

**2005 NFHS Football Rules Examination - Part I**

Check the box for the answer.

**Rules Changes or Emphasis for 2005**

1. Spearing involves an attempt to punish an opponent by intentionally contacting the player with the helmet.  **True 2-39**
2. Pass interference cannot occur when the pass is clearly thrown away from the spot of the potential foul.  **True 7-5-11**
3. It is illegal substitution if a replaced player unsuccessfully attempts to leave the field prior to the snap, whether or not the player participates in or affects the play.  **False 3-7-4**
4. The runner cannot commit a spearing foul.  **False 2-39**
5. If substitute B12 enters the field during a down but does not participate or influence the play, it is a nonplayer foul.  **False 2-16-2e, 9-6-4a**
6. After the ball is read-for-play, each Team A player must momentarily be within the 9-yard marks before the snap.  **True 7-2-1**
7. Team A is limited to one legal forward pass per down.  **True 7-5-1**
8. A period shall not be extended when a foul occurs that specifies a loss of down.  **True 3-3-4**

**Authorized Conferences**

9. Any coach may request a time-out.  **False 3-5-2a**
10. When a head coach chooses to coach from a box, the assigned field coach may request a time-out.  **False Case 3.5.2 Sit B(c)**
11. Following an incomplete forward pass, if the coach requests a coach-referee conference regarding a rule interpretation on the previous play which leads to the referee altering his ruling, the clock will start on the ready-for-play signal.  **False 3-5-11**
12. If after using three time-outs in the half the coach asks for a coach-referee conference to review a possible misapplication of a rule, his team will be penalized for delay if there is no change in the ruling.  **True 3-6-2c**

**Batting**

13. Batting is an intentional act.  **True 2-2**
14. Any pass in flight may be batted in any direction by an eligible receiver unless it is a backward pass batted forward by the passing team.  **True 9-7-3**
15. Batting a scrimmage kick in or behind the neutral zone by R, in an effort to block the kick, is legal.  **True 9-7-2**
16. B1 may not legally bat a ball that is in possession of A1.  **False 9-7-4**

**Blocking**

17. During a free kick, the kicker may not be blocked until after the kicker has advanced seven yards beyond the free-kick line.  **False 9-4a**
18. A receiver who has given a fair-catch signal shall not block until the kick has ended.  **True 9-3-3**
19. During a kick from K's 40-yard line, the kicker may not be blocked if he is attempting to gain possession of the kickoff, which is bouncing at K's 45-yard line.  **False 9-4b**
20. A receiver who has given a valid or invalid fair catch signal may not block an opponent during the down.  **False 9-3-3**

**Dead Ball**

21. The dead-ball spot is the spot under the foremost point of the ball when it becomes dead by rule.  **True 2-40-3**
22. Encroachment is a dead-ball foul.  **True 2-8, 2-16-2a**
23. If at the snap a teammate is not in position to kick, the ball becomes dead if the place-kick holder catches the snap with a knee(s) on the ground.  **True 4-2-2a Exc**
24. A free kick or scrimmage kick, which is a scoring attempt, becomes dead if while in flight it touches a K player in R's end zone or after breaking the lane of R's goal line, the scoring attempt had apparently failed.  **True 4-4-4d2**

**Definitions**

25. A loose ball is out of bounds if it touches anything, including a player or game official, who is out of bounds.  **True**
26. A substitute becomes a player upon entering the huddle or when positioned in a formation.  **True 2-30-15**
27. When a runner is touching inbounds, but the ball is beyond the sideline plane, the goal line includes the extension beyond the sidelines.  **True**
28. An **offensive** player is considered to be on his scrimmage line when he is within 1 yard of his line of scrimmage.  **False 2-24-3**

**Downs-New Series**

29. The line-to-gain is the yard line established when a new series (first down) occurs.  **True 2-25-5**
30. The down does not end when an illegal forward pass is simultaneously caught by opponents.  **False**
31. When a new series is started after a fourth down incomplete forward pass, the ball is placed at the previous spot so the rear point becomes the foremost point.  **True**
32. The down does not end when a runner is held so that the runner's forward progress is stopped.  **False**

**Equipment: Game-Field**

33. An unofficial auxiliary down indicator is required.  **False 1-3-5d**
34. It is recommended that goal lines be marked in a color that contrasts with other field markings.  **True 1-2-3f Note 2**
35. All yardage chain-and-down indicator rods must have flat lower ends covered by a protective cap.  **True 1-3-5c**
36. The goal line is entirely in the end zone and the edge toward the field of play, and its vertical plane is the actual goal line.  **True 1-2-3i**

**Equipment: Player**

37. Failure to properly wear required equipment **during** a down is a foul that carries a 5-yard penalty.  **True**
38. A back may not wear a jersey with a number 50 through 79.  **False**
39. If the helmet of the **tackler** comes off in making contact with the runner, the ball becomes dead immediately.  **False**
40. Jerseys may not be altered to produce a knot-like protrusion or a tear-away type jersey.  **True**
41. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry, even if the jewelry poses no danger to opponents and is made of soft material.  **True**
42. If illegal equipment is found on an incoming substitute, correction must be made before the substitute can participate.  **True**
43. The umpire has authority to declare equipment illegal if he determines it is inappropriate equipment.  **True**
44. Gloves, without the (NF/NCAA specifications) label or stamp, may be worn if made of unaltered plain cloth.  **True 1-5-2c**

**Force**

45. A new force can be given to a fumble after it has touched the ground.  **True 2-13-1**  
 46. A new force can be added to a kick in flight.  **False 2-13-3**

**Fouls**

47. Generally, if each team commits a live-ball foul (other than unsportsmanlike) during the down, it is a double foul.  **True 2-16-2b**  
 48. If B1 intercepts and is downed; and then A1 and A2 both pile on, it is a multiple foul.  **False 2-16-2a**  
 49. Any foul that occurs after an inadvertent whistle is a dead-ball foul.  **True**  
 50. It is legal for an opponent to throw himself against the back of the runner's legs.  **True**  
 51. It is an unsportsmanlike foul if any player attempts to focus attention upon himself with any delayed, excessive or prolonged act.  **True**  
 52. Tripping an opponent who is not the runner is legal.  **False**  
 53. Illegal motion is a foul at the snap.  **True**  
 54. It is an unsportsmanlike foul if disqualified A1 re-enters to participate.  **False 9-6-4f**  
 55. An attempt by B to interfere with A's signals prior to the snap is a live-ball foul.  **False**  
 56. An illegal shift is a foul at the snap.  **True**

**Fundamentals - Fundamental Statements**

57. A handed ball beyond the neutral zone is considered to be a pass.  **False III.3**  
 58. No live-ball foul causes the ball to become dead.  **True III.2**  
 59. A dead ball may become live only by a legal snap or free kick.  **True III.3**  
 60. No foul causes loss of the ball.  **True I.6**

**Illegal Participation**

61. Touching of a low scrimmage kick is ignored if the touching occurs in or behind the expanded neutral zone.  **True**  
 62. It is illegal participation if a replaced player attempts but fails to leave the field prior to the snap.  **False 3-7-4**

**Illegal Position**

63. A Team A player is a back if the player's head or foot does not break the plane of an imaginary line drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waistline of the nearest teammate who is on the line.  **True 2-30-3**  
 64. If at the snap, A does not have at least five players on the line numbered 50-79, it is illegal numbering, unless A sets or shifts into a scrimmage kick formation.  **True 7-2-5b**  
 65. If quarterback A1 takes a position with hands underneath a lineman, other than the snapper, it is illegal position at the snap.  **True 7-2-3**  
 66. One of the requirements for A1 being on the line is that A1 face his opponent's goal line with shoulders approximately parallel thereto.  **True**

**Passing**

67. After the pass is thrown, provided the passer is standing still or fading back, defensive players shall make an effort to avoid charging into him.  **True 9-4-4**  
 68. A forward underhand pitch, behind the neutral zone from A1 to A2, is an incomplete pass if not caught.  **True 2-29-2, 4-2-2c**  
 69. Prior to the change of possession, any player of Team A may throw a legal forward pass, provided both feet of the passer are in or behind the neutral zone when the ball is released.  **True**  
 70. A backward pass out of bounds is an illegal pass.  **False**  
 71. The absence of eligible offensive receiver(s) in the immediate area of an incomplete forward pass is one guideline in determining intentional grounding.  **True**  
 72. A pass thrown forward after change of possession during the down is an illegal forward pass.  **True**

**Penalty Enforcement**

73. If a foul occurs during a loose-ball play, the basic spot is the spot of the foul.  **False 2-40-1**  
 74. If R1 gives an invalid fair-catch signal and R2 catches the scrimmage kick, R may retain possession if the penalty is accepted.  **True**  
 75. A coach who has been ejected may not have further direct or indirect contact with his team during the remainder of the game.  **True**  
 76. A loss of down is a part of some 15-yard penalties but not any 5-yard penalties.  **False**  
 77. Defensive pass interference and roughing the passer are the only fouls by Team B that award an automatic first down.  **False**  
 78. The basic spot of enforcement for a foul during a loose-ball play, other than a post-scrimmage kick foul, is the previous spot.  **True**

**Possession**

79. A loose ball is not in possession of either team.  **False 2-32-2**  
 80. If a free kick from K's 40-yard line crosses the 50-yard line in flight, but the wind blows it back to K's 45 where it touches the ground, the ball belongs to K if K1 recovers.  **True**

**Safety**

81. On kicks entering R's end zone, the determination of force dictates whether it is a touchback or a safety.  **False**  
 82. A backward pass on A's 20 batted in flight by B1 and recovered by A1 in A's end zone is not a safety because of the new force.  **False**  
 83. When a live ball becomes dead in player possession in that player's end zone, it is always a safety.  **False**  
 84. A safety will be scored when an offensive player commits any foul for which the penalty is accepted and enforcement is from a spot in his end zone.  **True**

**Scrimmage Kicks**

85. If a defensive player bumps into the kick-holder and causes him to fall backwards, it is a 5-yard penalty.  **True**  
 86. If R1 is blocked into the kicker by K1, it is not roughing the kicker.  **True**  
 87. The neutral zone may not be expanded into the end zone during a scrimmage kick.  **True**  
 88. All roughing-the-kicker fouls are penalized from the spot of the foul.  **False**

**Snap**

89. It is an illegal snap if the ball does not leave the hand(s) of the snapper.  **True**  
 90. If snapper A2 removes both hands from the ball following the ready-for-play and B1 dives on the ball, it is an illegal snap by A1 and encroachment by B1.  **False**



91. Following adjustment, the snapper may not lift or move the ball other than in a legal snap.  True
92. The snapper may lift the ball for lateral rotation but may not rotate the ball end-for-end or change the location of the ball.  True

**Time-outs**

93. A conference may not be held during a television time-out.  False 3-5-8
94. An official's time-out can be called for unusual heat or humidity situations.  True 3-5-7h
95. If an official calls time-out for an apparently injured player and after examination it is determined the player is not injured, the player need not leave the game.  False 3-5-10a
96. An official's time-out may follow a charged time-out if it is for the continuance of a coach-referee conference.  True

**Timing**

97. The clock will start with the snap on a scrimmage down following a fair catch.  True
98. The clock does not start during a free kick at the time of first touching by K.  True 3-4-5
99. If stopped, the clock will start with the ready-for-play signal for other than a free kick when the action that caused the down to end did not also cause the clock to be stopped.  True 3-4-2b3
100. If A1 intentionally grounds a forward pass in an effort to save loss of yardage, after enforcement the referee shall start the clock with the ready-for-play signal.  False 3-6-3

Answers:

[Questions/Corrections](#)