



PERSONAL FOULS

VS

UNSPORTSMANLIKE
CONDUCT

ILLEGAL PERSONAL CONTACT AKA PERSONAL FOULS RULE 9-4

- **These are player fouls as well as nonintentional contact between a nonplayer and a game official.**
- **Penalties can include dead ball fouls such as a late hit and pushing off an opponent while getting up.**
- **With the exception of a 5 yard face mask and running into the kicker/holder, these are 15 yard penalties.**
- **Only roughing the passer, kicker, holder and snapper carry an automatic first down.**
- **Example: 3/20 @ 50. Team B commits a 15 yard face mask while sacking the QB. Next down is A 3/5 @ B35.**

NON PLAYER & UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT FOULS 9-5

- **These are non contact (other than unintentional contact in 9-4-8) the ball is dead or during the down which is not illegal participation and does not influence the play in progress.**
- **These include fouls by players and coaches that include taunting, use of profanity, delayed or prolonged actions drawing attention to oneself, kicking a dead ball, spiking the ball, tossing the ball high in the air, intentionally failing to return the ball to an official, refusing to comply with coin toss, or start of a half, use of alcohol/illicit substance, leaving the team box during a fight, unfair acts, etc.**
- **It also includes a second instance of unintentional contact by a non player/coach against a game official; this is charged to the head coach and results in disqualification.**
- **A second unsportsmanlike foul against a player or coach requires disqualification. If a UNS is determined to be flagrant, a player/coach can be disqualified after a first offense.**

PERSONAL FOUL VS. UNS PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

- Penalties for personal fouls are enforced according to basic spot enforcement rules. Flagrant personal fouls require disqualification (targeting with intent to injure, spitting, etc.). Repeated personal fouls by the same player can be cause for disqualification.
- Example: Team B trips the runner in the backfield on a running play. If Team A chooses, the penalty will be enforced from the previous spot.
- Penalties for UNS/nonplayer fouls are always enforced as dead ball fouls, even if the penalty occurs when the ball is live.
- Example: Team A receiver turns and points at his opponent at the 5 yard line before scoring. The touchdown counts. Team B has the option of enforcing the UNS penalty on the try or succeeding kick off.

PERSONAL FOUL VS. UNS PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

- **Rule 9-5-3b:** If both teams commit UNS, nonplayer or dead ball personal fouls prior to the completion of penalty administration for those fouls, the distance penalty for an equal number of 15 yard UNS, nonplayer or dead ball personal fouls will offset. Any remaining penalties will be enforced separately and in order of occurrence.
- If a live ball player foul is committed along with a live ball nonplayer/UNS foul on the same play, both are enforced.
- **Example:** Team B roughs the passer and then stands over the passer on the ground while play continues. Both fouls are enforced (one live, and one as a live ball penalized as a dead ball).

PERSONAL FOUL OR UNS?

Remember: personal fouls are contact fouls. A late hit or a player pushing off an opponent after the play should be penalized as personal fouls, not UNS.

The exception to this is when a game official runs into a coach or nonplayer on the field or in the restricted area; this is penalized as a nonplayer foul (not UNS). However, a second occurrence is charged as a UNS against the head coach and requires disqualification.