



## 2012 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

**SITUATION 1 (3.5.10):** Team A has the ball 1st and 10 at A’s 20-yard line. A31 is carrying the ball when B33 lowers his head and strikes A31 helmet to helmet trying to make the tackle. The contact makes the helmets for both A31 and B33 come completely off with A31 in possession of the ball at A’s 26-yard line. **RULING:** The ball is dead immediately due to the helmet coming off the runner. B33 is penalized 15 yards for illegal helmet contact making it 1st and 10 at A’s 41-yard line. A31 may remain in the game due to the opponent foul. B33 must leave the game for one play as A31 did not foul and B33's helmet came off during the down. (3-5-10d; 4-2-2k; 9-4-3i)

### 2012 NFHS Football Case Book Clarifications

(Underlining shows additions; ~~strikethrough~~ shows deletions.)

**Page 55, \*7.5 COMMENT:** The following chart should help game officials distinguish between the various possible fouls that can occur when an ineligible receiver touches or is touched by the ball, including accidentally striking, muffing or catching, and with basic fouls regarding ineligibility. ENZ refers to expanded neutral zone. Answers are “Is it?”.

<i>Pass Interference (7-5-7; 7-5-10)</i>	<i>Behind Neutral Zone</i>	<i>In (including ENZ)</i>	<i>Beyond ENZ</i>
Accidentally striking ineligible	No	No	If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be interference <u>or 7-5-10b occurs</u> , yes, 15 yards, loss of down If no interference, No
Muff by ineligible	No	No	<u>If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be interference or 7-5-10b occurs</u> , yes, 15 yards, loss of down <del>If no interference, No</del> <u>Yes, 15 yards, loss of down</u>
Catch by ineligible	No	No	<u>If contact is made against an opponent that is deemed to be interference or 7-5-10b occurs</u> , yes, 15 yards, loss of down <del>If no interference, No</del> <u>Yes, 15 yards, loss of down</u>

**Page 61, \*7.5.13 SITUATION A:** Ineligible receiver A2 is behind, in or beyond his neutral zone and has committed no act against a defender that could be considered pass interference when a forward pass by A1: (a) accidentally strikes him in the back; or (b) is muffed by him; or (c) is caught by him. **RULING:** In (a), there is no foul for illegal touching. In (b) and (c), it is illegal touching. ~~and if beyond the line of scrimmage, would also be offensive pass interference.~~ The acts in both (b) and (c) are intentional and not accidental as in (a). **COMMENT:** Game officials should be very clear in explaining penalty options if the same act constitutes more than one foul as listed above, as each of the fouls has a different penalty.

**\*\*As of May 22, 2012**