



2026 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES



GAME ENDING PROCEDURE

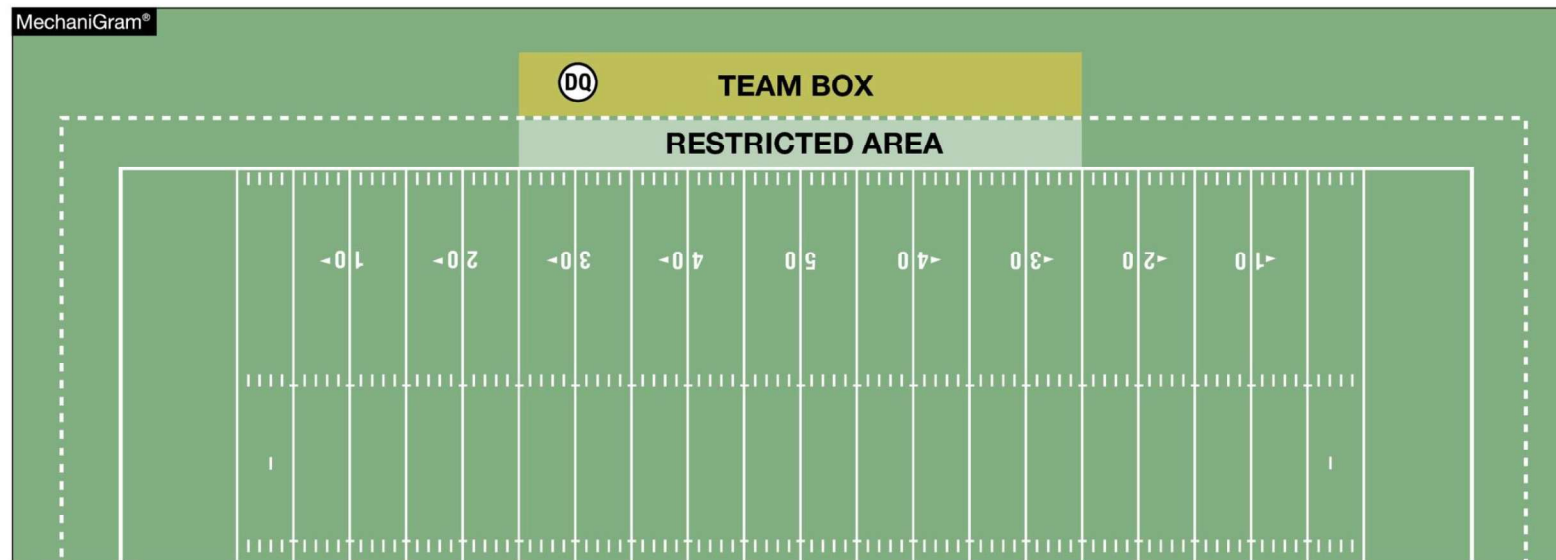
RULE 1-1-8

- The game officials' authority extends through the referee's declaration of the end of the fourth period or overtime. The jurisdiction of the game officials is terminated and the final score has been approved when all game officials leave the visual confines of the playing area. The game officials retain clerical authority over the game through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, that are responsive to actions occurring while the game officials had jurisdiction. State Associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the game official's jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.

DISQUALIFIED PLAYER

RULE 2-32-6

- A disqualified player is a player barred from further participation in a game. A disqualified player can be permitted to remain in the team box area.

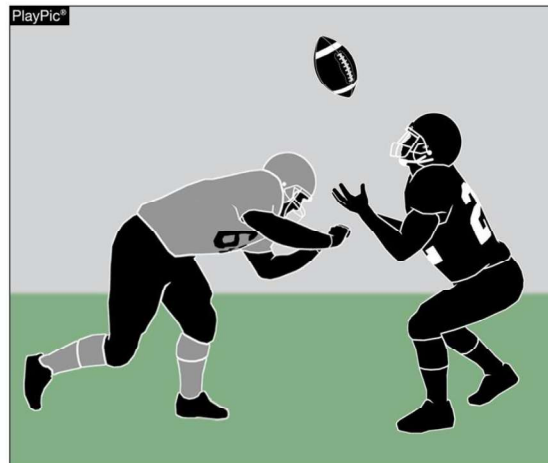


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ILLEGAL PERSONAL CONTACT/DEFENSELESS PLAYER RULE 9-4-3p



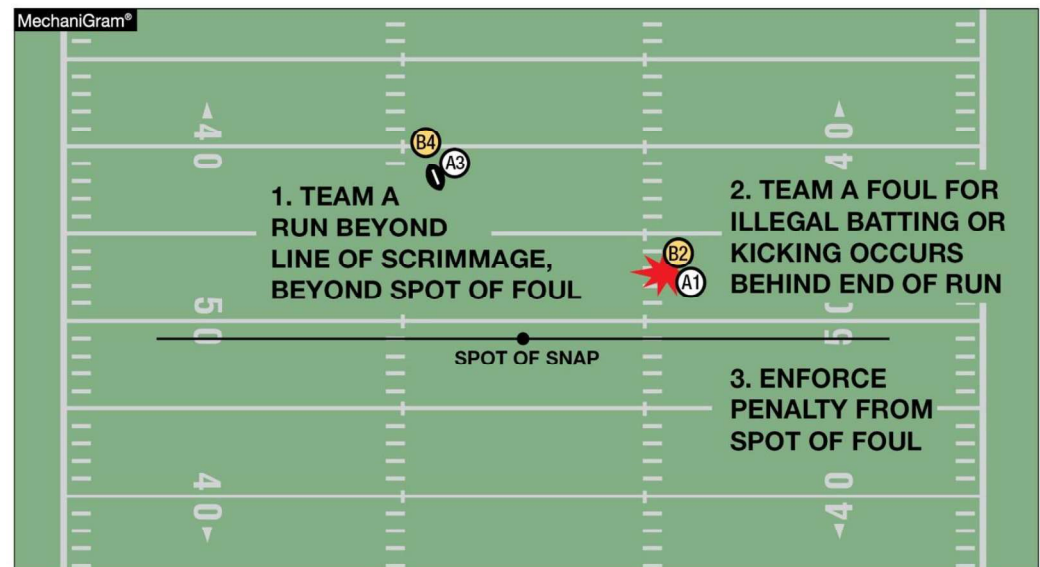
- No player or nonplayer shall:
 - p. Initiate forceful contact against a defenseless receiver as in 2-32-16b, 2-32-16c and 2-32-16e that is not:
 1. Incidental contact as a result of making a play on the ball;
 2. Initiated with open hands; or
 3. An attempt to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around the receiver.



BASIC SPOT

RULE 10-4-4a

- The basic spot is the spot of the foul for:
 - a. Illegal batting or illegal kicking by A that occurs behind the basic spot.



NEW DELAY OF GAME SIGNAL



PREVIOUS
DELAY OF GAME SIGNAL



NEW
DELAY OF GAME SIGNAL

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1-3-5b	Changed “Head Linesman” to “Head Line Judge.
1-5-3a(2)	Deleted the reference to “opponent.”
2-15-1	Further clarified to make definition more consistent with forward fumble rule that was approved in 2025.
3-5-7g	Replaced “heat and humidity” with “circumstances and conditions” better covers a variety of situations that may create a health risk to players.
4-1-3	Deleted “if elected” from the rule as it was not needed.
5-3-1	Added “ball being” before ready-for-play for clarification.
5-3-2	Changed “Head Linesman” to “Head Line Judge.
8-2-2, 8-2-3, 8-2-4, 8-2-5	Changed “subsequent kickoff” to “succeeding spot” for clarification.

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9-8 PENALTY	Added 'basic spot' to the PENALTY section to give better clarity that unsportsmanlike and nonplayer unsportsmanlike fouls are enforced from the basic spot.
10-4-2	Revised the rules references in the rule.
10-4-2b	Deleted "behind the line of scrimmage" from the rule to eliminate redundancy.
10-5-3	Deleted "and enforcement is from behind its goal line" to eliminate conflicts with recent rules changes to Rule 10-4.
FOOTBALL FUNDAMENTAL – Penalty Measurement (4)	Removed all of the rules references and relaced with "otherwise specified by rule."
RESOLVING TIED GAMES – (3-1)	Changed "Head Linesman" to "Head Line Judge.
6-Player Rules Differences – Rule 7	Further clarified when a passer becomes eligible if the pass was touched by B.