

## **August 24, 2019.**

1. There is something wrong with the spirit that we want to display in front of these players, when the starters are still playing during a running clock assuming there is anybody left to play. Consider the youngsters on the other side of the field. Another team had all its starters out of the game beginning the second half. See the difference.
2. A rule about "no contact on a receiver after 5 yards". That is a pro rule. Defensive pass interference starts when the pass leaves the passer's hand.
3. A new rule this year is that only 5 players have to be on the line and there can be no more than 4 in the backfield.

Remember, coaches are off the field in the AA division starting September 7, 2019. **OFFICIALS**, if you are in a running clock situation, you may allow a coach on the field for the team who has lost the game even if they still have their starters in the game. We will try this but if it is abused we will eliminate AA coaches being on the field entirely. I can see the team who has lost the game having a coach on the field while the other team may choose not to. Let me know how this works out in your weekly game report.

On this same subject, we have an unusual situation to resolve. We say that the coaches are off the field after the jamboree and game one. NT, to no fault of theirs, will play their first game on September 7. Therefore, the fairest thing I know to do is to let NT have a coach on the field for their game at ER. ER would **not** have a coach on the field. If the **CREW CHIEF** for the NT @ ER game **ONLY** judges that the score is such that he feels ER is at a disadvantage without a coach on the field, he can let a ER coach come on the field for that week only.

Thanks to everybody for a good first week.

## **9/7/19**

This week, I got nothing but positive comments from coaches, commissioner's and officials. Thank you!!

**9/14/19**

Coaches: If you want to discuss something with the officials, have the common courtesy to do it away from your players or, at least, where they can't hear the conversation. For coaches on the field, if you don't act according to the set rules, you will be asked to stay off the field.

Some coaches seem to be making up the rules as they go and to their benefit. Here are the punt rules for our League.

" The A and AA divisions may punt or have the ball moved 20 yards or, if applicable, half the distance". A punt is a legal kick by a player who drops the ball and kicks it before it touches the ground. A punt can be used as a free kick but there is no such thing as a free kick being used as a punt. That designation cannot be made. After a punt, the ball does not become dead at the point it hit the ground but wherever it is at the end of the play.

Officials: Here's how to handle situations like the one above where coaches insist that they know the rules better than you do or when they tell you that I have said something was OK. First of all, make sure you know the rules. Then, stop the game for a maximum of 5 minutes for the coach to show you in the rules (they are on our website and there will be access to a cell phone) the support for their argument or to produce something from me, in writing, agreeing with their argument. If they are right, honor their request appropriately. If neither of those are done, charge them with a timeout (no ruling was changed) and restart the game.

Commissioners; Keep your parents and/or spectators under control. Their constant complaining about everything, walking up and down the fence or sideline and questioning all calls or non-calls by the officials is not going to end up well for them. I have a suggestion for them. I'm sure I can gather up enough shirts, whistles, bean bags, down indicators and flags for them to get out there and try to do any better. All they have to do is join and be in good standing with the TSSAA, study the rules and pass the appropriate tests, be willing to get out there and run up and down the field for three games and listen to others spectators, a few coaches and a few players acting like they were and they might start acting differently, if they make it through three games. Let me know if you have any that will take me up on my offer.

The officials are to be paid by or before halftime of the last game. If you are the coach for the last game, get somebody else to handle this task. Nothing good can come out of the officials having to wait around after the games to get paid.

**9/21/19**

Commissioners, Coaches: Profanity, vulgarity or taunting by Coaches, players or spectators is not to be tolerated. Fighting is not tolerated; even between teammates. Threatening of officials will not be tolerated. Heat and the players just being boys is not a good reason for fighting. When they are 30, there is still going to be heat and they are still going to be men, so they need to learn this life lesson now.

Profanity, vulgar language, etc. within the music being played needs to be cleaned up. This is something that probably has not been thought about enough. I totally understand today's spectators are not interested in hearing most of the old music but there is plenty of newer music that is clean and suitable for the youngsters in attendance.

A group of people that don't get enough thanks are the volunteers that work the ticket booths, the chains, the concession stands and those helping with the clean-up after the games, etc. The MTJFL thanks you for your thankless jobs.

When I have to talk about not so good behavior from coaches, players and spectators, understand that I am generally talking about 5% of those groups. To the other 95%, please accept my utmost gratitude for your behavior and example in front of our youngsters. They need you. Help us with the 5%.

We are now through half of the regular season. Let's all work together to have a great second half. We are now mostly in division play so the heat will be turned up. All of us that are involved need to set the bar high as an example for our players.

**9-28-19**

This was a pretty non-eventful day. That's a good thing.  
Coaches and Officials:

By NFHS rules, the eyeshield is attached to the helmet and must be clear without the presence of ANY tint. A doctor's statement concerning this rule has no bearing on this issue and does not supersede this rule.

Now, I do not pretend to insult your intelligence concerning this rule. I, personally, wear prescription glasses that change in the sunshine. From a practical point of view, what's the difference. My particular glasses wore under the helmet would be legal but, the tinted shield is not. I didn't make the rule.

Officials: Referees, when you get down to 5 seconds on the play clock, raise your hand and count down the last 5 seconds like the BJ in high school did before the 40 second clock came along. Use some discretion as to just how strict you are on the play clock but when you do actually get to 5 seconds, visibly count it down. I actually use the slashing motion back and forth toward and away from my chest.

Coaches: When you see the Referee start the 5 second count, you know that you have a coaching decision to make; let the play continue because you are sure the ball will be snapped in time, call a time out or intentionally take the delay of game penalty. If you take the penalty, remember the clock does not start until the next snap so taking the delay does not allow you to run off extra clock time.

Coaches: A WWE body slam is going to be called as unnecessary roughness the majority of the time. I have told the officials to lean toward calling it if they consider it even close to being a foul. From a logical point of view, if the weight difference is enough to allow a player to body slam another, he is also big enough to make the tackle properly. This is a safety issue.

Commissioners: Be thinking about how we can get the homecoming festivities under control. I, by no means, want to hinder reasonable homecoming activities, but the officials need to be taken care of if they go over too much. Something standard needs to be set across the board. We will address this issue at our Commissioner's meeting in January.

In the meantime, some communities have volunteered to pay the officials extra and they thank you.