Week 10 Notes

* **Block in the Back:** Offensive linemen in the free blocking zone can legally block in the back as long as the opponent was also in the free blocking zone at the snap, the block is in the zone, and the ball is also in the zone. The free blocking zone is the rectangular area extending laterally 4 yards of the spot of the snap and 3 yards beyond and behind the line of scrimmage (2-17-1). The free blocking zone disintegrates and the exception for offensive linemen to block in the back is not to continue once the ball leaves the zone. So a snap to a QB in a shotgun formation more than 3 yards behind the snapper means that the zone disintegrates almost immediately. A player may also legally block in the back when using their hands/arms to ward off a blocker or when attempting to reach the runner, attempting to catch or recover a loose ball which he may legally touch, and to tackle the runner or a player pretending to be the runner.
* **Time Outs:** Again, a reminder on the importance of recording and knowing the status of team time outs. When a timeout is called, it is important that all officials record the period and time the timeout was made and confirm with each other remaining timeouts per team. It is a good practice for wing officials to remind the head coach at each timeout how many they have remaining. There is no foul if a team requests an excess timeout. Officials should deny that request. However, if an official grants a timeout when a team has used all of them, the Referee should resume play as soon as the error is identified, even in the waning seconds of a half (immediately get the ball spotted and wind the clock). In overtime, each team is allowed one time out per series, and unused timeouts from the 4th quarter or previous overtime periods do not carry over.
* **Disqualifications:** Unfortunately, there have been a significant amount of players disqualified this year, mostly for fighting. A player who is disqualified can remain on the team bench, however, a coach who is disqualified must leave the playing field. While it is the responsibility of each site administrator to have the disqualification forms available, it is suggested that Referees (even those for sub-varsity games) keep copies in your car or travel bag instead of waiting for the administrator to locate them. The calling official(s) needs to report what was called, sign the form, and leave it with the site administrator or athletic director. If the site administrator cannot provide you with a copy of the form, please complete it at home and e-mail it to the athletic director within 24 hours (you should be able to get the e-mail in your game page on the Arbiter. Jim Quenneville must be notified after the game either with a call or by e-mail (jquenneville3999@charter.net). Per MIAA policy, failure by an official to complete this form can lead to a 2 week suspension. Copies are attached to print for your convenience. If anyone has any questions when completing the form, you can reach out to Jim for guidance.
* **Blocked Field Goals and Tries:** A blocked field goal is treated the same way as a blocked punt. It is a live ball that can be recovered by the defense and advanced anywhere on the field. If the offense recovers the ball behind the neutral zone, they may advance it. If the offense recovers beyond the neutral zone (untouched by the defense beyond the neutral zone) then the ball is dead, and the defense snaps the ball next at the spot of the first touching or recovery (whichever is more advantageous). If the blocked kick crosses the neutral zone, the next snap (free of penalty) will be where the ball becomes dead. A blocked try is a dead ball, no matter what. Neither the offense nor the defense can advance. Referees are reminded to blow the whistle on a try as soon as the ball is kicked to avoid any confusion.
* **Reporting Fouls:** When reporting a foul, the first thing we want to do is slow down and take the time to process what needs to be communicated. There is no rush to do this. Blow your whistle to get the Referee’s attention, and give the stop the clock signal two or three times to allow you process what you want to convey. Referees need to know what the foul is, which team committed it (with a player number), when the foul occurred (prior to the snap, during the pass or after the reception, during the kick or the return, prior to the change of possession or after). Referees should ensure that all components needed to enforce the penalty are asked of the calling official. Umpires should be in earshot of this so when the Referee confirms the enforcement, the Umpire and Head Linesman can march off the penalty while the Referee announces the foul.

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