



Montana Officials Association

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July 2010

TO: FOOTBALL OFFICIALS REGISTERED WITH THE MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

FROM: BRIAN MICHELOTTI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RE: FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS

This packet contains the six study clubs that will help you prepare for the 2010 football officiating season. Our hope is that these study clubs will be a challenging study tool that you will use for your best interest and that of the coaches and players of Montana.

Association regulations mandate that you attend six study clubs. The MOA expects you to complete each of the six lessons enclosed in a timely manner so that you will be on top of every change and all the rules completely. Please start the outlines before the season commences, and note that this year's study clubs are emphasizing mechanics applications.

For those of you not located in the city where the pool is located, or those whose employment prevents the officials from attending study clubs please note the following regulation from the MOA Handbook:

"If an MOA member's employment prevents him/her from attending study clubs the official may receive credit for attendance if he/she complies as follows:

1. Makes prior arrangements with the regional director or head of pool.
2. Completes the study club outlines and presents them to the regional director or head of pool **in advance** of the meetings missed.
3. Exceptions may be made for certain military actions or other extenuating circumstances.

PLEASE NOTE: Your regional director must sign your individual study clubs in order for you to receive credit. Football study club attendance must be in the hands of the Directors by December 1st. Please send your study clubs to your regional director, not to the MOA office.

As requested by the regional directors, the mechanics examination is Study Club #1, while the 2010 Football Exam Part 1 has been moved to Study Club #3. The "Train the Trainer" Football Mechanics training has been moved to study club #2.

Best of luck to each and every one of you as you approach the season, and don't hesitate to contact us with any ideas about improving the scope and format of these study guides.

/tls

Enclosures

**MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS
LESSON #1
2010-11**

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

I. Preferably use before the season's first game:

- A. Review your MOA Handbook. Review and discuss the following changes for this year that apply to general MOA information and football:

MOA Handbook Changes and reminders for 2010-11 are as follows:

1. **Mileage** has decreased from .55 cents per mile last year to .50 cents per mile this year. Per diem for each official, including the driver, remains at .08 cents per mile. So, the driver, for a regular season match, would receive .58 cents per mile while the rider official would receive .08 cents per mile.
2. **Pay increase** – for the 2010 football season, pay for a varsity football game will increase to \$60 per official and for a sub-varsity game will increase to \$36 per official.
3. **Jamborees** –The MHSAA Executive Board approved the following language in regard to sub varsity jamborees: A school may participate in a jamboree, which shall involve three or more junior varsity, sophomore and/or freshman team competition (varsity teams are not allowed to compete in any jamborees). Also, the MOA Regional Directors have approved a pay schedule for jamborees, which will be located on the MOA Page of the MHSAA website..
4. **Shoes** - Approved to amend the all black shoe requirement to read: In an effort to make quality footwear available, an officials' shoe must be predominately black but may have some clear or grey trim or deviate slightly from solid all black. Whenever possible, any different color must be dyed or colored over with black.
5. **Payment of Officials** – there are only two ways that officials can be paid for contests:
 - a) All officials assigned be paid before the contest with a check issued by the member school or;
 - b) If a member school and the local official's pool agree to other methods of payment (still payment to the individual official – not to the pool) the official must be paid within five (5) working days of the contest. Pools cannot receive payments from the schools to distribute to individual members as this would make the officials pool the employer, no longer having independent contractor status and subject the pool to unemployment and workman's compensation obligations. Addition – *Any changes in the payment process must be approved by the Regional Director.*
6. **Black Officiating Pants** - The MOA Regional Directors have approved the following uniform change for the 2010 football season. After a successful year piloting the black officiating pants, the MOA Regional Directors have made this a permanent change for the 2010 season and beyond: Black officiating pants may be worn in place of the traditional knickers if worn by the entire crew. The approved pants must be black with a 1 inch to 1 ¼ inch white strip on each leg. The pants must be similar in style and appearance to the pants worn by officials in the National Football League (straight leg and are not banded or cuffed at the ankle.)
7. **Study Clubs** - The MOA Regional Directors approved the reduction of the minimum study club requirement from eight to six in both basketball and football.

II. Review and discuss all of the following new rule changes for 2010:

1-5-3a	Restrictions removed on penalty-marker colored pads or gloves.
1-5-3b1, 2, Note 3	Illegal player equipment rule clarified.
3-1-2; 1-7	Point differential rule modified for member state associations.
3-2-2	Coin toss provisions revised.
3-5-10b	Concussion rule revised.
3-7-1	Replaced players – replacement timeframe clarified.
8-2-2; 8-2-3; 8-2-4(NEW); 8-2-5; 10-4-5; 10-5-1f; 2-41-10	Penalty options for fouls on scoring plays expanded to include scoring team fouls.
9-4-3k	Horse-collar clarified.
9-4-8 (NEW)	Penalty defined for unintentional contact between a nonplayer and an official in the restricted area.
Nine-, Eight- and Six-player Rules	Field markings in nine-, eight- and six-player rule differences adjusted.

Editorial and Other Changes

1-2-3b NOTES 2; 1-2-3e, Notes; 1-2-4; Table 1-3-1; 1-4-2, Figure j; 1-5-1, 2, 3; Table 1-7; 2-6-2b; 2-9-3, 2-10-3; 2-11; 2-16-2b, e; 2-26-4; 2-30; 2-32-10; 2-41-4, 8; 3-3-2; 3-3-4b 2, 4; 3-7 Penalty; 4-1-4; 4-2-2g; 4-3-2, 3, 4, 5 6; 5-1-2b; 6-1-2, 4; 6-2-1, 2; 6-5-4, 5; 7-3-2; 7-5-7, 8, 9; 8-3-1, 8; 9-6-1; 9-6-3; 9-6-4a, d; FUNDAMENTALS – II-5; IV-2; X-4; Resolving Tied Games - 3.1.1; 5-1-1; NINE-, EIGHT- AND SIX-PLAYER DIFFERENCES – NOTE; OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS – 45; PENALTY SUMMARY – 10, 23 (NEW).

Points of Emphasis

1. Concussion Recognition and Management
2. Heat Illness and Hydration
3. Illegal Helmet Contact
4. Assisting the Runner
5. Sportsmanship and Public Address Announcers
6. NFHS Football Officials Manual

III. Review and discuss the articles listed in the Football Preseason Guide 2010 which was included in your football packet. (Please review the plays and rulings for each rule change area if they are provided).

IV. Answer and discuss all questions on the 2010 Officiating Mechanics Examination. We recommend that you complete it orally as a group. Please contact the office if you note any errors. The MOA expects all officials to “go by the book” – the NFHS Football Officials’ Manual.

**OUTLINE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PRESENT AND SENT TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY
DECEMBER 1, 2010.**

2010 and 2011 FOOTBALL FIVE-OFFICIAL OFFICIATING MECHANICS EXAMINATION

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NOTE: In the exam situations, A--refers to the offensive team and B--refers to their opponents the defensive team. K--refers to the -kicking team and R--refers to the receiving team. A1, B1, K1 and R1 are players of these teams. If team possession changes during the down, each team retains its identity. In kicking situations, it is not during a try and no fair-catch signal has been given unless specified. Unless stated, acts occur while: the ball is inbounds; a forward pass is legal; any out-of-bounds is between the goal lines. Line means scrimmage line. Reference to a foul is to a player foul which is not unsportsmanlike. There is no foul or change of possession, unless it is mentioned, and penalties are considered accepted for enforcement. The questions in this examination are to be answered on the basis of a five-official crew of officials, unless a four-official crew is specifically designated.

1. The officials' appearance does not affect the attitude of coaches, players and fans.
2. The penalty marker shall be a light gold flag (25 inches x 25 inches) with a middle pouch weighted with sand or beans, etc.
3. By state association adoption, foul weather, full-length, lined black pants with a single 1¼-inch white stripe down each leg may be worn in place of the traditional knickers if worn by the entire crew.
4. Football officials must have a football sense which supersedes the technical application of the rules so that the game goes smoothly.
5. Before the game, the linesman should accompany the referee as he visits with each head coach, and examine and rule on any player equipment about which the coach has a question of legality.
6. In the pregame conference, the back judge should review starting time and be sure an auxiliary stopwatch, which accumulated time, is available.
7. The line judge should check the line-to-gain equipment and meet the crew before the game.
8. Officials should arrive at the site of the game at least 1½ hours before the scheduled game time.
9. The referee is authorized to correct an obvious error in timing if discovered prior to second live ball following an error unless the period has officially ended.
10. The line judge notifies all other officials when period-shortening procedures are in effect.
11. The referee shall coordinate the inspection of playing field and pylons.
12. The line judge should take care of the game ball after approval by the referee.
13. When using a field microphone, the referee should announce the number of the player who committed the foul.
14. The referee's use of a field microphone adds another dimension to communication – a positive dimension when used properly.
15. In presence of the line judge, the referee shall instruct the visiting captain to give "heads" or "tails" choice before coin toss.
16. At the conclusion of the coin-toss procedures and after the captains have been dismissed, only the umpire and linesman move together for final instructions from the referee.
17. If the winner of the coin toss defers, the referee will step toward the press box and give the toss option deferred signal twice.
18. Back judge should bring approved game ball from each team to the coin toss.
19. After the ball is spotted, the umpire should stand over the ball until the referee marks it ready for play.
20. It is not mandatory that any coach receiving two unsportsmanlike fouls carrying 15-yard penalties vacate the stadium area.

21. The line judge or linesman should notify the coach on his side as to the reason for disqualification.
22. The referee is the only official who is to notify the opposing coach of a disqualification.
23. All officials must consistently administer and enforce team-box and coaches' area restrictions.
24. If a team-personnel altercation is in an official's area, he should attempt to stop initial confrontation.
25. In controlling team-personnel altercations, the linesman and the line judge should alert the coach on their side to keep all team personnel off of the playing area.
26. The umpire is the official who will indicate the end of the fourth period.
27. After a score or try, prior to the free kick, the line judge, while at the hash marks, counts K players and identifies the free-kick line for the receiving team.
28. After a score or try, prior to the free kick, the linesman does not need to check with the line-to-gain crew for questions and positions.
29. After a score or try, prior to the free kick, all officials need to encourage both teams to take free-kick positions quickly.
30. For all officials, the bean bag is to serve as an aid to enforcement and is the absolute reference point.
31. The penalty marker should be tucked out of sight for all officials.
32. Discretion, officiating position and game situation should determine whether the penalty marker is dropped or tossed following an infraction.
33. Before the kick on the kickoff, the referee should be on R's 10-yard line on linesman's side just outside hash marks.
34. Before the kick on the kickoff, the referee will count R players.
35. On a kickoff, the referee, on a deep kick, shall retreat to the 5-yard line to rule on a touchback.
36. The referee, on a kick down the middle on a kickoff, should pick up the runner and follow him until releasing to the covering official.
37. The umpire, on a kickoff, if a short kick is anticipated, should be positioned on K's free-kick line.
38. The umpire, on a kickoff, before the kick, holds arm above his head to indicate he is ready.
39. The umpire, on a kickoff, on a kick to his side, signals clock to start when kick is touched, only if the ball is even or upfield from the umpire.
40. Before the kick on the kickoff, the umpire should count K players.
41. The linesman, on a kickoff, before the kick, should monitor bench area.
42. The linesman, on a kickoff, should maintain position-enabling coverage of the middle of the field.
43. The linesman, on a kickoff, on a kick to the opposite side of the field, should observe action of other players in vicinity of kicker.
44. The linesman should move cautiously with play along the sideline on a kick to the opposite side of the field on a kickoff.
45. The line judge, on a kickoff, should watch for any infractions involving K's free-kick line.
46. The line judge, on a kickoff, after kick, watches initial blocks in his area.
47. After a kick on a kickoff, the line judge should be alert for first touching, and should mark spot with penalty marker.
48. After a kick on a kickoff, the line judge should be in position to take over coverage of the runner in his area on long return.
49. The back judge's position, on a kickoff before the kick, is on K's free-kick line in side zone to monitor bench area and assist kicking team in getting into position.
50. The back judge, on a kickoff, should count R players.
51. The back judge, on a kickoff, should be in position to take over coverage of the runner in his area on a long return.

52. Before the kick on the kickoff, if the ball falls or blows off the tee, the back judge should sound whistle to prevent action.
53. The referee should give the game ball to the line judge between halves.
54. All officials should leave the field together between halves.
55. The umpire should escort the captain to center of field with the linesman between halves.
56. The back judge should secure the game ball, hand it to the kicker, and instruct him to wait for referee's signal before he kicks.
57. The line judge keeps time during intermission.
58. All officials should return to the field at least five minutes before second half is to begin.
59. Between halves, all officials should discuss overtime procedure if applicable.
60. Between periods, the referee quickly takes the ball to the corresponding point on other half of the field and reverses directions.
61. Between periods, the umpire will check number of down and distance to gain.
62. The linesman, between periods, will reverse ends of the line-to-gain indicator and two crewmen.
63. Between periods, the line judge and back judge will check team box and huddle areas for appropriate conference procedure as during charged time-out.
64. During an injury time-out, the back judge will summon appropriate health-care professional(s) and/or coaches on field.
65. During an injury time-out, the linesman makes sure summoned appropriate health-care professional(s) and/or coaches are not on the field for coaching purposes.
66. The referee will attempt to keep players a significant distance away from the seriously injured player(s) during an injury time-out.
67. When time expires and ball becomes dead at the end of the period, the umpire will sound whistle and repeat time-out signal twice.
68. If the field clock is used and if time expires prior to the snap, the referee will sound his whistle to prevent snap, if possible.
69. When the field clock is not used, the back judge will notify the referee approximately four minutes before end of second and fourth periods.
70. If the ball is snapped immediately after time has expired at the end of the period, the linesman will sound his whistle loud and long.
71. During a time-out, the umpire will observe Team A until the referee is ready to start play.
72. All officials, during a time-out, should confirm number of remaining time-outs.
73. The back judge, during a time-out, should time 60-second interval and notify referee at 45 seconds and again when 60-second interval expires.
74. During a time-out, the referee should maintain position over ball.
75. The line judge, during a time-out, should check number of time-outs remaining for each team.
76. During a time-out, the referee will inform each team's huddle of down and time remaining in period.
77. When measuring for a first down, the line judge will place foot just behind yard line where clip is to be placed to align linesman so that chains are parallel to sidelines.
78. The umpire, when measuring for a first down, will rotate the ball so long axis is parallel to sideline.
79. When measuring for a first down, the back judge will take forward indicator from crewman at place of measurement.
80. The referee will mark foremost point of ball for down-marker operator on all first downs.
81. When measuring for a first down, the referee will spot the ball at the proper place when measurement is completed.
82. In administering penalties, the umpire will make note of enforcement spot for penalty.
83. All officials, in administering penalties, will record unsportsmanlike penalties.
84. The umpire will assist in relaying foul information to appropriate sideline.

85. The referee should be ready to have line-to-gain equipment moved after penalty administration.
86. When there is a double foul, the referee will signal each foul, facing the press box.
87. After a safety, try or field goal, the back judge will begin timing one-minute interval after the referee signals score or no score.
88. All officials should hustle up sidelines to free-kick position and then fill out game cards after a safety, try or field goal.
89. The referee, on a running play, should move behind play toward side of field to which play advances to cover runner if he is downed near line.
90. On a running play, the linesman and line judge should check for disconcerting signals by B.
91. The referee, on a running play, should assist with relay of the ball in the side zone from wing official to umpire.
92. In an unbalanced formation, the strength of the formation is not determined by the number of eligible receivers outside of the offensive tackles.
93. If motion occurs, the strength of the formation is not determined until the snap.
94. The linesman and line judge should be ready to adjust coverage if potential passer decides to run.
95. The referee should be ready to rule on the direction (forward or backward) of a quick quarterback pass.
96. On a forward pass, the covering officials should observe touching or catching by an ineligible player.
97. The back judge should verbally alert defenders when the passer has released the ball.
98. On a scrimmage kick, after the snap, the umpire should be alert to assist the referee in covering a short or blocked kick and determining if the ball crosses neutral zone.
99. Following a fair catch, the back judge needs to be sure referee knows it was a fair catch.
100. Only officials who actually see a touchdown should give touchdown signal.

**OUTLINE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PRESENT AND SENT TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY
DECEMBER 1, 2010.**

**MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS
LESSON #2
2010-11**

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, the Regional Directors approved the following requirement for football and basketball: Attendance will be required for each registered official at a certified MOA mechanics clinic or verification of training by a "Train the Trainer" representative who has attended the MOA mechanics clinic at the MCA clinic in Great Falls and who provides the training at a mandatory mechanics study club for all MOA basketball and football officials. Recertification of trainers will be required concurrently with the printing of each new NFHS officials manual. For the first year, football and basketball will be piloted and committees will be created to formulate mechanics clinics for soccer, softball, wrestling and volleyball.

Also please note the penalty if an official does not meet this requirement, see the MOA Handbook, Article XXIII:

C. Officials shall drop one rating classification for any of the following reasons:

4. Failure to complete the mandatory rules clinic **and/or mechanics clinic** for their sport renders an official ineligible for any postseason contest. The official's rating is restored when they complete the next rules **and/or mechanics clinic** for their sport. Officials must notify the MOA office for restoration. If an official does not meet the mechanics clinic requirement, he/she will incur a rating reduction and will be ineligible to officiate in the post season.

The MOA hosted a "Train the Trainer" clinic this summer in conjunction with the Montana Coaches Association (MCA) Clinic in Great Falls. A representative from each pool was invited to attend this "Train the Trainer" clinic. Everyone who attended the Great Falls clinic was credited with mechanics clinic attendance and they were provided with on-site training and were equipped with materials to facilitate training of other officials at the local level.

Individuals who received mechanics training at the Great Falls MOA / MCA Clinic will utilize study club #2 during the season to provide mechanics training to all officials in their pool. This will meet the mechanics clinic requirement, which will allow officials to be eligible for the post season.

Some pools decided not to send a representative to Great Falls, and these pools must bring in someone from another pool who attended the MOA / MCA Football Mechanics Clinic in August to be their trainer. If your pool did not send a representative to the Train the Trainer" clinic, please contact the MHSA Office to help facilitate securing a certified trainer to provide the required mechanics information to your pool, so they can be eligible to officiate in the post season.

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MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS
LESSON #3
2010-11

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

I. Recommendations for Study Club #3

- A. That the 2010 Football Examination Part I be taken by the pool at home or in a manner appropriate to the pool. If taken at home we suggest answers be discussed orally as a group at the next meeting.

II. Discuss the major NFHS Officials Manual Changes for 2010 and 2011

1. The Five-Man Mechanics come before the Four-Man Mechanics in the NFHS Football Officials Manual.
2. By state association adoption, foul weather, full length, lined black pants with a single 1 ¼ inch white stripe down each leg may be worn in place of the standard, all-white tapered knickers if worn by the entire crew.
3. The Back Judge shall carry two different color bean bags; one for marking the end of the kick and one for marking first touching.
4. The Back Judge and Line Judge bring approved game ball from each team to the coin-toss if footballs are being run off of both sidelines.
5. The Referee's normal starting position is moved to one that is visible to the clock operator, approximately 10- yards deep and 5-yards wide of the huddle when marking the ball ready-for-play on scrimmage downs.
6. The Line Judge temporarily move to nine-yard marks (top of the numbers), as receiving team is lining up for a free kick. (Four-Man Mechanics)
7. The Referee's scrimmage kick position is adjusted to 3-5 yards outside the tight end and 2-3 yards behind the kicker, on line judge's side of the field.
8. If the football falls or blows off tee just prior to free kick, Back Judge sounds whistle to prevent action and moves to kicker to give instructions.
9. The Back Judge assists with relay of the football in side zone from wing official to Umpire.
10. The Referee's position changed to 3-5 yards outside the tight end and 2-3 yards behind the kicker, on kicking-leg side on scrimmage kicks.
11. The Back Judge's position changed to 10-12 yards wider than and 2-3 yards behind the deepest receiver on linesman's side of field on scrimmage kicks.
12. The Referee's position changed to 2-3 yards to rear and 3-5 yards to side of potential kicker, facing holder and able to see holder receive the football on field goal attempts or tries.

2010–2011 Manual Points of Emphasis

1. Communication between official and head coach.
2. Enforcement of uniform adornment rules.
3. Enforcing that legal equipment is worn properly
4. Identifying illegal substitutions

III. Discuss any problems, clarifications, concerns, or ideas that occurred while administering the major rule changes from last year.

A. Review and discuss all of the 2009 rule changes as follows:

**1-2-3b NOTE 2
(NEW)**

All required field markings must be clearly visible.

1-3-1c

Stripes located on the football must be adjacent to and perpendicular to the seam upon which the laces are stitched.

2-14-2; 7-2-5

The definition of a scrimmage-kick formation was clarified to differentiate formations that have been used traditionally for attempting a field goal or kick try from those used for a punt. The circumstances under which the numbering exception can be used have been changed to clarify what can be done on first, second, third and fourth downs.

Table 3-1; 9-8-1g

The mandatory three-minute warm-up period begins immediately following the conclusion of the halftime intermission. The head coach of each team is responsible for his team being on the field for the warm-up period.

3-3-4b5 (NEW)

If a penalty resulting in a safety occurs on the last timed down of a period, the period is not extended.

**8-2-2; 8-2-3;
8-2-4 (NEW);10-5-1f**

Three rules were refined and a new article created regarding penalty enforcement for dead-ball, non-player or unsportsmanlike fouls that occur during or after a touchdown scoring play. Now, the scoring team, in most situations, has the option of enforcing the penalty on the subsequent kickoff.

9-4-3h

It is now illegal to grasp the opponent's chin strap.

9-4-3k (NEW)

The horse-collar tackle has been added to the list of illegal personal contact fouls, regardless of where it occurs on the field. It is illegal to grasp the inside back or side opening of the collar of the jersey or shoulder pads of the runner and subsequently pull the runner to the ground.

9-7-2 EXCEPTION

The kicking team cannot bat a scrimmage kick that has not yet been grounded unless it is toward its own goal line. Scrimmage kicks may only be batted by the kicking team towards its own goal line.

1-2-3g; 9-8-3

A restricted area has been defined where a maximum of three coaches may communicate with players and substitutes during dead-ball situations. The coaches must move into the team box before the ball becomes live. There will no longer be an allowance for three coaches to remain in an area adjacent to the sideline during play.

Other Discussion Items:

Video – In all of your study clubs, we would strongly suggest the following video resources. These could be excellent to use during all study clubs for visual learners and new officials. Here are three different resources for video study:

1. MHSA / NFHS Arbiter website for football – many great videos and resources for MOA football officials
2. Refstripes.com - Procedure to register for this free service:
 - Go to “Home” and you will see different tabs, including one for “Tests / Quizzes” etc.
 - It is in there that you will find the links to the Aloha Clinic videos.
 - This year’s videos will be loaded here.
 - DO NOT view the videos online as there is not enough band width for that.
 - Save the videos to your computer and then transfer them to a disc so you’ll have them available to you
3. Ten Topic Football Officiating DVD w/Voice Over - \$15.00 including postage/handling - Order on-line; pay after you receive the DVD

Orders must include:

1. Name [first & last], Mailing Address, Contact Telephone Number, Email Address
2. Number of DVDs @ \$15.00 per DVD -
email your order to: wlemonnier@sbcglobal.net

Discuss the professionalism of officials – Examples to discuss include:

Arriving on time / mingling talking to coaches / perceptions / clean/crisp official’s uniform, etc.

Discuss the followed topics which were in the NFHS’s Officials Quarterly in regard to “WHAT COACHES WOULD LIKE OFFICIALS TO KNOW”

1. Act in a professional manner. Treat coaches and their athletes with respect.
2. Thoroughly know the rules.
3. Be consistent when making calls and decisions.
4. Keep the athletes moving at a brisk pace.
5. Be on the lookout for dangerous situations, and alert the coach when the athlete runs the risk of injury.
6. **Demonstrate a positive attitude toward athletics, not one of supreme authority. In other words, don’t act like gods, but stewards of the sport.**
7. Refrain from prejudging a coach, school or athletic team. Give everyone involved the opportunity to prove himself or herself.
8. Finally, don’t cover up a mistake. Nobody expects perfection. If an error occurs, admit to it, and try not to make the same mistake again. Also, avoid coaching an athlete at the coach’s expense. Never make a coach look foolish by correcting athletes in a condescending manner.

IV. Miscellaneous:

1. Remind the officials in your pool that all must be registered MOA officials to be eligible to work varsity contests. This means they must have paid their dues; tested, if required; or any other MOA registration requirements.
2. Remind the officials in your pool to report ejections of any player or coach to the MHSA office within 48 hours of the ejection.
3. Be sure to discuss the procedure for delaying games if lightning or dangerous weather conditions approach. **Review the NFHS Lightning Policy.**
4. Remind officials about the option to use an officials’ timeout for extreme heat and humidity situations.

**OUTLINE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PRESENT AND SENT TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY
DECEMBER 1, 2010.**

2010 FOOTBALL RULES EXAMINATION – PART I

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NOTE: In the exam situations, A--refers to the offensive team and B--refers to their opponents the defensive team. K--refers to the -kicking team and R--refers to the receiving team. A1, B1, K1 and R1 are players of these teams. If team possession changes during the down, each team retains its identity. In kicking situations, it is not during a try and no fair-catch signal has been given unless specified. Unless stated, acts occur while: the ball is inbounds; a forward pass is legal; any out-of-bounds is between the goal lines. Line means scrimmage line. Reference to a foul is to a player foul which is not unsportsmanlike. There is no foul or change of possession, unless it is mentioned, and penalties are considered accepted for enforcement.

Rules Changes, Editorial Changes or Points of Emphasis for 2010

1. Penalty-marker colored gloves are legal.
2. Grabbing the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey of the runner and subsequently pulling that opponent to the ground is a horse-collar.
3. A player, nonplayer or coach may be in the restricted area when the ball is live.
4. Football public-address announcers do not play a vital role in the promotion of good sportsmanship.
5. Replaced players shall leave the field within three seconds.
6. Knee braces can be worn over the pants.
7. By state association adoption, a point differential may be established whereby if one team has gained the established point differential, the game shall be terminated.
8. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.
9. An offensive player may push, pull or lift the runner to assist his forward progress.
10. Beginning in 2012, gloves that may be anchored with athletic tape, and even though modified, must meet the NOCSAE test standard at the time of manufacture, unless made of an unaltered plain cloth.

Authorized Conferences

11. An authorized conference is permitted during the intermission between periods.
12. If one coach goes to the huddle for 30 seconds, another coach may then confer for the time remaining as long as only one coach is in the huddle at any given time.

Batting

13. Batting a scrimmage kick in or behind the neutral zone by R, in an effort to block the kick, is legal.
14. B1 may not legally bat a ball that is in possession of A1.
15. A backward pass in flight may be batted in any direction by either team.
16. Batting a ball in flight may add a new force to the ball.

Blocking

17. A block in the back is defined as a block with contact inside the shoulders, below the helmet and above the waist.
18. A chop block is a legal block within the 6 x 8 yard free-blocking zone.
19. The runner may be legally clipped.
20. Any player in the free-blocking zone, at the time of the snap, may block below the waist.

Dead Ball

21. If the try is by kick, the ball becomes dead when it is obvious the drop kick or place kick has failed.
22. The ball becomes dead when any loose ball is simultaneously caught or recovered by opponents.

Definitions

23. The neutral zone is established after the snapper has made final adjustment of the ball.
24. A forward pass has gone beyond the neutral zone if at any time during the pass, some part of the ball is beyond the neutral zone.
25. A foul is a rule infraction for which a penalty is prescribed.
26. A down begins when the ball is marked ready-for-play.
27. The line of scrimmage for each team is determined when the ball is marked ready-for-play.
28. If an official is out of bounds when he is touched by a loose ball, the touching is ignored.
29. Fighting is any attempt by a player or nonplayer to strike or engage a player or nonplayer in a combative manner unrelated to football.
30. The succeeding spot is where the ball was last snapped or free kicked.

Downs – New Series

31. If a double foul occurs during a down, the number of the next down is not the same as that of the down in which the foul occurred.
32. The down is ended when the runner allows any part of his person, other than hand or foot, to touch the ground.

Equipment: Game – Field

33. If the field of play has a logo in the center or at any other part of the field of play, that logo should not obstruct from the visibility of the required marks every five yards.
34. The uprights shall extend a maximum of 10 feet above the crossbar.
35. The goal-line pylons may be any color as long as they are the same color.
36. Officials may use available television replay equipment to assist in making certain critical decisions relating to the game.
37. An unofficial auxiliary down indicator may be used, but it must be operated approximately 2 yards outside the sideline (except in stadiums where the total playing enclosure does not permit) opposite the official line-to-gain and down indicators.
38. The referee is the final judge as to the legality of the game ball.

Equipment: Player

39. A mouth protector must be worn and must be completely white or clear.
40. The pants must cover the knee pads.
41. Hip pads, tailbone protector, knee pads and thigh guards may not be altered from the manufacturer's original design/production.
42. A tinted eye shield is illegal.
43. A player's towel may have a ball-drying product applied to it that will affect the football.
44. The head coach's verification that his players are legally equipped includes a visible exterior warning label on the helmet regarding the risk of injury.
45. Prior to the game, the umpire must check and personally verify that all player equipment is legal.
46. Beginning in 2012, players of the visiting team shall wear white jerseys that have additional limitations as to how much color may be on its jersey.

Fouls

47. It is legal to grasp the opponent's chin strap.
48. A multiple foul is one or more live-ball fouls by each team resulting in offsetting penalties.
49. The runner may use his hands or arms to ward off or push an opponent.
50. It is legal for runner A1 to spear B1.
51. All dead-ball fouls are enforced separately and in the order in which they occurred.
52. It is defensive holding if B1 tackles A1, who is obviously not the runner.
53. A live-ball foul and a dead-ball foul cannot be combined to create a double foul.
54. The restrictions on players being in the team box extend from the 35-yard line to the 35-yard line.
55. A nonplayer foul may influence the play in progress.
56. An illegal shift is a foul at the snap.

Fundamentals – Fundamental Statements

- 57. A kick ends as soon as R1 touches the kick.
- 58. A disqualifying foul during the down causes the official to sound his whistle immediately.
- 59. No series can ever start on a down other than first.
- 60. A handed ball beyond the neutral zone is considered to be a pass.

Illegal Participation

- 61. If a substitute or replaced player influences the play, it is illegal participation.
- 62. It is illegal substitution to have 12 or more players participating at the snap or free kick.

Illegal Formation

- 63. The players on each side of and next to the snapper may lock legs with the snapper and may stand, crouch or kneel.
- 64. At the snap, at least eight A players shall be on their line of scrimmage.
- 65. After the ball is marked ready-for-play, each player of A who participated in the previous down and each substitute for A must have been, momentarily, between the 9-yard marks before the snap.
- 66. Of the players of A who are not on their line at the snap, only one may penetrate the vertical plane through the waistline of his nearest teammate who is on his line.

Passing

- 67. It is pass interference if ineligible A1 catches a forward pass in or behind the neutral zone.
- 68. If the ball is beyond the neutral zone when it leaves the passer's hand on a forward pass, it is an illegal forward pass.
- 69. Interference by B may occur beyond, in or behind the neutral zone.
- 70. A passer is a player who either throws a forward pass or backward pass.
- 71. During an illegal forward pass, pass eligibility restrictions do not apply.
- 72. Touching of a forward pass by B1 causes pass interference restrictions to end and all A players to become eligible.

Penalty Enforcement

- 73. The referee shall grant a captain's request for time-out prior to accepting or declining a penalty which involves an automatic first down.
- 74. When the same team commits a live-ball foul followed by one or more dead-ball fouls, all fouls cannot be penalized.
- 75. If two teammates participate while wearing identical numbers, the foul occurs simultaneously with the snap.
- 76. The penalty for roughing the snapper is 15 yards and also a first down.
- 77. If the head coach is ejected, the game must be forfeited immediately.
- 78. The penalty for an illegal forward pass is 10 yards and loss of down.

Possession

- 79. A simultaneous catch or recovery is a catch or recovery in which there is joint possession of a live ball by opposing players who are inbounds.
- 80. A catch of an opponent's fumble or pass is called a recovery.

Safety

- 81. If K1 holds R1 in K's end zone to prevent R1 from recovering a blocked punt, it will be a safety if R accepts the penalty.
- 82. If B1 intercepts A's forward pass in B's end zone, it is a safety if he is tackled there.
- 83. The batting of a pass, kick or fumble in flight is not considered a new force for judging whether a touchback or safety results.
- 84. It is a safety, if R1 in an effort to block K1's field-goal attempt, leaps high in the end zone and tips the ball between the uprights above the crossbar.

Scrimmage Kicks

85. If a kick becomes dead in R's end zone, it is always a safety or touchback.
86. During a scrimmage kick, the kicker remains a kicker until the ball is in flight beyond the neutral zone.
87. Any K player may catch or recover a scrimmage kick while it is in or behind the neutral zone and advance, unless it is during a try.
88. It is not necessary to be in a scrimmage kick formation to execute a legal scrimmage kick.

Snap

89. The snap ends when the ball touches the ground or any player.
90. In a snap, the ball must immediately leave the hand(s) of the snapper and touch a backfield player or the ground before it touches a Team A lineman.
91. The snap begins when the snapper moves the ball by tilting it on end during adjustment.
92. The snapper may lift the ball for lateral rotation but may not rotate the ball end-for-end or change the location of the ball.

Time-outs

93. An official's time-out can be called for unusual heat or humidity situations.
94. If A1 appears injured and an official calls a time-out, A1 must leave the game for at least one play.
95. The head coach may come onto the field and request the nearest official to grant a time-out.
96. No single charged time-out shall exceed one minute.

Timing

97. After the ball becomes dead and it appears that the ball may have reached the line-to-gain, the covering official shall stop the clock.
98. A clock stopped during a period for an official's time-out will start with the ready-for-play signal with the only exception being when a free kick follows.
99. During a down, if time expires for a period and a signal is sounded, the officials shall ignore the signal.
100. If a free kick is repeated due to a foul, the clock shall start when the free kick is touched, other than first touching by K.

**MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS
LESSON #4
2010-11**

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

Discuss the new concussion / injury rules and the MHSA procedure for contests?

- Review the MHSA procedure for MOA officials to follow in regard to these injuries?
 - Emphasize the notification statement to coaches – “Coach, you need to take a look this player he/she is exhibiting signs and symptoms of an **injury**.”
- Watch the NFHS free coaches education video in regard to concussions – www.nfhslearn.com
- Discuss “Signs, Symptoms and Behaviors” consistent with identifying an injured athlete.



MHSA/MOA Concussion and Injury Procedure



Officials, coaches and administrators are being asked to make all efforts to ensure the safety of athletes who participate in MHSA activities. In regard to players experiencing possible concussions or other serious injuries during MHSA contests or practices, the following procedures will be immediately implemented:

Officials' Responsibilities:

- Officials are asked to use their best judgment in observing the signs, symptoms and behaviors of a concussion and other possible serious injuries. If there is a player that exhibits signs and symptoms of an injury (listed below from the NFHS Rule Book), officials will make coaches aware of the injured player and call an injury time out.
- The official should notify the coach by making the following statement:
 - “Coach, you need to take a look at this player; he/she is exhibiting signs and symptoms of an injury.”
- Once the official notifies the coach, it is now the coach’s responsibility.
- The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return to play nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional.
- Ultimately, the decision to return an athlete to competition rests with the coach, after the affected player is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional (MD, DO, NP or PAC).

Remember, when in doubt, sit them out!

Coaches' Responsibilities:

- After the official has notified the coach of the injury and has sent the athlete off of the field/court, or if a coach witnesses an incident in practice, the coach must then make the initial determination of the injury. For instance, if the coach knows that a player is diabetic, and may be experiencing a diabetic episode, the coach should have the student treated appropriately and then return the player to play or practice.

- If the coach suspects the athlete is exhibiting the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (listed below from the NFHS Rule Book), then the coach must have the player evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional. (MD, DO, NP or PAC)
- If an appropriate health-care professional on the sideline determines that the athlete HAS NOT suffered a concussion, the athlete may return to play.
- If an appropriate health-care professional is not available to evaluate the athlete, the athlete SHOULD NOT be allowed by the coach to return to play.
- In game situations, the official does not need written permission for an athlete to return to play nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional.
- Ultimately, the decision to return an athlete to competition or practice rests with the coach, after the affected player is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional (MD, DO, NP or PAC).

Remember, when in doubt, sit them out!

Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion (NFHS Rule Book)

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. An athlete does not have to lose consciousness (be “knocked out”) to have suffered a concussion.

Common Symptoms of Concussion Include:

- Headache, Fogginess, Difficulty concentrating, Easily confused, Slowed thought processes, Difficulty with memory, Nausea, Lack of energy, tiredness, Dizziness, poor balance, Blurred vision, Sensitive to light and sounds, Mood changes- irritable, anxious, or tearful

Suggested Concussion Management:

1. No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.
4. After medical clearance, RTP should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon return of any signs or symptoms.

For further details please see the “NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion” at www.nfhs.org.

Administrators’ Responsibilities:

- Administrators must require all coaches to review and implement this procedure.
- Administrators should have regular reviews with their coaching staffs concerning these procedures.
- Administrators should require coaches to report all incidents to the administration immediately following the practice or contest. All incidents should be documented.
- Administrators must understand the responsibilities that coaches have in the decision to return athletes to play. MHSAA Rules and Regulations item (4) states: *A participant in any MHSAA sanctioned sport who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) or other serious injury shall be immediately removed from the game, evaluated by the coaching staff in regard to the nature of the injury, and if it is determined to be a possible concussion or other serious injury, the player shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional (MD, DO, PAC or NP).*
- Ultimately, the decision to return an athlete to competition rests with the coach, after the affected player is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional (MD, DO, NP or PAC).

Remember, when in doubt, sit them out!

Concussion Resource Information

Various information and resources are available on the MHSA website. Visit www.mhsa.org and proceed to the Sports Medicine page from the link on the home page.

Discuss the NFHS Point of Emphasis – helmet to helmet contact. In a NFHS study, 63.1 percent of all concussions resulted from helmet-to-helmet contact. Illegal helmet contact is defined under NFHS Rule 2-20-1 as an “act of initiating contact with the helmet against an opponent.” There are three specific types of illegal helmet contact:

- Butt blocking is an act by an offensive or defensive player who initiates contact against an opponent who is not a ball carrier with the front of his helmet.
- Face tackling is an act by a defensive player who initiates contact with a ball carrier with the front of his helmet.
- Spearing is an act by an offensive or defensive player who initiates contact against any opponent with the top of his helmet.

Spearing is called frequently by officials, but discuss the importance on focusing on penalty enforcement of the butt blocking and face tackling.

Discuss the new NFHS cast rule and also the new NFHS knee brace rule. Understand that a note from a medical professional is no longer required and a brace now can be worn “as the manufacturer intended”.

When does the umpire determine a brace to be illegal?

Discuss the NFHS Point of Emphasis “assisting a runner”. Discuss the importance of enforcing this rule on all situations on the field, including goal line situations.

Discuss illegal blocks in the free blocking zone for both the offense and the defense.

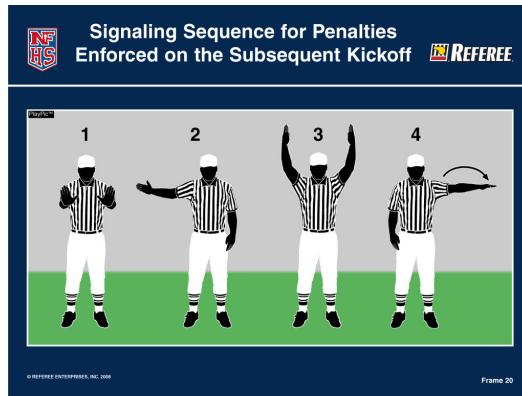
Discuss actual situations involving multiple or double fouls.

Discuss the use of hands by the offensive lineman to the face mask of a defensive lineman - (intentional or unintentional) – ruling, enforcement,

Discuss the situations involved with rule 8-2-2, 3, 4 and 5. Discuss the following chart that from the Redding Guide:

<u>Carry over Penalties</u>				
Play	Penalty is for	Can be enforced on/in		
		Try	Succeeding KO	Overtime
Touchdown (8-2-4)	Live-ball Foul % #	Yes	Yes	No
Touchdown (8-2-5)	Dead-ball Foul before try	Yes	Yes	No
Try (8-3-5b)	Live-ball Foul #	Yes	Yes	Yes
Try (10-4-5b)	Dead-Ball foul after try *	NA	Yes	Yes
Field Goal (8-4-3)	Live-ball and Dead fouls	NA	Yes	Yes
Symbols % Foul must occur after any change of possession unless nonplayer of unsportsmanlike * Does not apply if try is replayed # includes nonplayer and unsportsmanlike (live-ball fouls treated as dead-ball fouls).				

Review the Signaling sequence for penalties enforced on the subsequent kickoff:



Signaling Sequence for Penalties Enforced on the Subsequent Kickoff:

- **The NFHS Officials Manual Committee in 2009 approved a new procedure to be used on scoring plays involving a penalty by the opponent of the scoring team. The following is the procedure that is to be used by the referee:**
- 1 and 2. Referee gives preliminary penalty signal and indicates offending team.
- The referee then obtains the captain's choice.
- 1 and 2. Referee gives penalty signal and indicates offending team again.
- 3. If penalty is accepted and is to be enforced on the subsequent kickoff, the Referee indicates that the score counts.
- 4. If penalty will be enforced on the subsequent kickoff, the Referee should indicate by pointing to midfield.
- The Back Judge in 5-person and the Linesman in 4-person, will repeat penalty signal and indicate offending team again by giving final signals, prior to stepping off penalty and prior to the subsequent kickoff.

Use time to review video based on the recommendations in study club # 3.

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DECEMBER 1, 2010.**

MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS
LESSON #5
2010-11

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

Discuss the new Montana coin toss rule. This mandates the coin toss or simulated coin toss to occur at three minutes prior to the game.

- Coaches can work with contest officials to have the coin toss occur during the pre-game at anytime (and the field does not need to be cleared for this), but the simulated coin toss must occur at three minutes.
- Schools must schedule the national anthem, introductions, etc. to account for this three minute procedure.
- A pre-game procedure guide can be found on the MHSA football page at www.mhsa.org

Discuss the revised MHSA Point/Mercy Rule. Discuss the game implementation of this rule (In any Class A, B or C (8 and 6 player) football game, if at any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the clock will not be stopped for 6 different reasons):

(mechanics, communication with clock operator, etc..)

Discuss the horse-collar rule (9-4-3k) and past situations that have been observed. Discuss how the 2010 rule change effects future situations that could occur.

Discuss goal line and other scoring opportunities mechanics for all officiating positions.

Discuss pre-game, halftime, overtime officiating mechanics.

Discuss pass interference – both defensive and offensive

- Contact by either defender or receiver and not playing the ball.
- Playing through the receiver or defender.
- Cutting off the receiver or defenders route.
- Holding by either defender or receiver while the ball is in the air.
- Offensive pass interference - receiver was not playing the ball.
- Communication with coaches about pass interference.

Discuss the procedure for measurements and when a measurement should be done (or not done)?

Discuss sideline communication and how to effectively communicate with coaches. Examples:

- Discuss the new NFHS unintentional contact rule.
- Let coaches know when you can answer questions (example: not right before the snap).
- Let coaches know to communicate in a civil manner. – Doesn't work to yell and scream.
- Set communication guidelines before the game.
- Other strategies to effectively communicate with coaches.
- Coaches in the restricted zone when ball is alive
- Controversial call by official on the other side of the field.
- Other examples..

Discuss the game management involved with an injury time out. Items to consider in the discussion:

- Who can be on the field?
- How many can be on the field?

- Who can talk to whom?
- Can the players go to within earshot of the sideline to get coaches instructions?
- If the center is injured can the QB go to the sidelines and take a couple of snaps from the incoming replacement center.
- Other items to discuss?

Discuss the difference between fumbles and muffs and possible situations that could occur in MHSA games.

Discuss false starts / motion / shifts.

Review the NFHS uniform rules. Discuss what to look for such as adornments - Jerseys and not tucked in, etc.

Use time to review video based on the recommendations in study club # 3.

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MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL STUDY CLUBS
LESSON #6
2010-11

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

A. Review your group's season.

- I. Are there any specific problems in your area schools that should be addressed? i.e. field concerns, locker rooms, security, game times, poor sportsmanship, crowd control, etc.
- II. Are there any football rules or mechanics changes your group would like to see? Evaluate the new rule changes for this past year. The rules or mechanics changes must be in writing to the MOA/MHSA office by November 1, 2009.
- III. What issues does your group believe are important universal issues that need to be addressed by all officials' pools throughout the state? **Please send those items to Brian Michelotti at the MHSA office so they may possibly be included for rules clinics and study clubs.**
- IV. Does your group have any suggestions in addressing the issues in III?
- V. Discuss potential MOA "Hall of Fame" candidates in your area. Application forms are available from your regional director, the MOA/MHSA office or downloadable at www.mhsa.org. They must be routed through your regional director and to the MOA office before April 1st.
- VI. Discuss methods of evaluating fellow MOA members. Are the methods working properly and positively? Should you start a new method if you're not evaluating at the present time? Do these methods work for "upgrading"? Are they fair to all of your levels? Are you allowing anybody to upgrade? Are you methods for not allowing an upgrade fair?
- VII. For everyone's benefit, review dues deadlines and upgrading procedures and requirements. Be aware of the importance of notifying the MOA office of address changes. Know the "dues due" date.
- VIII. How many prospective officials did you have in your pool this year? Discuss and evaluate your methods of recruitment.
- IX. You have an obligation to read your MOA Handbook. All officials should be aware of the governing body's rules and regulations. Any changes you'd like to see should be directed to your regional director for the council's meeting in December.
- X. Take time to discuss your pool's assignment practices. Is your method fair to all involved? What areas may need some improvement or change in relation to assignment of officials?
- XI. Take time to evaluate your individual performance as an official this year. Incorporate your own personal reflections and observations from crew members and fellow officials.

- XII. Discuss some items concerning what an official can do in the off-season to prepare for next year. Include in the discussion off-season exercise programs, reviewing video of games done, attending a camp (if possible), National Federation Officials' Education etc.
- XIII. Are there any items, issues or clarifications that possibly would benefit all officials by being included in our officials' publication, **The Official Word**?
- XIV. Discuss and evaluate your pool's methods of retaining officials.

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