

April 2018 Study Guide

Season is one month closer. Spring games are on the horizon. This guide focuses on line of scrimmage, shifts, motion, formations, free blocking zone, blocks in general and spot location to start a new series. Always some timing issues. The biggest news is the adoption of seven man mechanics for all post-season play and regular season games if the home team opts to do so and officials are available. The questions on this guide will not be affected by this adoption.

NEW RULE INTERPRETATION FOR 2018: This is not a rule change but a rule interpretation we sought thru Mr. Whittle's membership on the NFHS rules committee. This interpretation is directly from the NFHS rules committee and was thoroughly discussed by Mr. Whittle at the meeting this winter. It is to be implemented throughout the GHSA.

All eleven Team A players must be set for one second in unison prior to the snap. This may occur BEFORE or AFTER the ready for play whistle. The NFHS rules make no distinction.

Over the past two seasons teams have both benefited and been victims of errant enforcement by officials requiring them to be set for one second after the ready for play.

EXAMPLE: Some officials have called either illegal shifts, illegal procedure or false start when teams are trying to spike the ball to stop the clock. They line up quickly, are set for more than one second and snap the ball with the ready for play whistle. They have been set for one second prior

to the ready for play but not afterwards. Properly officiated, this is **LEGAL**.

This requires vigilance of the entire offensive team by the crew, knowledge of the game situations and good pregame covering this issue.

ANOTHER ISSUE: A problem remains around the state concerning blocks below the waist in the spread formation. Anticipate statement of clarity to come out of meeting April 26 and further emphasis on this in later guides.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR THIS GUIDE: The usual. 2/8 means second down and eight yards to go. **EZ** means the end zone. B35 means the Team B 35 yard line. **QB:** quarterback **BSB:** blindside block **BIB:** block in the back. **OOB:** out of bounds **LOS:** line of scrimmage

QUESTIONS

31. 2/8 at the A46. QB A12 takes the snap from under center. Left guard A62 pulls to the right while A12 turns and pitches the ball backwards to runner A23. A62 blocks linebacker B92 below the waist and from the front at the A45 yard line. B92 was two yards off the LOS at the snap. A23 is tackled inbounds at the A49. Which statement is **TRUE:**
- A. No foul for illegal block since the contact was from the front and contact in the free blocking zone.
 - B. Illegal block below the waist. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the end of the run. 2/20 from the A34 yard line.

- C. Illegal block below the waist. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the spot of the foul. 2/24 from the A30 yard line.
 - D. Illegal block below the waist. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the previous spot. 2/23 from the A31.
32. 1/10 for Team A from the B42. QB A6 is in the shotgun position five yards behind the center to receive the snap. Right tackle A72 is in a two point stance. At the snap A72 starts to rise but then lunges forward making contact on defensive linemen B77 below the waist but above the knees in the neutral zone. Runner A6 is downed at the B43. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. Illegal block below the waist. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the spot of the foul. Team A 1/25 from the A43.
 - B. Illegal block below the waist. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the end of the run. 1/26 from the A42.
 - C. No foul since contact was in the free blocking zone.
 - D. Illegal block below the waist. Ten yard penalty assessed from the spot of the foul. 1/20 from the A48.
33. 3/6 for Team A at the B28. As a lead blocker ahead of runner A22, fullback A47 runs directly at linebacker B51 who was four yards off the LOS at the snap. B51 steps forward and contacts A47 below the waist at the B26 yard line. A22 is downed at the B24. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. Illegal contact by B51. Half the distance penalty assessed from the spot of the foul. Team A 1/10 from the B13.
 - B. Illegal contact by B51. Half the distance penalty assessed

from the previous spot. 1/10 from the B14.

- C. No foul for illegal contact since initiated by the defender in the free blocking zone.
- D. Illegal contact. Half the distance penalty assessed from the end of the run. 1/10 from the B12.
- E. Illegal contact. Ten yard penalty assessed from the end of the run. 1/10 from the B14.

34. Team A 2/13 from the B46. During a sweep wide receiver A82 turns and blocks defensive back B35 with forceful contact with the shoulder pad on the upper arm of the defender. B35 gave no indication to the official covering he saw the blocker coming or made evasive action. Contact occurs at the B40 yard line with the end of the run the B30 yard line. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. Illegal BSB. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the spot of the foul. 2/22 at the A45.
- B. Illegal BSB. Fifteen yard penalty assessed from the end of the run. 2/12 from the B45.
- C. Illegal BSB. Fifteen yard penalty from the previous spot. 2/28 from the A39.
- D. Legal contact since it was initiated on the side of the defender and not the back.

35. Team A 3/8 from the A41 yard line. Spread formation. QB six yards behind the center. Right guard A66 in three point stance. Defensive lineman B79 is directly across from A66 on the line of scrimmage. At the snap A66 drives forward and blocks B79 below the knees. Runner A21 fumbles and the ball is picked up and returned by B25 to the A35

and is downed. During the return B57 blocks A33 in the back at the A43 yard line. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. Offsetting fouls for two illegal blocks. The down must be replayed and there are no other options.
- B. Legal block by A66. The BIB during the return was after change of possession therefore Team B can retain possession after enforcement. Team B 1/10 from the B47 yard line.
- C. Legal block by A66. The BIB during the return was after change of possession therefore Team B can retain the ball. 1/10 B42.
- D. Legal block by A66. The BIB during the return was after change of possession therefore Team B can retain possession after enforcement. 1/10 from midfield.

36. 2/3 from the A38. Runner A26 is stood up by number of defenders at the A44. Forward momentum has ceased. B28 lowers his head and hits A26 in the back with the crown of his helmet. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. B28 is guilty of targeting. Fifteen yard penalty from the end of the run. B28 is disqualified if the contact is deemed to be flagrant. 1/10 from the B41.
- B. Legal contact.
- C. B28 is guilty of spearing. Fifteen yard penalty from the end of the run. B28 is disqualified if the contact is flagrant. 1/10 from the B41.
- D. B28 is guilty of face tackling. Fifteen yard penalty from the end of the run. B28 is disqualified if contact deemed

flagrant. 1/10 from the B41.

37. A ball carrier may lower his helmet and hit defender in the chest with the crown of his helmet in an effort to gain more yardage.
- A. True
 - B. False
38. Team A 4/4 from the B30 yard line in the second quarter. Team B received prior sideline warning for non-contact interference in the first quarter. During a running play that ends at the B27 there is another sideline non-contact interference by a Team B assistant coach. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. Team A 1/10 at the B22 yard line
 - B. Team A 1/10 at the B25 yard line
 - C. Team B possession 1/10 from the B22 yard line
39. Team A 4/3 at the A27 with clock running. Team A QB under center. The ready for play has been blown. Center A66 places both hands on the ball. Team A then shifts into scrimmage kick formation. A66 removes both hands from the ball and begins to point to blocking assignments. A snap ensues with a punt that goes OOB at the B40. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. Team B 1/10 at B40, clock starts on the snap.
 - B. Team A 4/8 at the A22 yard line. Clock starts on the snap.
 - C. Officials erred in allowing the snap to ensue. The action should have been blown dead.
 - D. A and C are true.

40. The neutral zone is established by two actions. The ready for play whistle and the center placing one or both hands on the ball. These may occur in any order but prior to both happening encroachment cannot occur.
- A. True
 - B. False
41. Team A 4/6 at the B42 yard line. QB A12 is under center. Slot receiver A88 goes in motion after being set for one second and continues until the snap. A12, while A88 is in motion, shifts back to spread formation to receive the snap five yards behind the center and is set in that position for one second prior to the snap. A12 throws a completed pass to A88 at the B35 yard line. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. Team A 1/10 at the B35 yard line
 - B. Team A 4/11 at the B47 yard line after penalized for illegal shift
 - C. Team A 4/11 at the B47 after penalized for illegal motion
42. After breaking the huddle all eleven Team A players are set for one second although all are standing. The QB yells “shift” and all players shift into a three point stance except A70 who remains motionless but standing. The QB shifts under center. Two seconds later A33 then goes in motion. During the motion A70 shifts into his three point stance. Team A is guilty of illegal motion.
- A. True
 - B. False
43. Fourth quarter 0:06 seconds left. Team B leads 21-17. Team A 2/goal from the B5 yard line. Prior to the snap Team B realizes it has only ten

players and no time outs. B47 runs onto the field but at the snap is not on his side of the neutral zone. B47 does not participate or effect the play. A33 runs and is downed at the B2 yard line as time expires during the down. Which statement is **FALSE**:

- A. This is illegal substitution
- B. Team A will have an untimed down from B1 yard line
- C. Team A will have an untimed down from B2 yard line

44. Team A 2/8 from the A30 yard line. Clock is running. As Team A breaks the huddle A88 begins to slowly run to the sideline and continues until the ball is snapped then turns up field to block. Other Team A players come set for one second after breaking the huddle. The ball is then snapped. A running play ends with A33 being downed at the A39 inbounds. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. Team A 1/10 from the A39 yard line. Clock starts on the ready for play.
- B. Team A is guilty of an illegal shift
- C. Team A 2/13 from the A35 yard line. Clock on the snap.
- D. Team A 2/23 from the A25 yard line. Clock starts on the ready for play.

45. With less than a minute in the fourth quarter Team B leads 28-24. On the previous play Team A gained a first down in bounds. Team A rushes to the LOS is set for one second and snaps the ball. The ready for play had not been blown as the Umpire was slow in placing and moving away from the LOS. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. There is no penalty as the ready for play had not been blown.

- B. Illegal snap. After enforcement Team B coach will determine when the clock will start
 - C. Delay of game. After enforcement Team B coach will determine when clock will start.
 - D. Unsportsmanlike conduct. After enforcement Team B coach will determine when the clock will start.
46. Team K's kickoff goes out of the end zone. Team R coach requests the ball be placed at the left hash mark. This request should be denied.
- A. True
 - B. False
47. Team A scores. They request the ball be placed in the middle of the field for the try on the B3 yard line. After the ready for play B65 encroaches. The penalty is accepted. Team A coach then requests ball be placed at the left hash mark as their try is now from the B1 ½ yard line. A10 runs for an apparent touchdown but A73 is flagged for holding at the B1 yard line just at the right hash mark. As soon as coach of Team A sees the assessed penalty and the ball at the right hash mark he requests the ball be placed in the middle of the field because they want to kick for the try. The correct response to this coaching request is:
- A. Grant the request and spot the ball in the middle of the field
 - B. Deny the request
 - C. Inform the coach the only way to grant the request is to call a time out then request.

48. Team K's kickoff bounces near the sideline at the R30 yard line. R45 intentionally goes out of bounds to avoid a pile up near the sideline at the R30 yard line. No contact was made on R45 at any time. R45 reaches back inbounds at the R30 and touches the ball. The ball will next be put in play at which yard line and by which team:
- A. Re-kick by Team K at the K40 yard line due to offsetting penalties. Illegal participation and free kick OOB untouched by R.
 - B. 1/10 from the R30 for Team R on the hash mark nearest the sideline the ball went out on.
 - C. Re-kick by Team K from the R45 yard line
 - D. 1/10 for Team R on the R15 yard line.
49. Team K punts on 4/10 from midfield. While ball is airborne R22 signals for a fair catch at the R5 yard line. R22 then blocks K34 at the R5 yard line from the front and above the waist. The ball lands and hits R22 in the back and is recovered by K34 at the R5 yard line. Where will the next snap **most likely** occur and by whom?:
- A. R 1/10 from the R5 yard line
 - B. After declining the penalty Team K 1/goal from the R5.
 - C. After accepting the penalty, which is one of the options for Team K under PSK, 1/10 for Team R from the 2 ½ yard line.
 - D. 1/10 for Team K from the R20 yard line.
50. Third/goal for Team A from the B6 yard line. B78 in pursuit of runner A32 grabs but does not twist his face mask. A32 breaks free and scores as time expires for the first half. Concerning options for Team A which is **TRUE**:

- A. Team A may either assess the penalty on the try or the subsequent second half kickoff.
 - B. Team A only choice is to assess on the try.
 - C. Team A must decline the penalty to keep the touchdown.
51. Team A 3/15 from the B25 yard line. With three seconds remaining in the game Team A kicks a successful field goal to tie the game as time expires. During the field goal B78 roughs the holder. Team A has the option to keep the score and assess the penalty from the succeeding spot- the first play of overtime.
- A. True
 - B. False
52. Team A 2/7 from the B9 yard line. A23 fumbles at the B4 yard line and the ball rolls into the EZ. B80 bats the ball over the end line to prevent Team A recovery. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. This is a safety.
 - B. This is a touchback
 - C. 1/goal for Team A from B2 yard line
 - D. 2/2 for Team A from B4 yard line
 - E. Batting in the EZ by either team is legal as no new force can be applied in the EZ
53. Team A 3/15 from the B28 yard line. QB A12 throws a pass which is intercepted in the EZ by B23. After several steps his momentum takes him over the end line. The next play will be 1/10 for Team B at the B20 yard line.
- A. True

B. False

54. Team A 2/10 from midfield. A34 fumbles and ball is rolling towards the side line. The LJ is hit with the ball. His toes are in the field of play but his heels are both on the side line. After hitting the LJ the ball caroms back into the arms of B22 who is lying on the ground at midfield.

Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. 2/10 for Team A at midfield
 - B. 1/10 for Team B at midfield
 - C. 3/10 for Team A at midfield
55. Team A 4/goal from the B5 yard line. Runner A12 jumps towards the right pylon stepping on it. When the pylon is touched the ball was at the B1 yard line. The results of the play is a touchdown.
- A. True
 - B. False
56. Team A 3/5 at the B8 yard line. While running towards the EZ A10 fumbles at the B5. The ball is then muffed by B55 and goes OOB at the B2 yard line. Which statement is **TRUE**:
- A. Team B 1/10 at the B2.
 - B. Team A 1/goal at the B2
 - C. Team B 1/10 at the B5 (spot of the fumble)
 - D. Team A 4/2 at the B5 (spot of the fumble)
57. Team A 4/3 at the B24. Runner A30 is contacted by B50 at the B20 near the sideline. The contact is extreme, shoulder to shoulder, with both players running at full speed. B50 wins the momentum battle

knocking A30 backwards. A30 falls on his side and out of bounds at the B22 yard line. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. Team A 1/10 at B20. Clock will start on the snap.
- B. Team A 1/10 at B20. Official covering the play should signal the clock to continue to run in his mechanics then signal the clock to stop for the apparent first down. Clock will then start on the ready.
- C. Team B 1/10 at B22. Clock will start on the ready.
- D. Team B 1/10 at B22. Clock will start on the snap.

58. Team A 3/10 at the A40. QB A7 drops back to pass and is contacted at the A35 by B70 who grasps him and spins A7 around. A7 falls to the ground at the A30. Allowing for forward progress the ball should next be spotted at the A35.

- A. True
- B. False

59. Team A 3/5 at the A30. Runner advances to the A35 and fumbles. B50 attempts to pick up loose ball at the A37 and is legally contacted by A99 and never gains possession. The ball goes OOB at the A34. Which statement is **TRUE**:

- A. Team A 1/10 at the A34.
- B. Team B 1/10 at the A34
- C. Team B 1/10 at the A37.
- D. Team A 4/1 at the A34.

60. Team A 3/10 at the B20. Three seconds remaining in the game. During a field goal attempt Team A has four linemen numbered 50-79 except

for the right guard number 90. This is a legal formation under numbering exception.

- A. True
- B. False

61. Which statement is **FALSE**:

- A. Illegal motion is a foul simultaneous with the snap
- B. Encroachment cannot occur until after the ready for play has been blown and the center has placed one or both hands on the ball.
- C. There cannot be an illegal shift unless the ball is snapped
- D. The player in motion at the snap is allowed to be moving parallel to the LOS.

62. Concerning shifts which statement is **FALSE**:

- A. Breaking the huddle is a shift
- B. The QB placing his hands under center is a shift
- C. Offensive linemen may never shift to the opposite side of the formation.
- D. Any shift by Team A members that simulates action at the snap is a false start.