

June 2020 Study Guide

The season is nearing. Study groups and individual sessions should be in full swing. The date for Part II has not yet been posted. As you all are aware the GHSA offices have been closed and in the interim much other details have needed attention.

I do not have new books so perhaps some rule number references could change.

This guide due to its importance is limited to just Rule 7.

Rule 7-1

This rule is a series describing the process prior to the snap. Important details:

7-1-3: Note what the snapper can and cannot do once he has placed hands on the ball

7-1-4: Illegal snaps and snap infractions are dead ball fouls

7-1-7: Examples of a false start

New in 2020:

A false start is a five yard penalty. To equalize this yardage any action by the defense to cause a false start-movement or verbal- is now a five yard penalty. You won't believe what the signal is....This will likely come under Rule 7-1-6(d) and 9-5-1(d)

Rule 7-2

This rule describes numbering exceptions applied on certain downs and formations in high school football, applied definitions of a lineman and back and snap/motion. All are important. But things you should take away:

- A. On fourth down the snapper may be any number and positioned **anywhere, including the end at Westminster**. I repeat on fourth down the snapper may be any number and anywhere on the line of scrimmage.
- B. On first, second or third down things get tricky. The snapper may be any number but must be "between the ends" on scrimmage kick formation with a holder such as a field goal attempt. The team must have four players numbered 50-79. But if a team is going to

punt on first, second or third down they must have five players wearing 50-79 on the line. There is no designation on where or what number the snapper be in this situation. This is a very common mistake by teams and officials.

Camp Emphasis on 7-2: There has been a plague of illegal formations in regular season, playoffs and finals this past year. Nearly all involve illegal wingback position. Please study in tandem with Rule 2 what is a back.

Rule 7-5

Big changes here. Under this rule a legal forward pass is defined, examples of illegal forward passes are given especially in Table 7-5-2. Important change:

It is now legal to spike the ball in the shotgun to stop the clock. The snap cannot be muffed at all, cannot hit the ground and the action must be immediate. Rule 7-5-2 EX

7-5-3 Note where an illegal forward pass is penalized from

7-5-4 Note that an illegal forward pass may also be a completed pass clock wise and the ability to advance

7-5-5 Description of an incomplete pass. This should be studied in tandem with the definition of a catch in Rule 2.

7-5-6 Pass eligibility defined for Team A and B. Must know.

7-5-7,8,9 Very important to note that pass interference restrictions apply only beyond the neutral zone, when the start and end.

7-5-10,11 What pass interference is and isn't

New in 2020

7-5-12 Attempt to clarify linemen downfield. Clearly states that ineligible Team A players may not advance beyond the expanded neutral zone on a legal forward pass play BEFORE the pass crosses the neutral zone is in flight. As before if Team B touches the pass I or behind the neutral zone these restrictions are void.

The position of the ineligible A player at the moment of the pass is the only determining factor if the payer is illegally downfield. It is important to make sure that the player is beyond the expanded neutral zone at the time the pass occurs.