

2022 NFHS FOOTBALL RULE CHANGES

- 1.) Team boxes were extended in 2020 as a COVID adjustment. This 2022 rule change now allows each state to determine the size of the team box and the individuals who may occupy the team box. Each state may do as they please. Oklahoma has decided that our team boxes will remain the same as the rule book clearly states (from the 25 yard line to the 25 yard line!)
- 2.) This change now provides rule book support for changing to a different approved football at any time during an offensive series which we really have been doing for some time.
- 3.) The single digit 0 is now a legal jersey number. 00 remains an illegal jersey number in addition to any 2-digit number that begins with 0 such as 01, 02, 03, etc. This change does not change our eligibility rules other than a player who is wearing 0 would be an eligible receiver if he/she also meets the correct position/alignment requirement.
- 4.) The definition of a chop block has now changed. It is a combination block by two or more teammates against an opponent other than a runner, with or without delay, where one of the blocks is low (below the waist) and one of the blocks is high (above the waist). The change in this definition is the location of the contact by each player.
- 5.) In the final 2 minutes of either half when a foul occurs, the offended team may request that the game clock does not start until the snap if it was supposed to start on the ready. The change is that this foul does not have to be accepted as before. If the foul occurs inside the 2 minute mark and the game clock is supposed to start on the ready, the offended team has this option even if the penalty is declined.
- 6.) Previously we set the play clock to 40 instead of 25 when there was a defensive medical/injury stoppage or a defensive equipment issue to avoid the possibility that the defense gained a play clock time advantage. We now need to add one more situation to set the play clock to 40 instead of 25. If the defensive team is the only team to commit a foul, we will set the play clock to 40 instead of 25.
- 7.) This significant change will now allow the passer to legally throw a forward pass away and avoid a foul for intentional grounding if and only if that player is or has been outside the lateral boundary of the free-blocking zone that existed at the snap AND the pass reaches the neutral zone or beyond including out of bounds. If both conditions are met, it is simply treated as an incomplete pass. If either or both conditions are not met, it is an illegal forward pass.

Contact David Gore if you need to ask any question about these changes.

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