



2017 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State
High School Associations



Take Part. Get Set For Life.™



2017 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES



PERMISSIBLE ITEMS ON BALLS

RULE 1-3-1h (NEW)

The ball may contain only the following permissible items:

Ball manufacturer's name and/or logo;

School name, logo and/or mascot;

Conference name and/or logo; State association name and/or logos; and

NFHS name and/or logos.

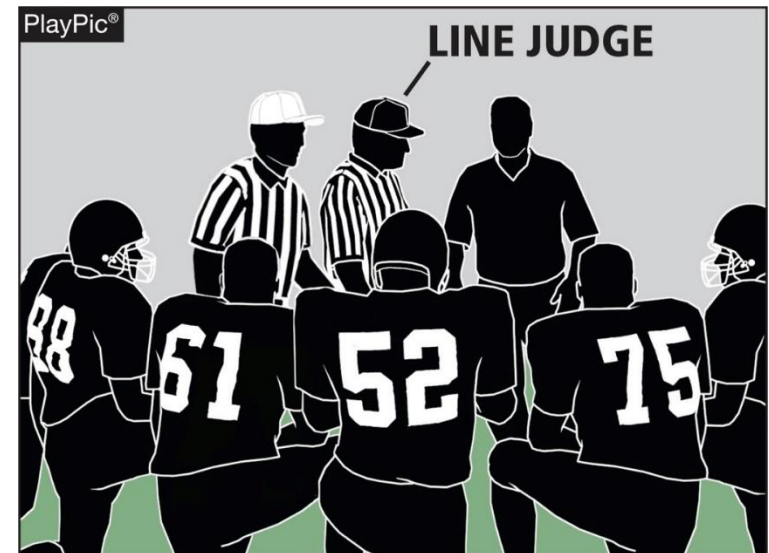


NFHS PARTNER



COACHES' VERIFICATION RULES 1-5-1a(2) NOTE; 1-5-4

A crew member other than the umpire may accompany the referee to the pregame meeting with the head coaches, during which the coach verifies his team is legally equipped. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire.



HOME TEAM JERSEYS

RULE 1-5-1(b)3

- The home jersey is to be a dark color that clearly contrasts with white. The home jersey on the left (A) is currently legal. The home jersey on the right (B) will be illegal when the rule takes effect in 2021.



HOME TEAM JERSEYS

RULE 1-5-1(b)3



HOME TEAM JERSEYS

RULE 1-5-1(b)3



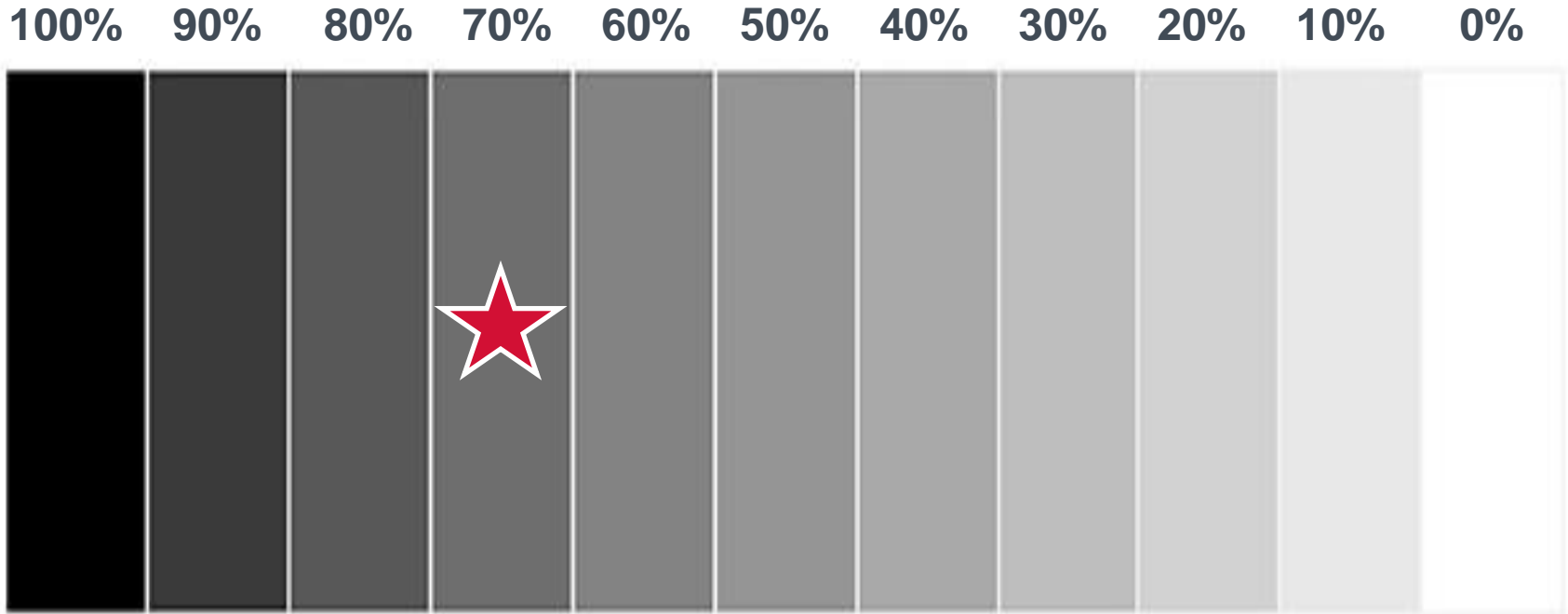


HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3





HOME TEAM JERSEYS GRAY COLOR SPECTRUM CHART



HOME TEAM JERSEYS RULE 1-5-1(b)3

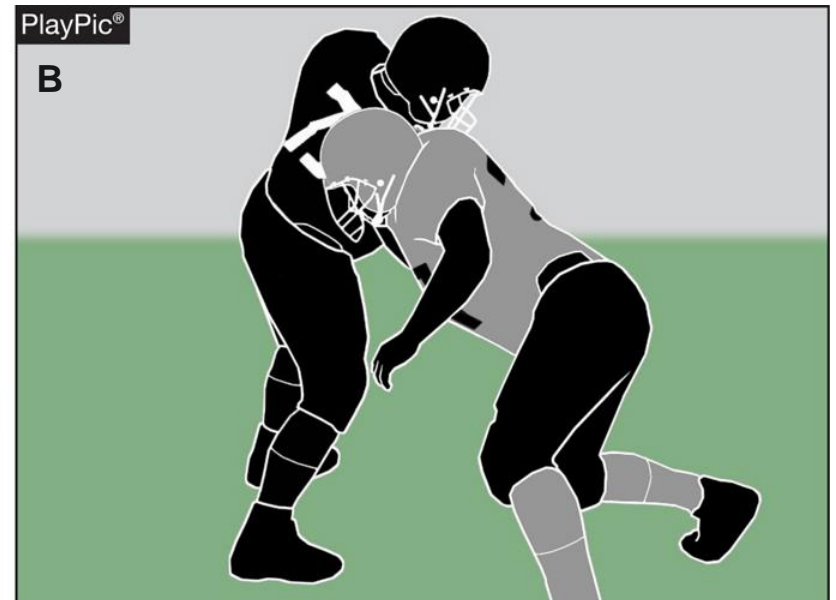
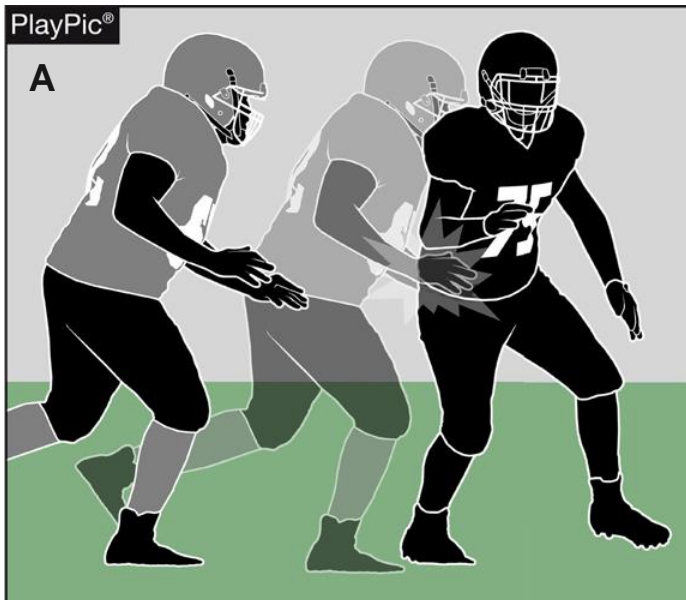
Beginning with the 2021 season, the home team jerseys in the PlayPic will be illegal. **NOTE:** Rules 1-5-1b(2)e and 1-5-1b(3)e: The visiting team is responsible for avoidance of similarity of colors, but if there is doubt, the referee may require players of the home team to change jerseys.



BLINDSIDE BLOCK

RULES 2-3-10 (NEW); 9-4-3n (NEW); 9-4 PENALTY (NEW)

- A blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner, who does not see the blocker approaching.



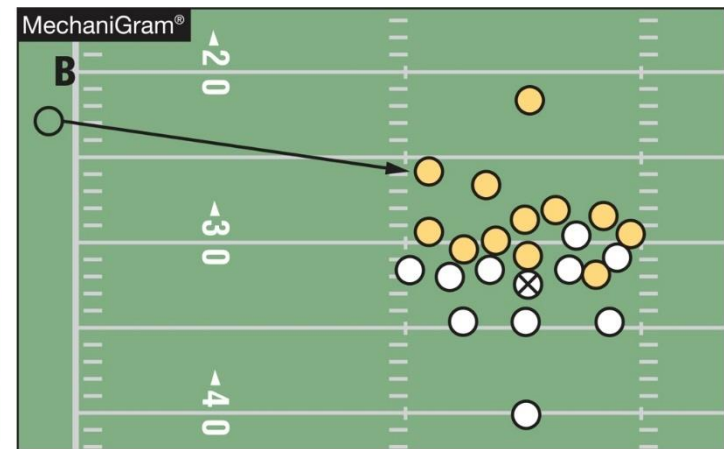
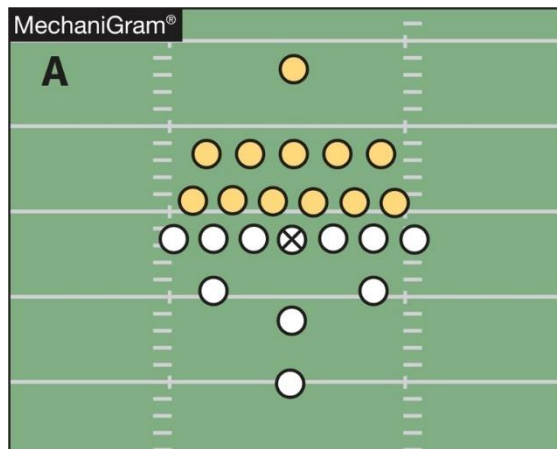
BLINDSIDE BLOCK RULES 2-3-10 (NEW); 9-4-3n (NEW); 9-4 PENALTY (NEW)

- A blindside block is a block outside of the free-blocking zone against an opponent other than the runner who does not have a reasonable opportunity to see the blocker approaching. As seen in the PlayPic, a blindside block with forceful contact initiated with open hands is legal, inside or outside of the free-blocking zone.



PSK ENFORCEMENT RULE 2-16-2h

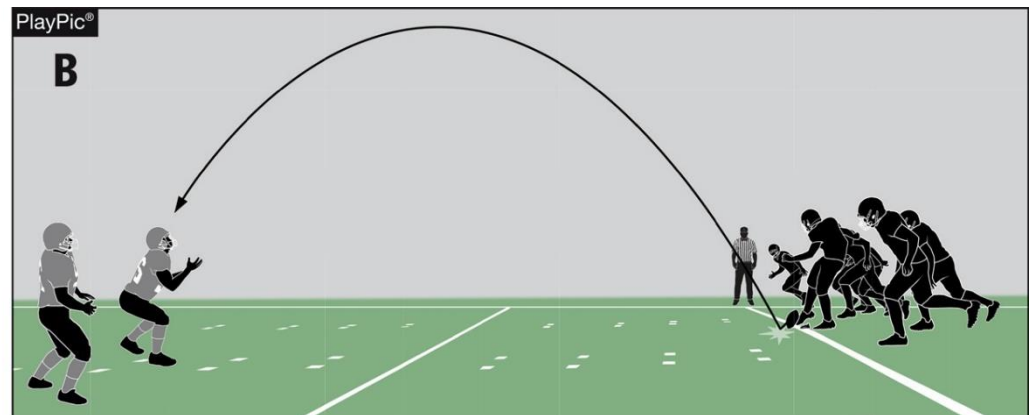
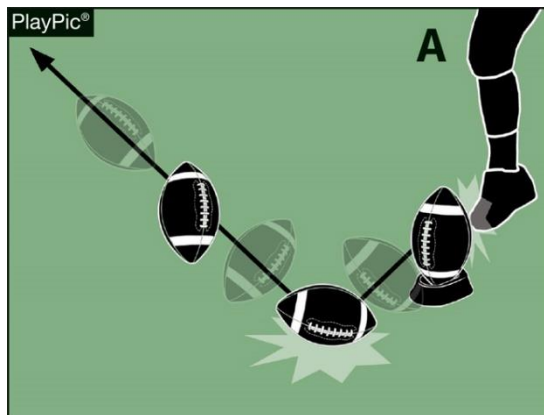
- Illegal substitution and illegal participation fouls by R occurring at the snap (MechaniGram A) are enforced from the previous spot. Illegal participation fouls by team R occurring during the kick (MechaniGram B) are enforced under post-scrimmage kick enforcement.



POP-UP KICK

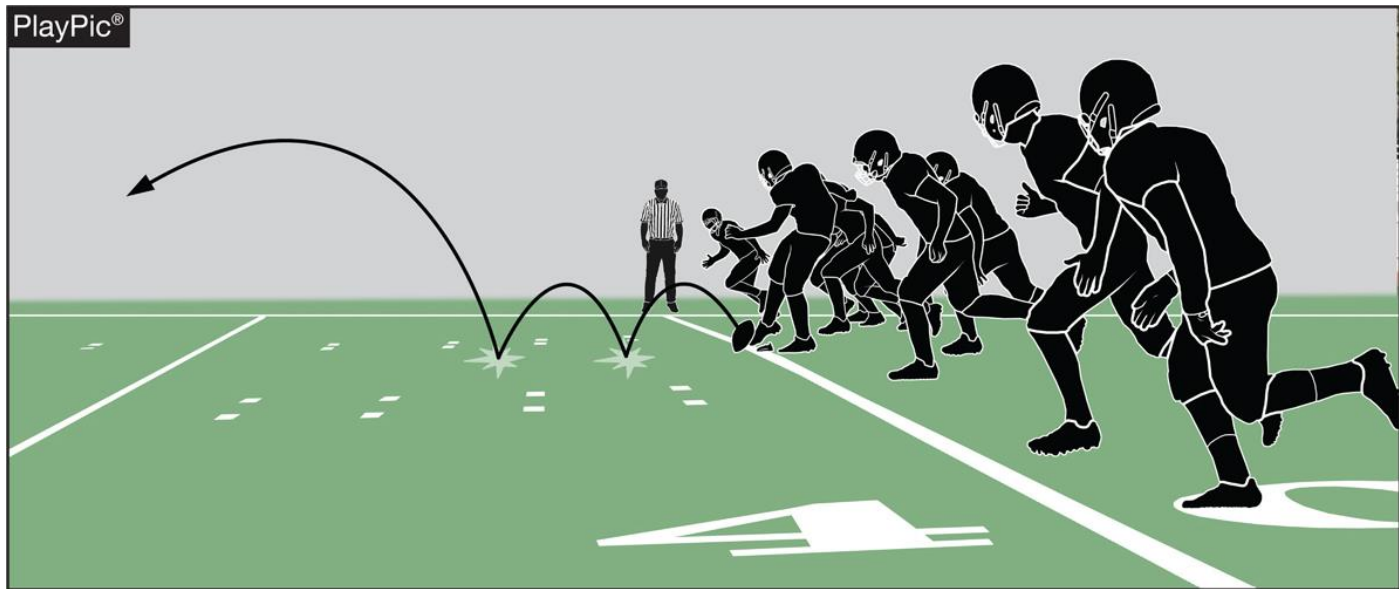
RULES 2-24-10 (NEW); 6-1-11 (NEW); 6-1 PENALTY (NEW)

- A pop-up kick is a free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately to the ground, the ball strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee. Such kicks will be penalized as a dead-ball foul.



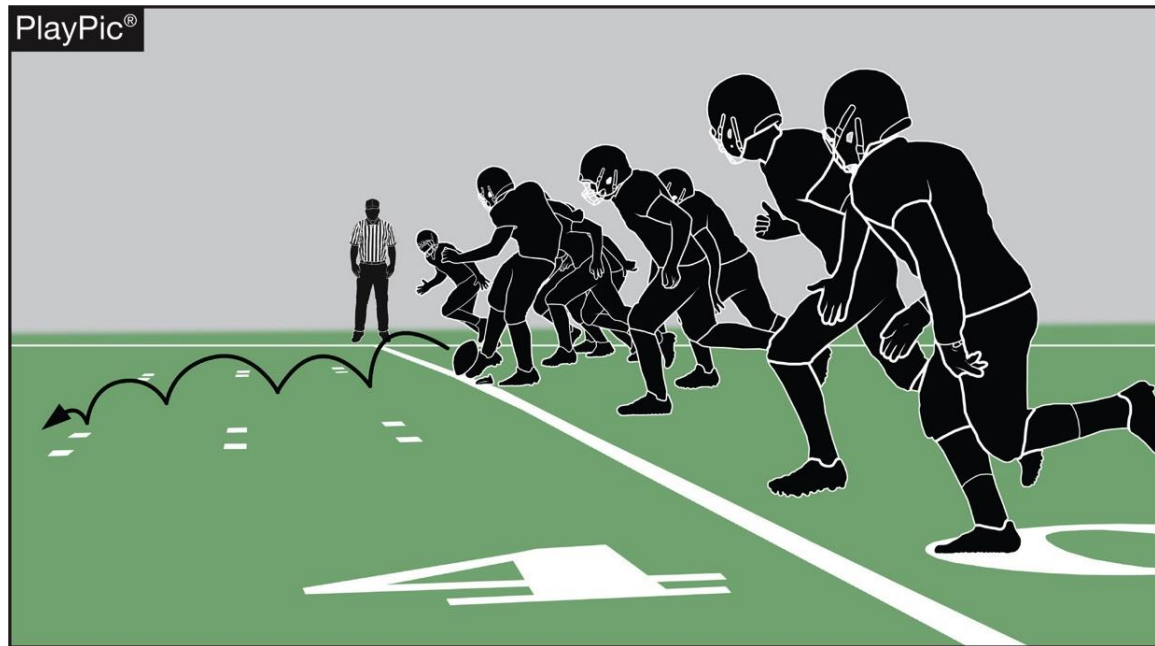
POP-UP KICK RULES 2-24-10 (NEW); 6-1-11 (NEW); 6-1 PENALTY (NEW)

- A kick in which the kicker drives the ball into the ground to create two or three low bounces then one high, arching bounce is legal.



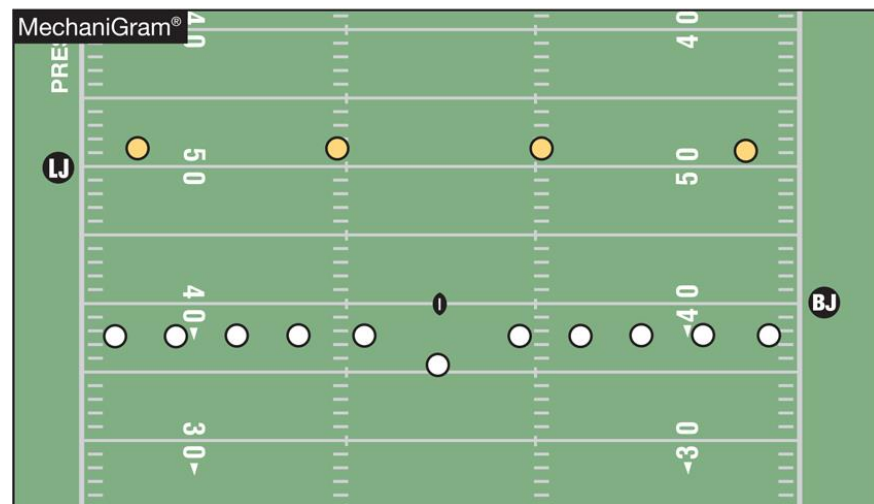
POP-UP KICK RULES 2-24-10 (NEW); 6-1-11 (NEW); 6-1 PENALTY (NEW)

- A free kick in which the ball is dribbled along the ground is legal.



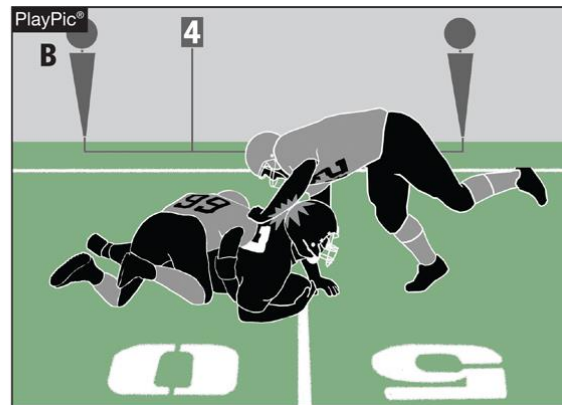
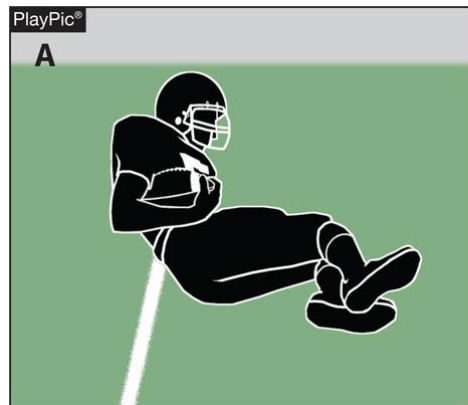
MECHANICS FOR POP-UP KICKS

- The game official on K's free-kick line (back judge in crew of 5, head linesman in crew of 4) is primary for judging a pop-up kick. The game official on R's free-kick line (line judge in crews of 5 or 4) is secondary.



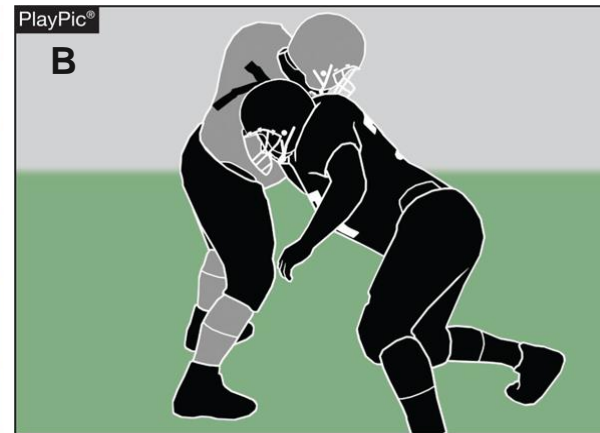
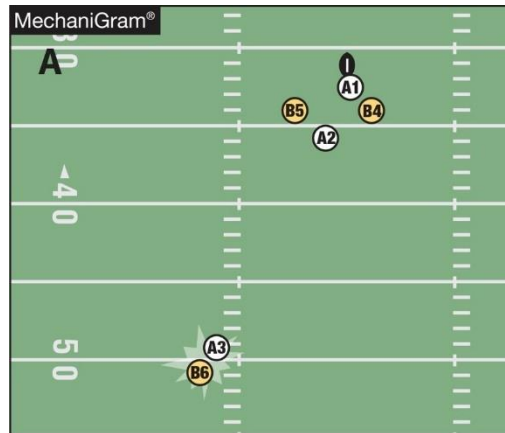
DEFENSELESS PLAYER RULE 2-32-16

- A player on the ground including a runner who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first (PlayPic A) and a runner already in the grasp of a tackler and whose forward progress has been stopped (PlayPic B), are defenseless players.



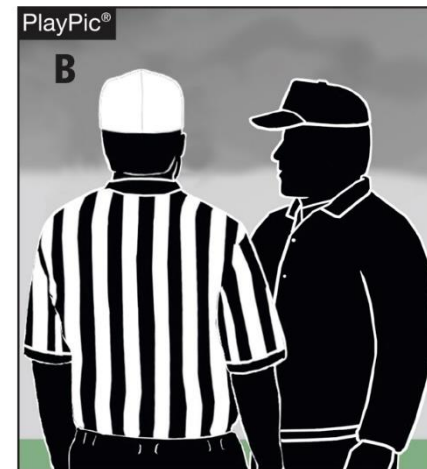
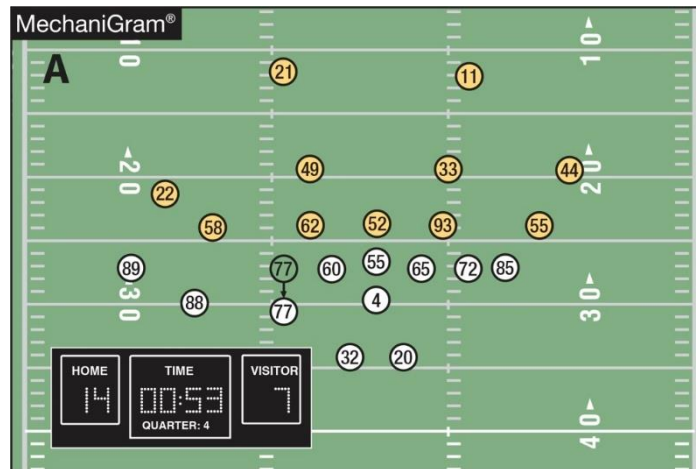
DEFENSELESS PLAYER RULE 2-32-16

A player obviously out of the play or not in the immediate vicinity of the runner (MechaniGram A) and a player who receives a blindside block with forceful contact not initiated with open hands (PlayPic B) are defenseless players.



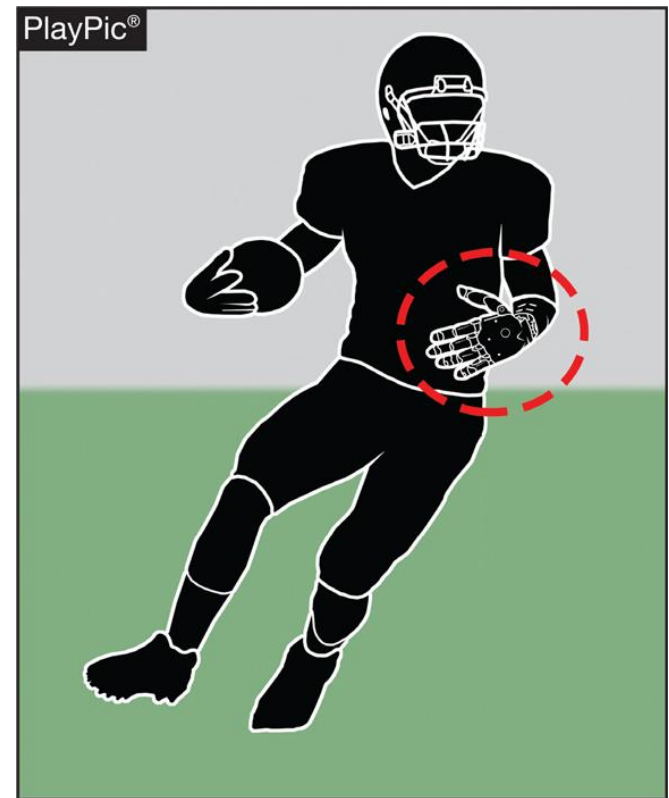
GAME CLOCK OPTION RULE 3-4-7 (NEW)

- With less than 2 minutes left in the half and the game clock running, A false starts (MechaniGram A). The offended team may choose to start the game clock on the snap (PlayPic B).



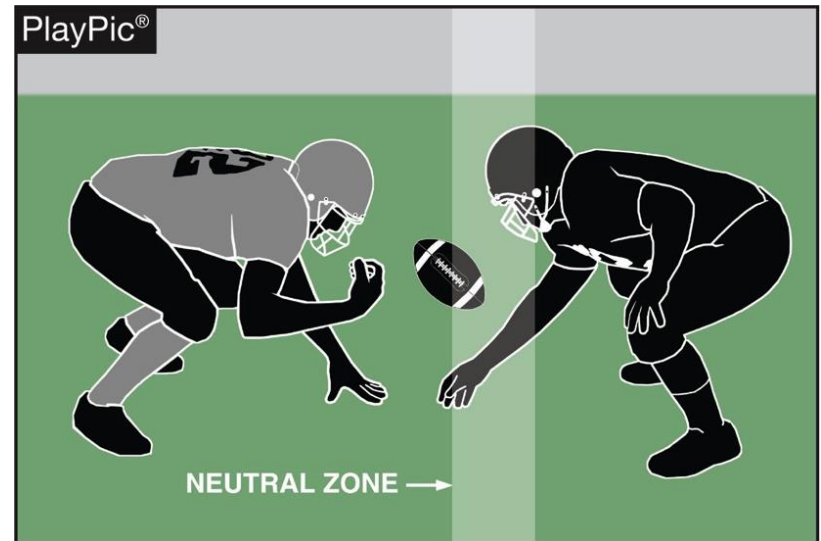
DEAD BALL, DOWN ENDS RULE 4-2-2I (NEW)

- The player has a prosthetic arm. If the prosthetic limb comes completely off the runner, the ball becomes dead and the down ends.



ENCROACHMENT RULE 7-1-6

- After the ready-for-play signal and after the snapper is in contact with the ball, it is encroachment if a defensive player contacts the ball or the snapper's arms or hands until the snap is completed (Rule 2-40).



PASS INTERFERENCE RULE 7-5-10

Face guarding (without contact) in and of itself is no longer considered an act of forward pass interference.



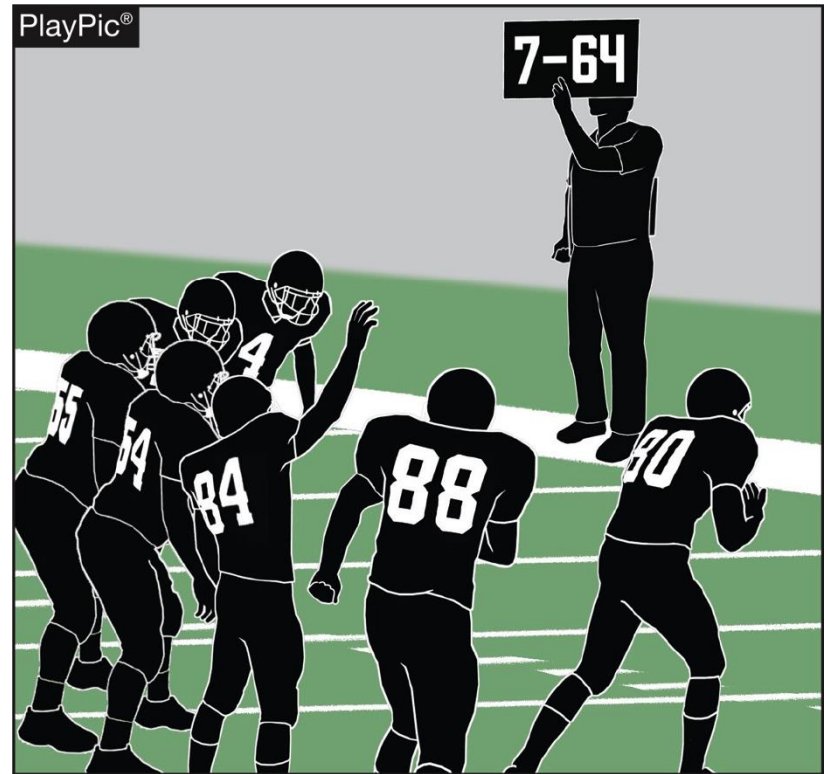


2017 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES



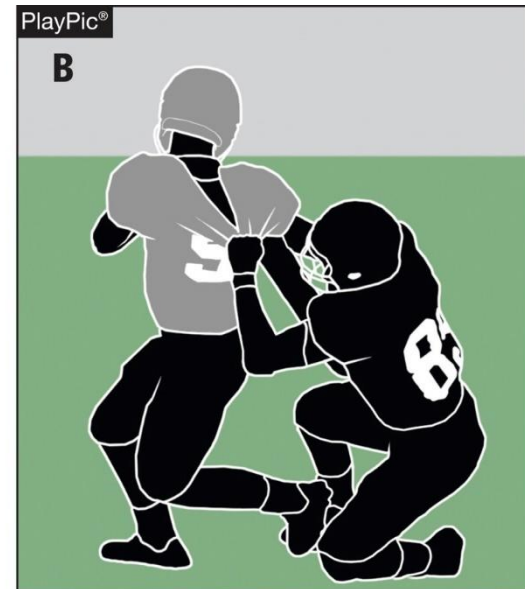
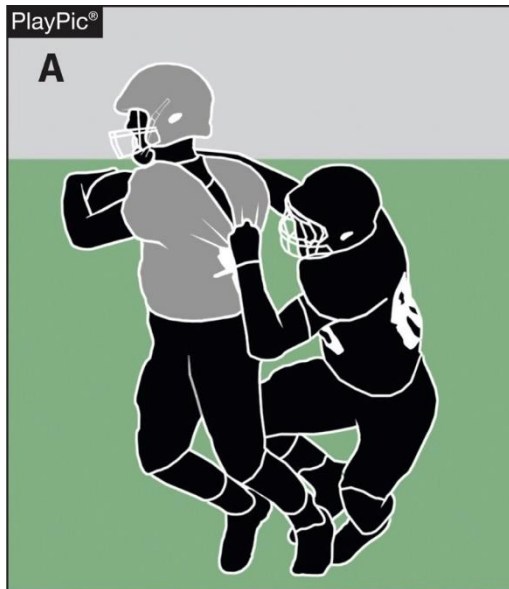
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RULES 1-5-3c(2); 1-6-1; 1-6-2

- Electronic signage used to signal plays or other information from the sideline is illegal.



ILLEGAL HORSE-COLLAR TACKLE RULE 9-4-3K

- No player or nonplayer shall grab the inside back or side collar of either the shoulder pads or the jersey of the runner and subsequently pull that opponent to the ground.





2017 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS





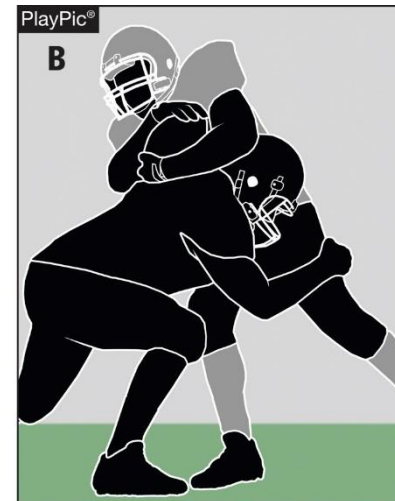
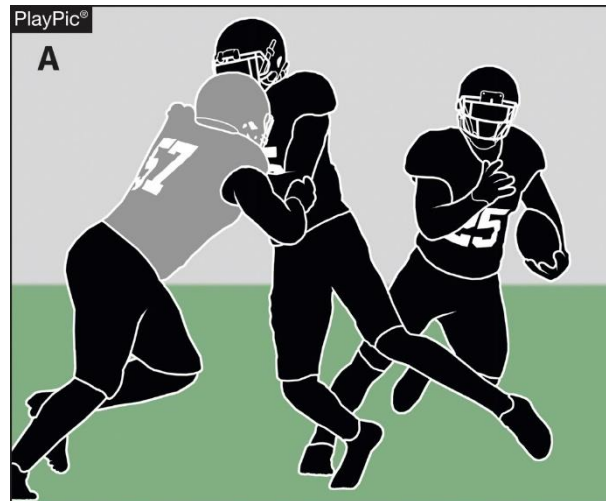
2017 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- 1. Responsibility on Players to Avoid Illegal Contact**
- 2. Illegal Helmet Contact**
- 3. Sideline Management and Control, Professional Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials**
- 4. Proper Enforcement of Penalties for Violations of the Equipment Rules**



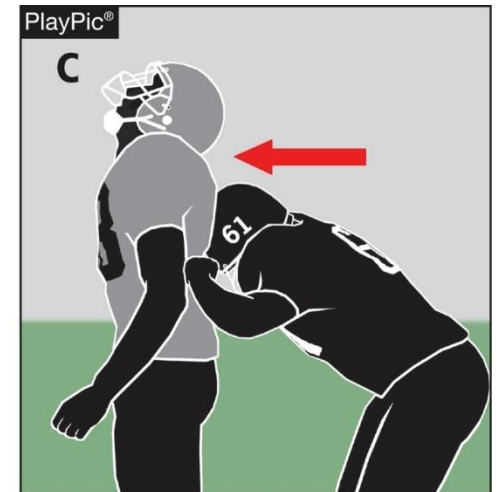
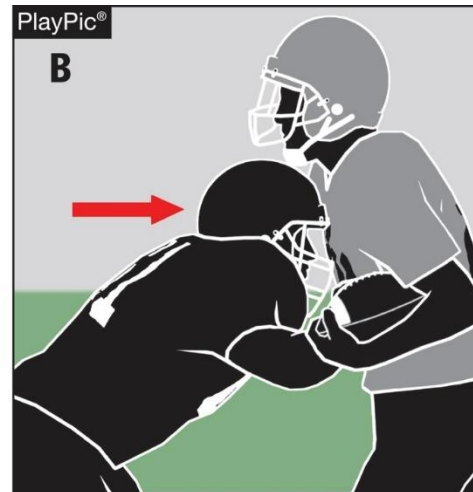
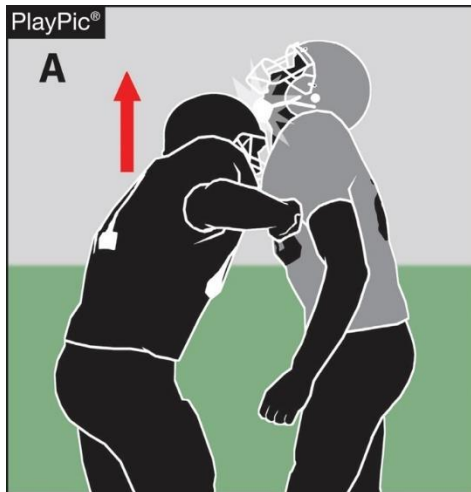
RESPONSIBILITY ON PLAYERS TO AVOID ILLEGAL CONTACT

While it is imperative for coaches to continue teaching players how to avoid illegal contact, players are ultimately responsible for using legal blocking (PlayPic A) and tackling (PlayPic B) techniques.



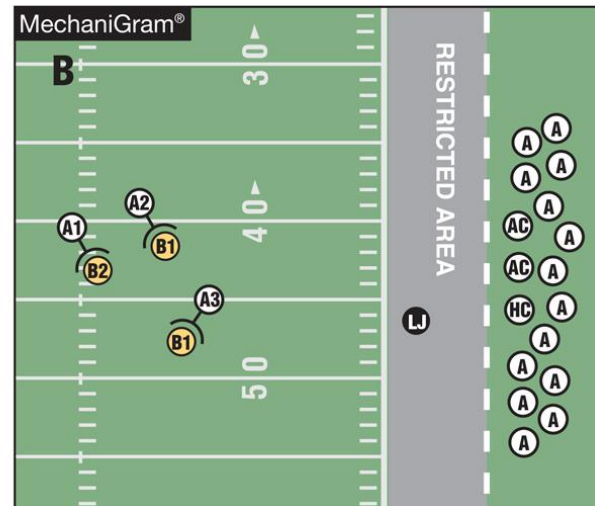
ILLEGAL HELMET CONTACT

One of the biggest steps in reducing injuries is eliminating direct helmet-to-helmet contact and any other contact both with and to the helmet. Butt blocking (PlayPic A), face tackling (PlayPic B) and spearing (PlayPic C) are illegal.



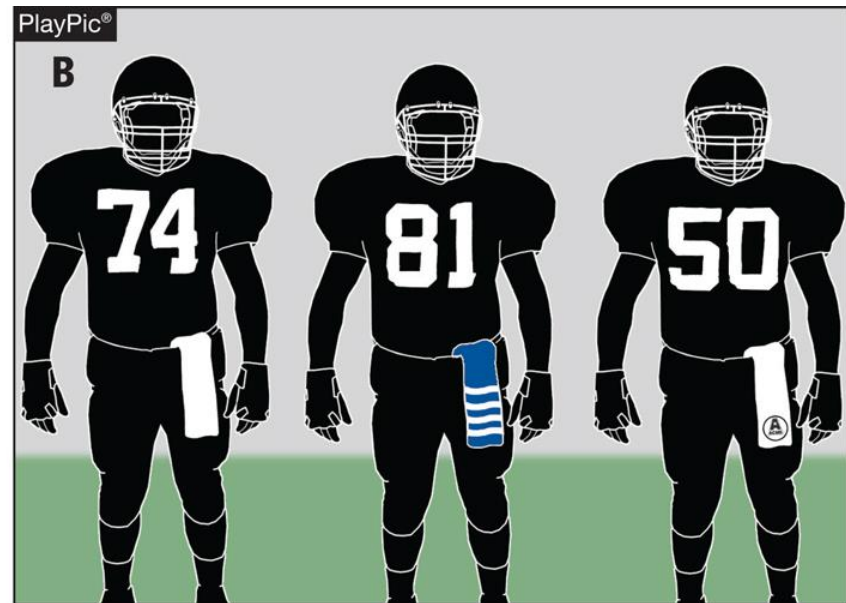
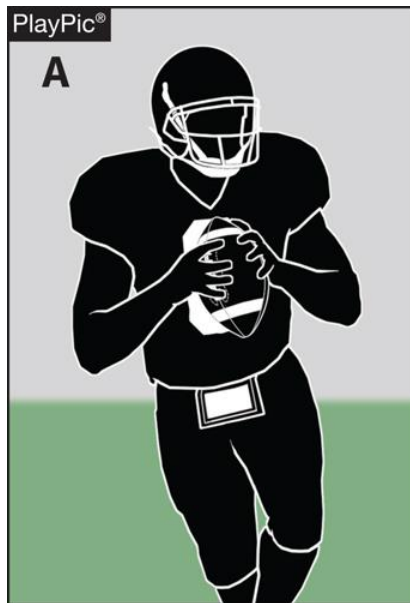
SIDELINE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND GAME OFFICIALS

Effective enforcement of sideline rules begins with respectfully communicating expectations before the game (PlayPic A). Game officials are expected to enforce rules regarding the coaches area (MechaniGram B).



PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF EQUIPMENT RULES

- Examples of illegal equipment include play cards not worn on the wrist or arm (PlayPic A) and towels that are not the same solid color (PlayPic B).



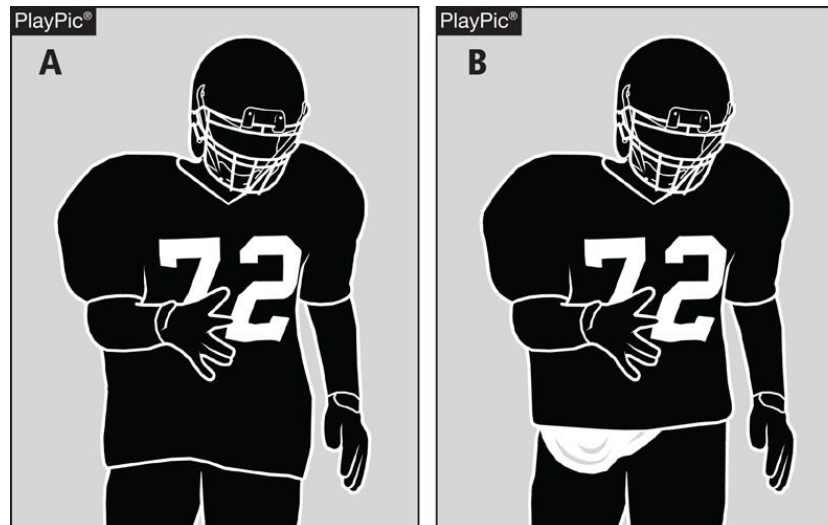


2017 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS



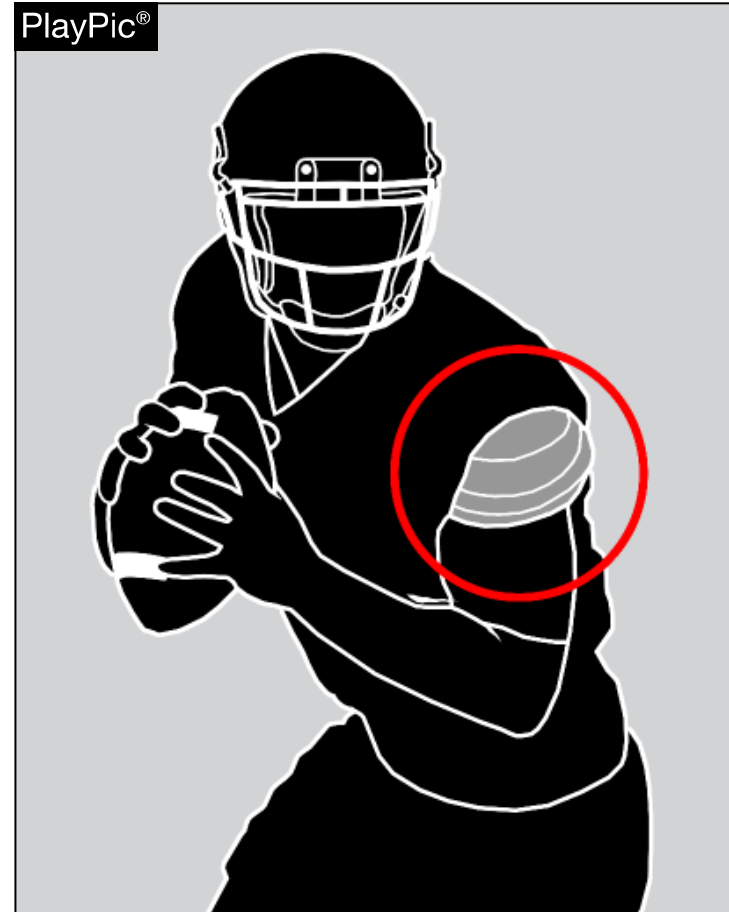
PLAYER EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1b(1)

These jerseys are illegal. In PlayPic A, the jersey is longer than the top of the pants; thus it must be tucked in. In PlayPic B, the shirt beneath the jersey and the jersey must be tucked in.



EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1b(1)

- Shoulder pads and hard surface auxiliary attachments must be completely covered by a jersey.

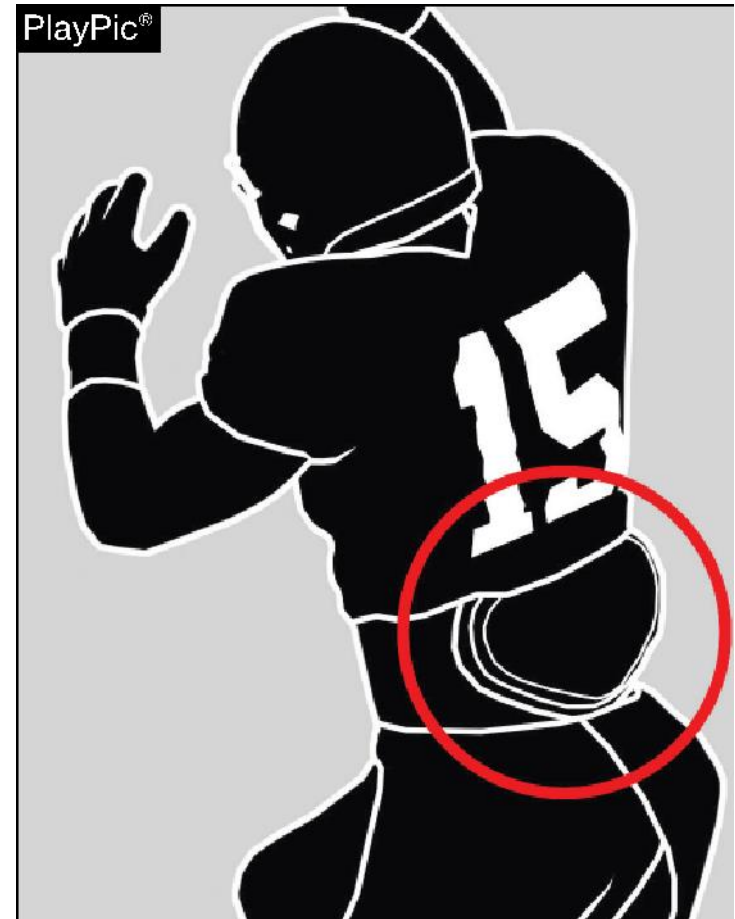


ILLEGAL FOOTBALL JERSEY (SHOULDER PAD NOT COVERED)



EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1b(1)

- Back pads and hard surface auxiliary attachments must be completely covered by a jersey. Jerseys shall be long enough to reach the top of the pants and shall be tucked in if longer.

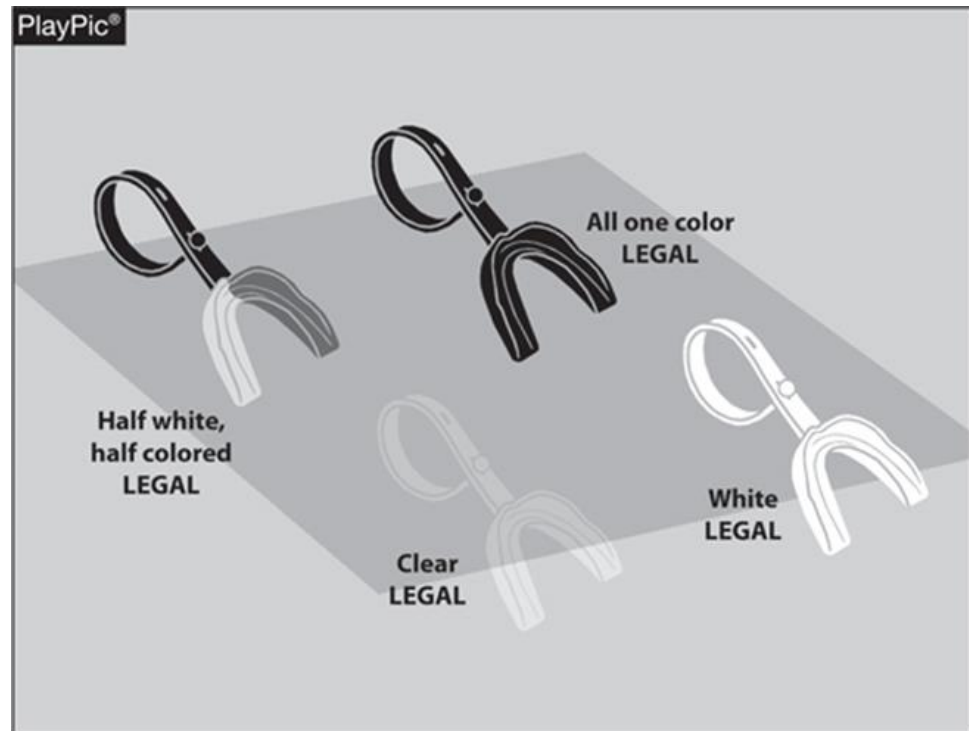


ILLEGAL FOOTBALL JERSEY AND PANT (BACK PAD AND KNEES NOT COVERED)



TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS RULE 1-5-1d(5)a

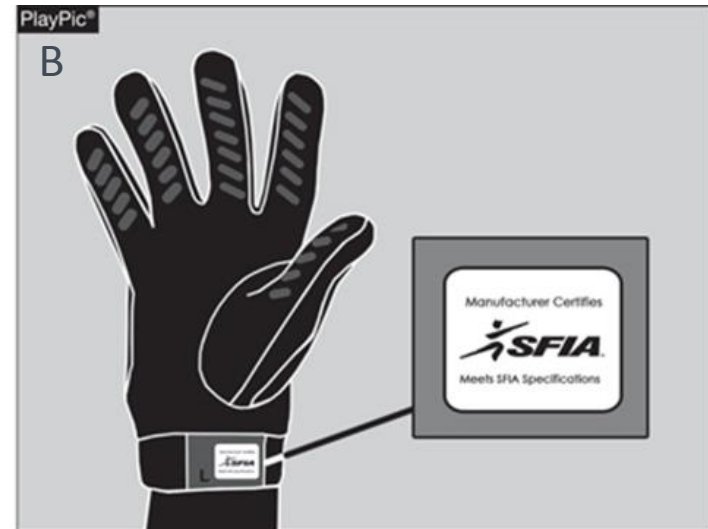
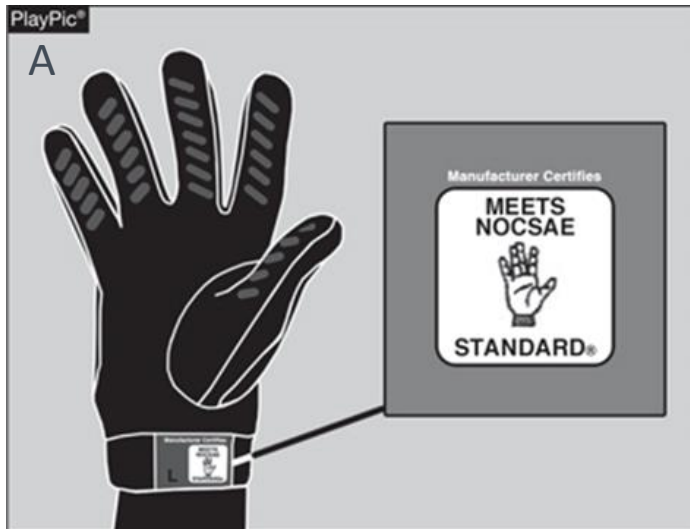
- Tooth and mouth protectors that are completely clear or completely white are legal.



GLOVES

RULES 1-5 NOTE, 1-5-2b

- Gloves are now required to carry either the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) seal (PlayPic A) or the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) seal (PlayPic B). The seals must be visible and appear legibly on the exterior wrist opening of the glove.



CLIPPING

RULES 2-17, 9-3-6, 9-3 PENALTY

- The exception that allowed clipping in the free-blocking zone has been eliminated.



CLIPPING

RULES 2-17, 9-3-6, 9-3 PENALTY

- It is still legal to clip a player who is a runner or is pretending to be a runner.

