

Week of 10/29 Notes/Reminders:

1. Intentional Grounding – Penalty Enforcement is 5 yards from the spot of the foul and loss of down. So the spot where the pass is thrown. If inside the 9-yard line, it would be half the distance. Wings and Back Judges should be prepared to bring information to the Referee regarding this penalty. Referee is usually with the QB and cannot see what is happening downfield. Let him know if you have a receiver in the area or give him information as to where the ball landed. This will help him determine if we have intentional grounding.
2. Offside on Free Kick (kick-off) by either team – throw the flag and whistle the play dead. There are no free plays for being offside on kick off. We are 8 weeks into the season, we shouldn't still have this issue, but we do.
3. If you have a live ball foul and then a dead ball foul, penalize in the order they occur. Mark off the live ball foul first, then the dead ball. The live ball enforcement may put you in position where the dead ball can only be enforced half the distance, which is correct.
4. Still a fair amount of “blindside” blocks/hits that showed up on film this week that were not flagged. Some of the ones I am seeing most common are:
 - a. Wide outs coming back to the ball on sweeps, picking off the outside linebacker or cornerback
 - b. On interception or kick returns, blocks away from the play that have no impact on the playRemember, blindside blocks are legal if they are initiated in the free blocking zone. The free blocking zone disappears when the ball leaves the zone. After that, blindside blocks can only be initiated with open hands.
5. Illegal Helmet Contact – Please note, there is no terminology in the federation rule book for Helmet-to-Helmet so be careful if you are using that term. What is in the book is Illegal Helmet Contact defined in Rule 2.20.1 (a-c), and Targeting, defined in Rule 2.20.2. The conduct of those hits is defined in Rule 9.4.3.i, and then flagrant acts as noted in 9.4.3 NOTES, numbers 1-3. Please take time to read these definitions this week so we are all using the correct terminology.
6. Defensive Pass Interference – 15-yard penalty from the previous spot, not an automatic first down. It doesn't matter if the pass was less than 15 yards downfield, the penalty is 15 yards. This is different from college.
7. Offensive Pass Interference – Also a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot. There is no loss of down with this penalty.
8. Invalid Fair Catch Signal – Although I have not seen it called this year, remember there is a penalty for giving an invalid fair catch signal. Rule 2.9.4...An invalid fair-catch signal is any signal by a receiver before the kick is caught or recovered: a. That does meet the requirements of a valid signal; b. After the kick has touched a receiver; c. After the kick has touched the ground. Rule 2.9.3...A valid fair catch signal is the extending and lateral waving of one arm, at full arm's length above the head, by any R player. Downfield officials can remind the returner of this before he receives the kick. Invalid fair catch signal carries a 5-yard penalty enforced under post-scrimmage kick provisions.
9. Please review this 20-minute video out of Maryland. They use 6-man crews, so a couple of the clips in the video relate to those “extra guys”, so you can obviously ignore those. The rest of the clips are very good and relate to things we are seeing in our games:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUGH6bbrfiM&t=0s>