

Selected Comments on the 2004–05 High School Rules Revisions

CONTRASTING COLORED LINES DELETED (1–5–2, 1–13–2): Deletes the requirement for contrasting colored lines for the lane spaces/neutral zone with the lane boundary lines and for the coaching box line to contrast with the boundary lines. Deleting the requirement allows for either contrasting colors or the same color for the lines specified.

HOME TEAM MUST WEAR WHITE IN 2007–08 (3–4–6 Note): Beginning in 2007–08, the home team shall wear white jerseys and the visiting team dark jerseys. More teams are opting for light-colored home jerseys that cause confusion with opponents' dark jerseys. This change ensures similar colors won't be worn by opponents. The new rule only affects varsity uniforms; lower level programs may still continue to wear "light-colored" uniforms as home jerseys.

3.4.6 Situation: Prior to the start of the game, the officials notice that the home team is wearing gold jerseys and the visiting team is also wearing gold jerseys, which are approximately the same color gold.

Ruling: The home team is directed by the referee to change jerseys to one of a more contrasting color.

Note: Beginning in 2007–08, the home team shall wear white jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys.

INTENTIONAL KICK RULE EXPANDED (4–29): The rule has been expanded to include intentionally striking the ball with any part of the leg or foot. Kicking is an act that requires use of the entire leg. If it is an intentional act, it should be penalized regardless of where it may have actually struck the player's leg. The previous rule, which only included the knee and elbow, required an interpretation by officials that was more complicated and subject to misapplication. This change makes the determination simpler and more evenly applied.

4.29 Situation: During A–1's attempt to pass to A–2, B–1 (a) intentionally uses his/her thigh to deflect the pass; (b) intentionally kicks the ball with his/her foot; or (c) accidentally hits the ball with his/her lower leg.

Ruling: In (a) and (b), there is a kicking violation and team A will

receive the ball out of bounds nearest the violation. In (c), the ball remains live and there is no violation.

OBSTRUCTING AN OPPONENT'S VISION RULE EXPANDED (10–3–7d): Purposely obstructing an opponent's vision by waving or placing hand(s) near his or her eyes now also include the player with the ball. Previously the rule only prohibited the act against a player without the ball. Guarding a player's eyes should not be allowed as an effort to obstruct any player's movement and is an unsafe act. It is a technical foul whether or not the player has the ball.

10.3.7 Situation: B–1 holds or waves a hand or hands in front of the eyes or near the eyes of (a) A–1 who has possession of the ball; or (b) A–2 who does not have possession of the ball.

Ruling: Illegal in (a) and (b). It is an unsporting foul for purposely obstructing an opponent's vision by waving or placing a hand(s) in front of or near his/her eyes. This unsporting act is penalized with a technical foul; two free throws and the ball for a division line throw-in.

PLAYER(S) EJECTED FOR LEAVING BENCH IF FIGHT MAY OCCUR (10–4–4): A bench player will now be ejected if he or she leaves the confines of the bench during a fight or when a fight may break out. Previously there was no coverage in the rules book when bench personnel left the bench when two or more players confronted one another but no fight occurred. These volatile situations can easily degenerate into a fight or worse by the presence of team members from the bench. The penalty is now the same as for leaving the bench during a fight, ejection.

10.4.4 Situation: It appears a fight may occur on the playing court when (a) A–6 and A–7; or (b) A–6 and B–6 leave their respective benches.

Ruling: In (a) and (b), all players leaving the bench are assessed flagrant fouls and disqualified. The respective head coach is assessed a maximum of one indirect technical foul (regardless of the number of players leaving the bench. In (a), team B is awarded two free throws and the ball for a division line throw-in. In (b), no free throws are awarded and the ball is put into play with the alternating possession procedure opposite the table.