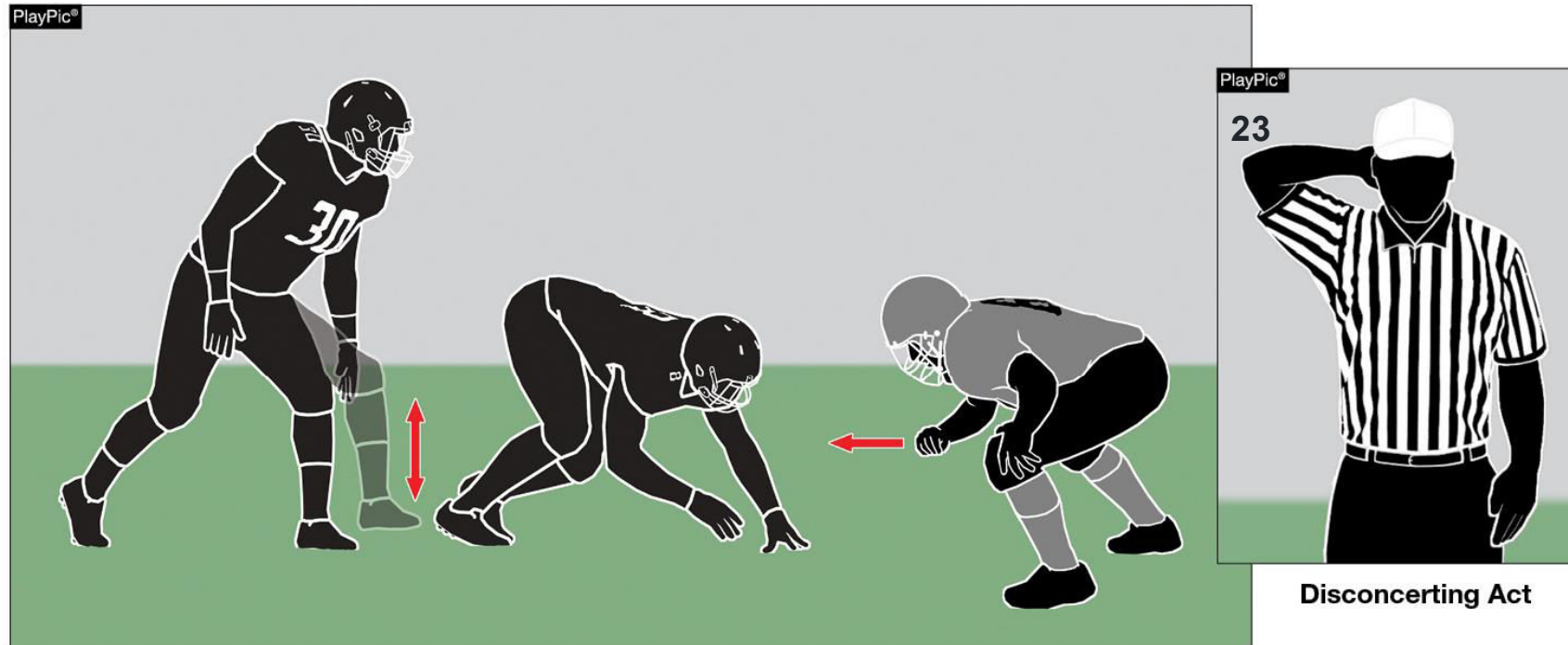
25-SECOND PLAY CLOCK CLARIFICATION RULE 3-6-1a(1)f (NEW)



When Team R is awarded a new series after a legal kick (MechaniGram A), the play clock is set to 25 seconds and starts with the ready-for-play signal (PlayPic B).



DISCONCERTING ACT FOUL AND PENALTY RECLASSIFIED RULES 7-1-9 (NEW), 7-1-9 PENALTY (NEW)

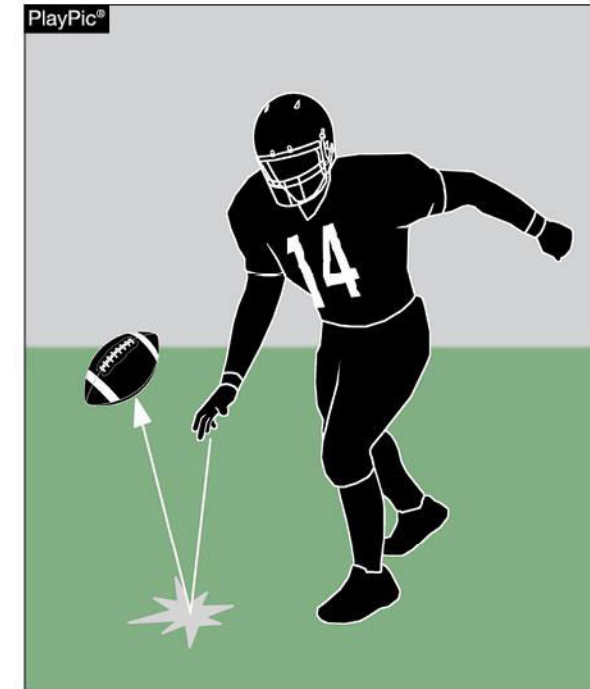
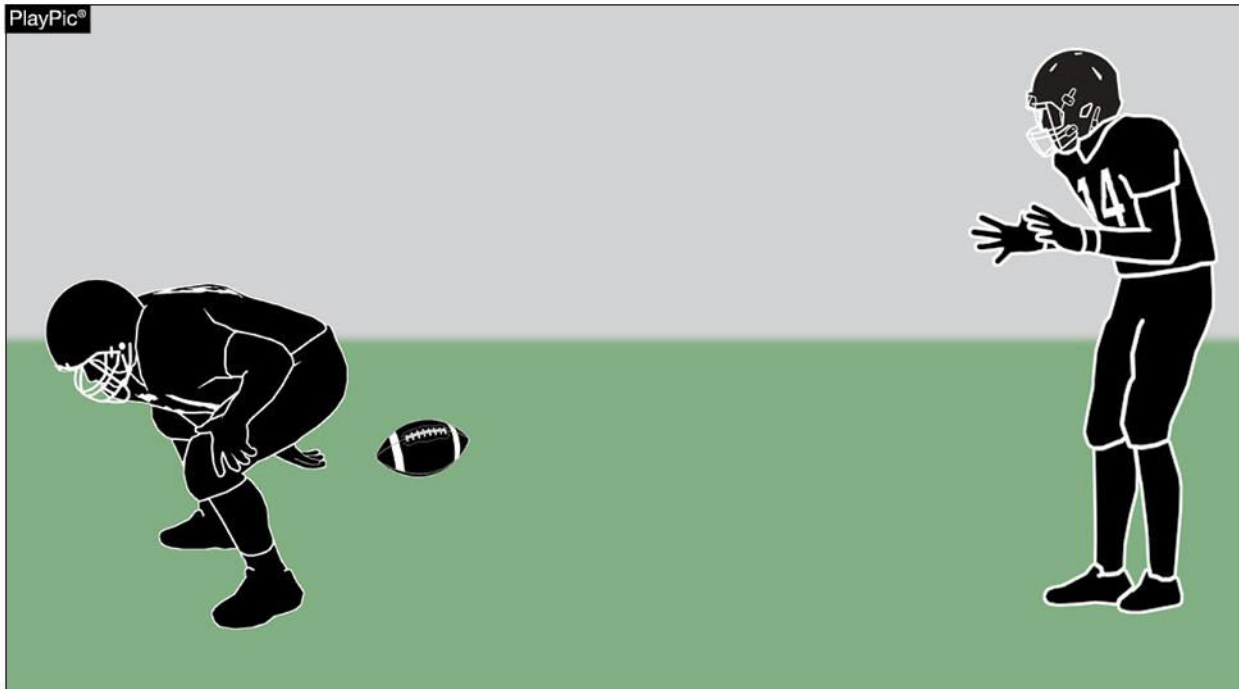


Disconcerting acts or words by the defense has been reclassified from an unsportsmanlike foul to a disconcerting act foul, and the penalty changed from 15 yards to 5 yards. Signal 23 will be used to indicate the foul.



SPIKING THE BALL TO CONSERVE TIME

7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5e EXCEPTION



The exception to allow a player to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving the snap has been expanded. This exception now includes snaps that are not hand-to-hand.



AIA MERCY RULE

- 24.1.5 FOOTBALL SPEED-UP RULE – Special timing rules will apply anytime a team is ahead of an opponent by 42 or more points. The game clock will continue to run unless the game is stopped for:
 - A team timeout
 - An official’s timeout (including injury)
 - Following a score
 - A change in possession
 - Following a legal kick play

In the cases listed above, the referee will start to clock on the ready for play signal. Regular timing rules shall apply in the last two minutes of the game or when the score returns to less than 42 points in the first half. The speed up rule will remain in effect if the score returns to less than 42 points in the second.





2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS



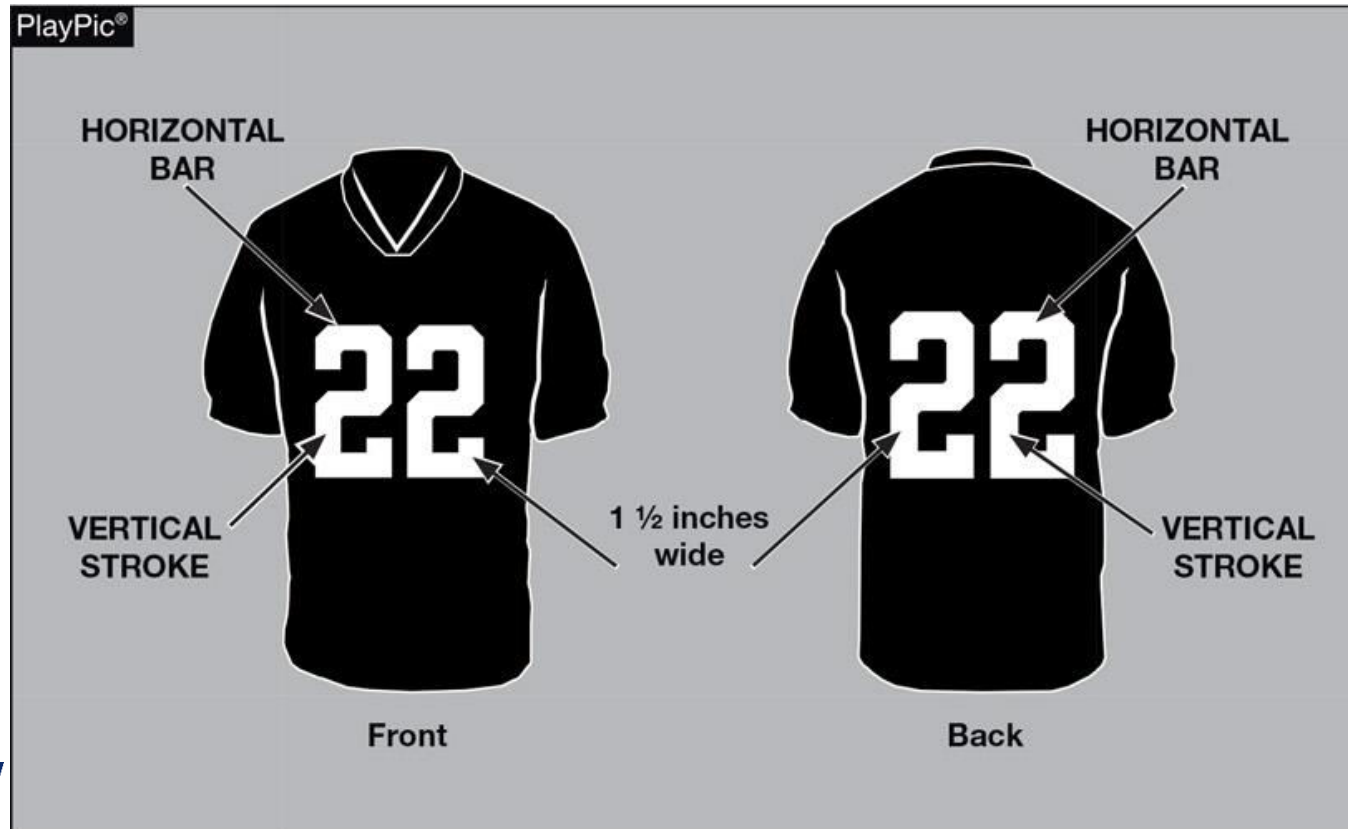
COMPRESSION SLEEVES



Compression sleeves are no longer considered an adornment and are now **LEGAL** to be worn (with or without pads). Sleeves should be free of written words or images.

FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS

RULE 1-5-1c



The entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) exclusive of any border(s) shall be approximately 1½ – inches wide.



FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6)



The style of the numbers on all four of these jerseys are legal now and will be in 2024 as well.



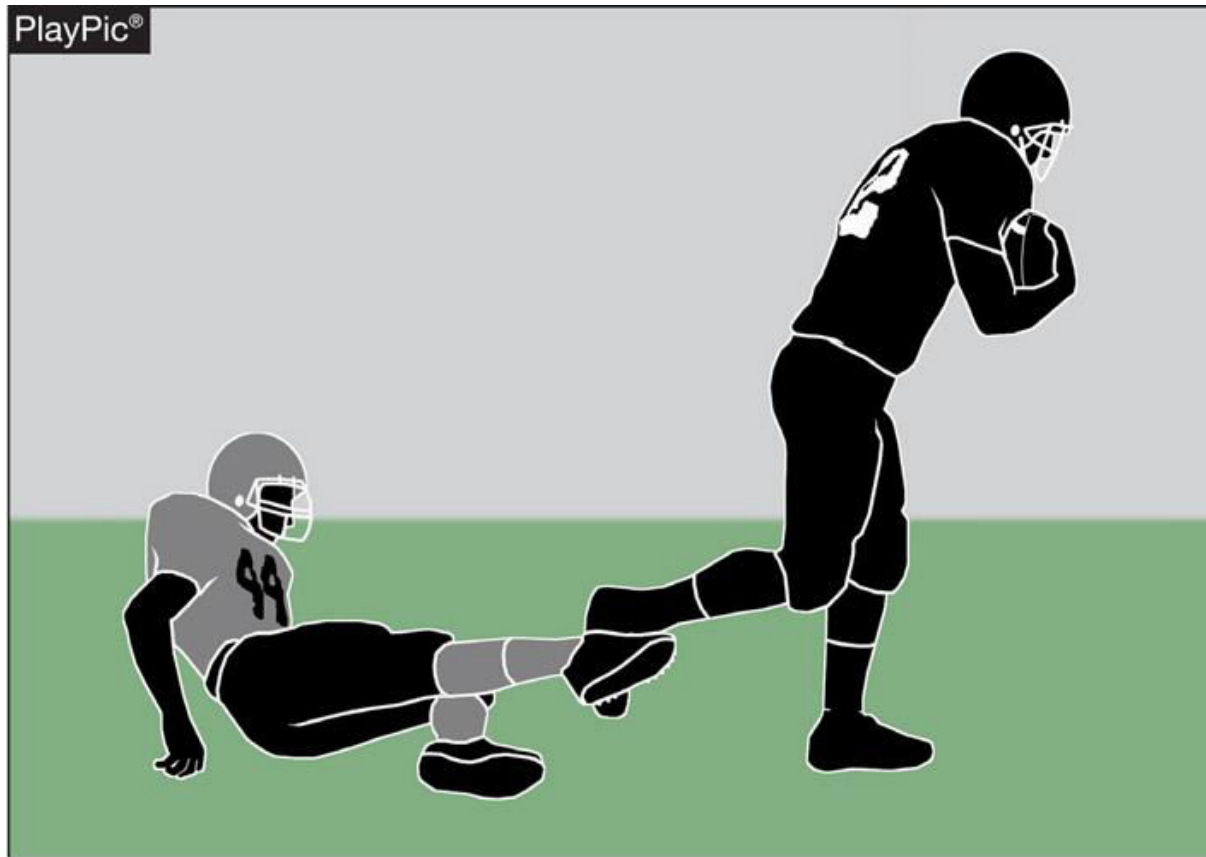
FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6)



The style of the numbers on these jerseys are legal through the 2023 season. The following four types of number designs will be illegal in 2024.

TRIPPING

RULES 2-45, 9-4-3o, 9-4-3o PENALTY



The foul for tripping has been expanded to include the runner. It is now illegal to trip any opponent. Tripping is the intentional use of the lower leg or foot to obstruct an opponent below the knee. The penalty is 15 yards.



2020 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



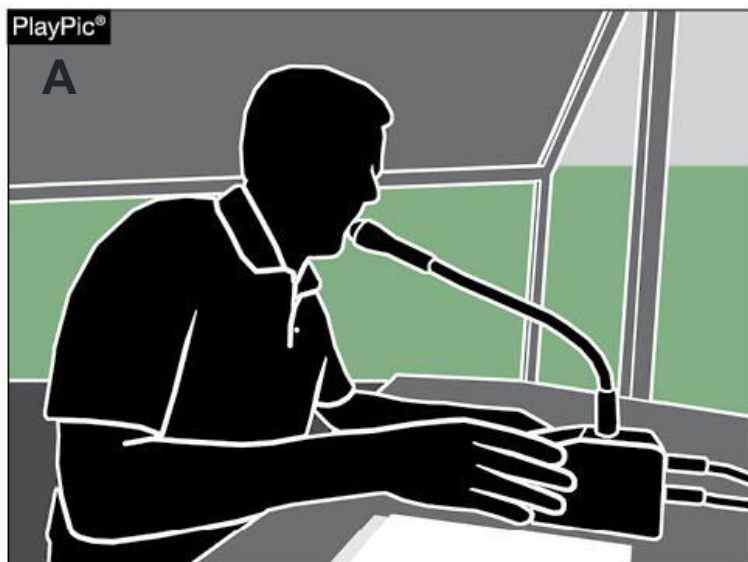
2020 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship
2. Intentional Grounding
3. Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage Formation





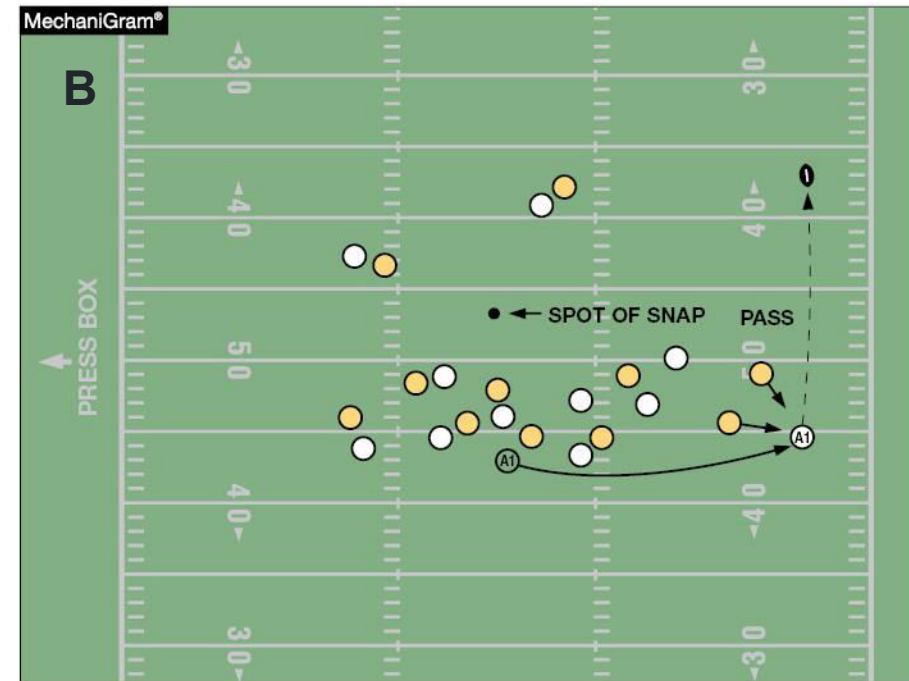
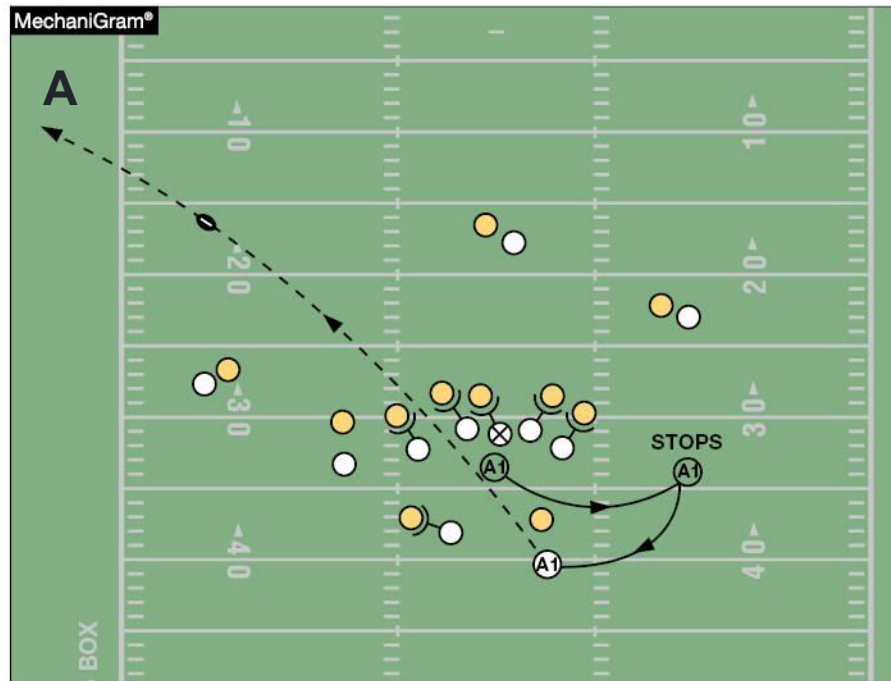
SPORTSMANSHIP



When considering sportsmanship, many may first think only of the game participants (athletes and coaches) within the timeframe of the game. Although players and coaches are the most visible in their displays of sportsmanship, proper sportsmanship also includes public address announcers (PlayPic A), bands (PlayPic B) and spectators (PlayPic C).

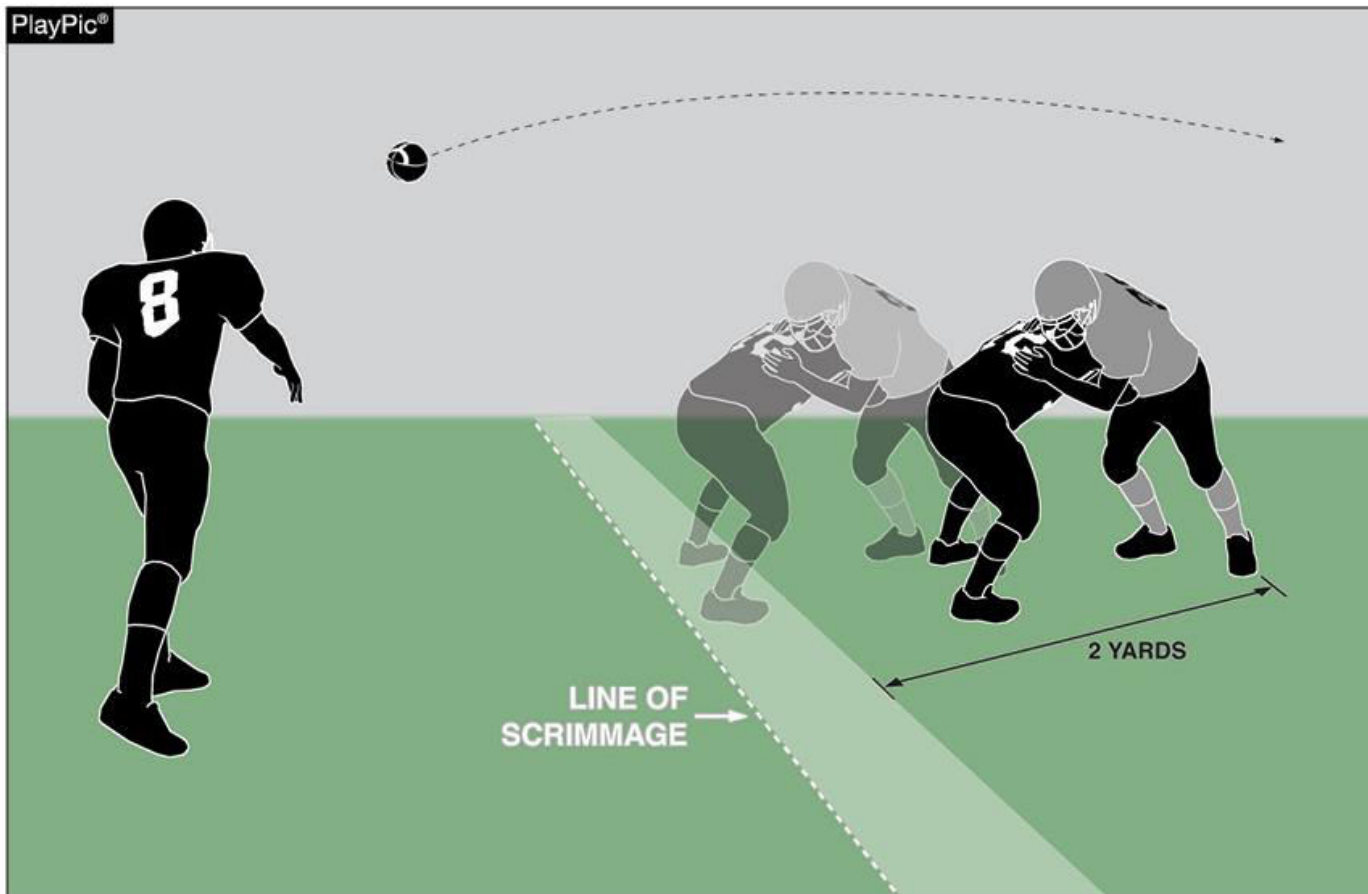


INTENTIONAL GROUNDING



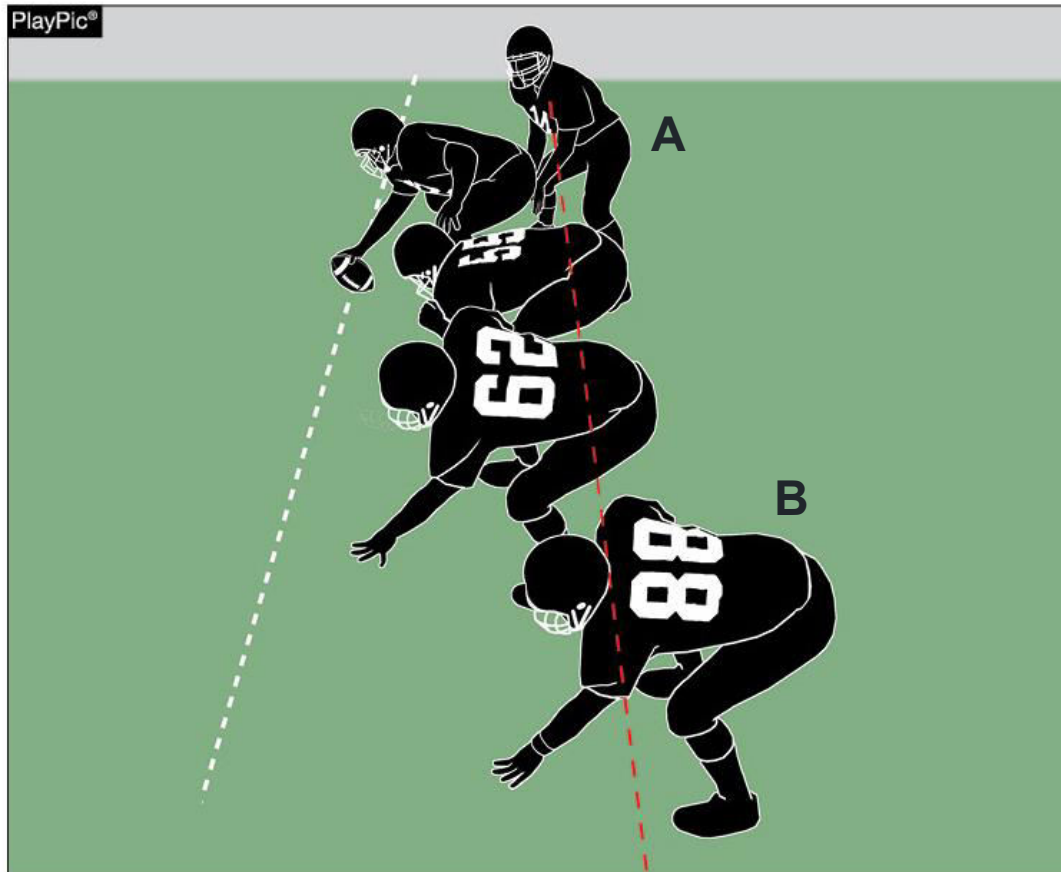
Under NFHS rules, intentional grounding is a foul whenever a forward pass is thrown to prevent a loss of yardage or to conserve time (PlayPic A) or to an area not occupied by an eligible receiver (PlayPic B). High school referees need to be aware of these situations and, with the help of the line judge and linesman, make the correct call under NFHS football rules.

INELIGIBLE DOWNFIELD



Ineligible A players may not advance beyond the expanded neutral zone on a legal forward pass play before a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone is in flight. The neutral zone expands two yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage following the snap. When identifying A players who are illegally downfield it is important to make sure that the A player is clearly beyond the expanded neutral zone (2 yards) at the moment that the pass occurs.

LINE OF SCRIMMAGE FORMATION



Only one player may not be on the line but still penetrate the vertical plane through the waistline of his nearest teammate who is on the line. This player (A) must be in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap, but does not have to actually receive it. By rule, he is the only player allowed to be positioned in “no man’s land” at the snap. All other players not on the line must be clearly positioned as backs. The player marked (B) is in an illegal position.