

Coach and Official: Player/coach Ejections to this point are at **1 coach** and **21 players**. Coaches, one is one more than we would like, but keep up the positive work. Make sure we are taking time to remind players about your expectations of good sportsmanship and what the consequences are if we have an ejection. **Understand there are no appeals to ejections.** Officials, it is important we see the entire play and make solid decisions, hopefully a fifteen yard unsportsmanlike foul will serve the unsporting action. Both parties need to respect each other's duties and responsibilities and when we do this, the end result outweighs the negative. **When adults treat adults like adults we make positive adult decisions.**

Quarterback Pulling His Hands Out From Under the Center: As long as the quarterback pulls his hands out and **does not show snap action**, it is legal for the quarterback to pull his hands back out from under the center. This action could take place due to numerous situations: Calling an audible, requesting a timeout or redirecting a teammate(s).

Formation-Position & Eligible Receivers: Rule 7-5 Art 6 Pass eligibility rules apply only to legal forward passes. The following players are eligible pass receivers.

- a. All A players eligible by position and number include those who, at the time of the snap, are on the ends of their scrimmage line or legally behind the line (possible total of six) and are numbered 1-49 or 80-99. (See 7-2-5b **EXCEPTION 2**).

Rule 7-2-Art. 5 **EXCEPTION 1**; On first, second or third down, when Team A sets or shifts into scrimmage-kick formation as in 2-14-2a, the snapper may be numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99. If Team A has the snapper in the game under this exception, Team A shall have at least four players wearing numbers 50-79 on its line of scrimmage. The snapper in the game under this exception must be between the ends and is an ineligible forward pass receiver during the down unless the pass is touched by B (7-5-6b).

Rule 7-2-5b **EXCEPTION 2**: States on 4th down or during a kick try, when A sets or shifts into scrimmage-kick formation any Team A player numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99 **may** take the position of **any A player numbered 50-79**. A player in the game under this exception must assume an initial position on his line of scrimmage between the ends and he remains an ineligible forward-pass receiver during the down, unless the pass is touched by B. Players on the end of the line with numbers 1-49 or 80-89 are eligible receivers. This would also apply to the swinging gate formation.

I agree with what is said above, but one must remember it only pertains to players **with number exceptions between the ends**, when the exception is permitted (1ST, 2ND, 3RD down (center only) and 4th down only EXCEPTION 2). If a team lines up in a swinging gate formation on any down and has 7 players on the line of scrimmage, **facing their opponent's goal-line**, and 5 of the players are numbered 50-79, the players on the end of the line are eligible receivers if they have a number 1-49 or 80-99. If that player is the snapper on the end of the line, and has a legal receiver number 1-49 or 80-99, he is an eligible receiver.

Formation/Position: After the ball is marked ready for play, each offensive player who participated in the previous down and each substitute for Team A (offense) must have been, momentarily, between the 9-yard marks (top of the numbers on the field), 7 yard marks for 8 player game, before the snap.

Coaches and officials, Rule 7-2 Art. 1: Teams that desire not to huddle or are in hurry-up spread offense, must understand all 11 offensive players must meet the above regulation sometime between the time the ball is marked ready for play and before the ball is snapped. A player could be outside this area when the ball is marked ready for play and go in motion prior to the snap and be inside the (7 yard marks-8 player game) 9 yard marks eleven player game at the snap and fulfill this requirement. **Penalty:** live ball foul, Illegal formation, Sig. 19, 5 yards previous spot foul, if accepted.

Restricted Area: The past couple of weeks I've seen an improved effort by coaches in staying behind the restricted area when the play is in progress, and teams only having up to three coaches in the restricted area between downs. **Officials,** from what I have seen, you are addressing this with the coaches in a **POSITIVE** way, and the end result is coaches are cooperating and the game is safer for all involved.

Coach, be aware that you have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of Character in your players.

Official: The official shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with the student-athlete, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Just a Little Reminder: Coaches, you do what you do best, so coach. Officials you do what you do best, so officiate. **As long as we respect each other's responsibilities we are respecting the game and each other.**

Sincerely,

Roger Barr

IHSAA