



Umpire Break Out Session July 12th, 2021



Agenda

2021 Points of Emphasis and New Rules

Position & Focus

- Free Kicks

- Scrimmage Kicks

- Scrimmage Plays

Mobility

- Outside the Hashes

- Ball Rotation

- Rule of 2

- Rule of 3

Fouls

- Keys & Focus

- Mantras



Rule Changes

- 2021 Rule Changes
 - 2-17-2c **Blocking Below the Waist**
 - 1-5-1b3 **Jerseys**
- 2020 Review
 - 7-1-9 **Disconcerting Acts**
 - 7-5-2 Conserving Time
 - 1-4-2 Penalty Decisions
 - 3-6-1a 40/25 Play Cock
 - 7-5-12 Ineligible Receivers



Rule Changes- MFOA Viewpoints

- 2021 Rule Changes
 - 2-17-2c **Blocking Below the Waist**
 - **will await NCHSAA interpretation**
 - 1-5-1b3 **Jerseys**
 - **if the home team jersey is close to white..notify RCB**
- 2020 Review
 - 7-1-9 **Disconcerting Acts**
 - **Speak to teams early when possible. Actions should be big and obvious to merit this foul and should also create an advantage to the defense**



2021 Points of Emphasis

- Sportsmanship
 - Pre-Game to Post Game inside the Stadium to the Field
- Intentional Grounding
 - High School rules differ from Televised Game days
- **Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage**
 - **Expanded Neutral Zone,**
 - **Screens and Swing Passes (LOS)**
 - **Offensive Formations (50-79 Five Men on the LOS)**
 - **Only 4 in the Backfield**



2021 P.O.E. MFOA Viewpoints

- ▣ **Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage**
 - **Foul does not occur until an ineligible player is more than 2 yards beyond the LOS at the RELEASE of the football**
 - **Move into a position that players beyond you at the release of the ball are “downfield”**
 - **Do not guess**
 - **Have knowledge of whether the pass is caught behind the LOS**
 - **If ball is caught behind LOS or touched by B, there is no foul**



MFOA 2021- Position & Focus

□ Proper MFOA Positions- Free Kicks

- Importance of Hash Mark
 - Move quickly at 45% angle into field of play. Do not exceed hash or move too deep or shallow
 - Short Kicks towards your direction - you do not need to leave sideline
 - Interior View
 - On long returns, allow play to pass you, like a standard scrimmage play
- Primary Keys (Deep Kick) - Closest 3 of the front line of B
- Pooch Kicks- Look for Fair Catch Signals
- Onside Kicks
 - Primary Keys- Ball (if towards you), blocks (if away from you)
 - If crew has moved into onside formation and kick goes deep- umpires are required to be the ones to “get back” and work the sideline
- DO NOT BALL WATCH



MFOA 2021- Position & Focus

□ Proper MFOA Positions- Scrimmage Kicks

- Initial Position-Pg 48 NFHS Game Official Manual
 - 10 Yards Deep outside the **Tackle Box** to Line Judge side
 - Move yourself in position to see the ball clearly
- Initial Key
 - Know the numbers of your 5 “lineman”
 - Protect the Snapper- “running thru the shoulder” is not roughing
- After the Snap
 - Look for holding by K
 - When first wave of players pass, quick turn towards Head Linesman Side & look for fouls
 - On long returns, attempt to place yourself close to LJ side hash, then allow play to pass you...trail and look for fouls
- DO NOT BALL WATCH



MFOA 2021- Position & Focus

- Proper MFOA Positions- Scrimmage Plays
 - Initial Position
 - 5-8 yards off the ball. Adjust to linebacker depth
 - Initial Key
 - Guard-Center-Guard
 - Have a view of the ball to watch for snap infractions
 - After the Snap
 - Focus on Keys
 - Adjust focus with “flow” of the play
 - Help with Referee-side Tackle when possible
 - Line of Scrimmage
 - Move towards line of scrimmage on passing plays
 - Have knowledge if QB crosses the line on passes
 - Have knowledge if pass is caught behind the line



MFOA 2021- Mobility

- Proper MFOA Mobility (#1 Complaint about MFOA Umpires)
 - **MUST BE WILLING AND ABLE TO COME OUTSIDE THE HASHES**
 - Line of Scrimmage
 - Move towards line of scrimmage on passing plays
 - Ball Rotation
 - Always know what sideline the next ball will be coming off of
 - Move outside the hashes to shorten the length of throws from wings
 - Ok to allow ball boys on the field following kick plays only
 - Rule of 2
 - If a play ends from the numbers to the sideline, there needs to be 2 officials there to separate players...if you are the 3rd Official back out to the hash and await relay
 - Rule of 3
 - If a play ends beyond the sideline, there needs to be 3 officials there to separate players.....if you are the 4th official, back out to the hash and await relay



MFOA 2021- Fouls

□ MFOA Foul Reviews

- Holding
 - Focus on Point of Attack and Advantage Gained
 - Does the hold restrict the player and/or “take away a step” from the defender?
 - Look for snap down fouls by offensive lineman (it’s being taught)
- Hands to the Face
 - Initial Hand placement of either lineman can lead to quick identification of this foul
 - What caused a player’s helmet to come off (Don’t guess or assume)
- Blindside Block
 - For Umpire’s this is a very common foul on kicking plays we should detect
- False Start
 - Umpire’s do not call encroachment
 - If both sides move, come into discuss and provide information. Did offense move first? (most likely False Start) Did defense move first? (ask the wing if they crossed)



MFOA 2021- Fouls

□ MFOA Foul Mantras

- Quality not Quantity
- Highest Importance is on Safety
- Focus on Advantage Gained and Point of Attack
- Calls that Umpires should rarely, if ever, call
 - Encroachment
 - Roughing (excluding Roughing the Snapper)
 - Targeting
 - Facemask (excluding Hands to the Face)
 - DPI