



NFHS Penalty Enforcement Hopper Book

Written by: Chris Bailey

Abbreviations

LOS – Line of Scrimmage
EORR – End of Related Run
SOF – Spot of the Foul
DBF – Dead Ball Foul
OOB – Out of Bounds
EOK – End of the Kick
COP – Change of Possession
PSK – Post-Scrimmage Kick
KCI – Kick Catching Interference
RFP – Ready for Play
GL – Goal Line
EZ – End Zone

Definitions

Previous Spot – The spot of the *previous* snap or free kick
Dead Ball Spot – The spot where the down ends
Succeeding Spot – The spot of the *next* snap or free kick (assuming no foul)
Related Run – The run which immediately precedes a foul
Spot of the Foul – Both the yard line AND lateral location of the foul
Dead Ball Foul – Any foul that occurs during a dead ball period, but also includes any live ball foul that is treated as a dead ball foul by rule.

Team Designations

Team A or K – The team that snaps or free kicks the ball (original offense)
Team B or R – The opponent of Team A/K (original defense)

Rule Book Language, but not necessarily a distinction that needs to be made for this book:

Offense – The team CURRENTLY in possession (can change in the middle of the down)
Defense – The opponent of the team CURRENTLY in possession (can change in the middle of the down)

Penalty Enforcement Hoppers

- 1) **One Live Ball Foul During a Scrimmage Play (No Kick, No COP)**.....pg 4
- 2) **Two+ Live Ball Fouls During a Scrimmage Play (No Kick, No COP)**.....pg 5
- 3) **Live Ball Fouls During Free Kick Plays**.....pg 6
- 4) **Live Ball Fouls During Scrimmage Kick Plays (No Try's)**.....pg 7
- 5) **Dead Ball Fouls**.....pg 8
- 6) **Live Ball Fouls During a Change of Possession (Non-PSK)**.....pg 9
- 7) **Bridge/Carryover Fouls (Scoring Plays)**.....pg 10
- 8) **Special Circumstances & Exceptions**.....pg 11
- 9) **Overtime Fouls (including fouls after the last play in regulation)**.....pg 12

1) One Live Ball Foul during Scrimmage Plays (No Kick, No COP)

Foul Description	Enforcement Spot
<p>Foul by A</p>	<p>Previous Spot unless both the foul and EORR are beyond LOS.</p> <p>-If both are beyond LOS: Enforce from EORR unless SOF is behind EORR. Then enforce from SOF.</p>
	<p>**Exceptions**</p> <p>Enforce these Team A fouls from Previous Spot ONLY Illegal Formation, Illegal Motion, Illegal Shift, Illegal Substitution, Illegal Participation (playing with 12 players), Illegal Numbering.</p> <p>Enforce these Team A fouls from SOF Illegal Forward Pass, Intentional Grounding, Illegal Batting/Kicking, and Illegal Participation (Participating w/o helmet).</p>
<p>Foul by B</p>	<p>Previous Spot unless the EORR is beyond LOS</p> <p>-If so, enforce from EORR</p>

1) A 2-4 A38. RB #22 takes the handoff and gains 7 yards down to the A45. During the play, LG #75 holds a defender at the A37.

Ruling: A 2-14 A28. Since the foul occurred behind the LOS, enforce the penalty from Previous Spot.

2) A 1-10 B35. RB #41 takes the handoff and gains 12 yards down to the B23. During the play, Center #62 goes to the 2nd level and illegally blocks a LB below the waist at the B31.

Ruling: A 1-21 A46. Since both the foul and the EORR occur beyond the LOS, the foul is enforced from the SOF since it is behind the EORR.

3) A 1-10 B35. QB throws a screen pass to WR #12 that gains 12 yards down to the B23. Before the pass, Center #62 goes to the 2nd level and illegally blocks a LB below the waist at the B31.

Ruling: A 1-25 @50. Since the EORR (release of the pass) occurred behind the LOS, the foul is enforced from the Previous Spot.

4) A 3-5 A40. QB drops back and throws a deep pass to WR #15 who catches the pass and is tackled at the B25. Before the pass, DT #74 commits a foul for hands to the face.

Ruling: A 1-10 B25. Since the EORR (release of the pass) occurs behind the LOS, this foul can only be enforced from the previous spot. Team A will obviously decline this foul & take the result of the play.

5) A 3-5 A40. QB drops back and throws a deep pass to WR #15 who catches the pass and is tackled by the facemask at the B20.

Ruling: A 1-G B10. Since the EORR is beyond the LOS, this is enforced from the EORR (tacked-on).

2) 2+ Live Ball Fouls during Scrimmage Plays (No Kick, No COP)

Foul Description	Enforcement Spot
<p>All fouls by same team</p>	<p>Offended team chooses which foul to enforce (may only choose one)</p> <p><i>-Once chosen, refer to the “One Live Ball Foul...” chart on previous page</i></p>
<p>One or more fouls by each team</p>	<p>Fouls automatically offset at the Previous Spot</p> <p>-Replay down -Extend period, if necessary</p>

1) A 1-10 B30. Team A runs the ball in for an apparent TD. During the play, WR #12 holds defender at the B26. Also, WR #30 holds defender at the B5.

Ruling: A 1-16 B36. Team B may only choose one live ball foul to enforce. Since the hold at the B26 is further back (closer to original LOS), this is the obvious choice. Decline #30’s hold and accept #12’s hold.

2) A 1-10 A20. Team A is lined up in an illegal formation. During the play, the defense tackles the ball carrier by the facemask.

Ruling: A 1-10 A20. Since these are both live ball fouls by both teams, they automatically offset, and the down will be replayed. The fact that one foul is a 5-yard penalty, and the other is a 15-yard penalty is irrelevant. *If the game clock expired during this play, the period should be extended for one untimed down.

3) Live Ball Fouls during *Free Kick Plays*

Fouling Team	Timing	Enforcement Spot
Foul by K	During Kick	K ends w/ poss. – Previous Spot R ends w/ poss. – Previous Spot or Dead Ball Spot (R’s choice)
	During Return	EORR
Foul by R	During Kick	Previous Spot
	During Return	EORR or SOF if behind EORR
Exceptions		Kick Catching Interference (KCI) – SOF + Awarded Fair Catch <u>OR</u> Previous Spot & Re-Kick Free Kick Out of Bounds (KOB) – R has 3 choices: 1) Previous Spot – 5 yards ⇒ Re-kick 2) OOB Spot + 5 yards ⇒ R’s Ball 3) 25 yards from Spot of Kick ⇒ R’s Ball For options 2 & 3: Spot ball on nearest hash (no options)

1) K Kickoff K40. During an onside kick attempt and while the kick is still bouncing, K players initiate an illegal block against R players 8 yards downfield and before the ball travels 10 yards.

a) K recovered the kick at R48; **b)** R recovered the kick at R48.

Rulings:

- a) K Kickoff K30. Since K ended with possession, this can only be enforced from the previous spot and rekick.
- b) K Kickoff K30 OR R 1-10 K42. Since R ended with possession, R has the choice to penalize at the previous spot and rekick OR they can add it on to the dead ball spot.

2) K Kickoff K40. R receives the kick at the R15 and returns it to the R27. On the tackle, K #41 grabs and twists the ball carrier’s facemask.

Ruling: R 1-10 R42. This foul is enforced from the EORR (R27).

3) K Kickoff K40. Immediately following a deep kick, one of Team R’s up men seeks out the kicker and commits an unnecessary roughness foul at the K45. The kick is returned to the R40.

Ruling: K Kickoff R45 OR R 1-10 R40. Since foul occurred during the kick, the only enforcement spot is the previous spot. K can choose to enforce and rekick or decline and take the result of the play. If foul is flagrant, player should also be DQ’d.

4) Live Ball Fouls during Scrimmage Kick Plays (Not Try's)

Foul Description & Team		Enforcement Spot
Fouls between the snap and end of the kick	Fouls by K	R ends w/ possession – Previous Spot or Dead Ball Spot K ends w/ possession – Previous Spot
	Fouls by R	*PSK Foul – Enforce from EOK Non-PSK Foul – Enforce from Previous Spot
Fouls AFTER the kick (During Return)	Fouls by K	EORR
	Fouls by R	EORR or SOF if behind EORR

*PSK Foul Requirements (Post-Scrimmage Kick)

- 1) Foul is by R
- 2) Foul occurs between snap and end of kick
- 3) Foul occurs beyond expanded neutral zone
- 4) Kick crosses expanded neutral zone
- 5) R is next to snap the ball

**If any of the 5 criteria are NOT met, this is NOT a PSK foul

1) K 4-8 K42. Following the snap, K #52 holds a defender at the K40 as he attempts to get to the kicker. K's kick is fair caught by Team R at the R30.

Ruling: K 4-18 K32 OR R 1-10 R40. Since the foul and EORR are behind the LOS, R has the option of enforcing from the Previous Spot or they could also add the yardage on to the Dead Ball Spot.

2) K 4-8 K42. Team R catches K's kick at the R30 and returns it to the R40. During the kick, R #88 holds a Team K player at the K47 as he is attempting to get to the returner.

Ruling: R 1-10 R20. This foul meets the 5 requirements for PSK enforcement. This holding foul is enforced from the end of the kick.

3) K 4-8 K42. Following the snap, DT #75 commits a major facemask foul at the K41. K's kick is caught at the R25 and returned to the R40.

Ruling: K 1-10 R43. This foul does not meet all 5 requirements for PSK enforcement; the foul by R is committed BEHIND the expanded neutral zone (K41 yard line); therefore, this can only be enforced from the previous spot. The yardage results in a 1st down for K.

5) Dead Ball Fouls

Including:

- *Live ball fouls treated as dead ball fouls
- *Non-Player Fouls
- *Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls

***** Dead Ball Fouls are enforced AFTER all live ball fouls have been enforced *****

Foul Description	Enforcement Spot
One Dead Ball Foul by either team	Succeeding Spot
Both teams commit <u>equal</u> number of 15-yard Dead Ball Fouls	Offset @ Succeeding Spot
Both teams commit <u>unequal</u> number of 15-yard Dead Ball Fouls	Equal number of fouls offset; enforce remaining from succeeding spot
5 vs 15 (One team commits 5-yard DBF and opponent commits 15-yard DBF)	Enforce from succeeding spot in order of occurrence. DO NOT OFFSET.

5 vs 15 Example:

A 1-10 A20. Team A takes too much time to begin their play and is flagged for Delay of Game (5 yards). Team B player #75 decides to celebrate the foul by taunting the Team A QB (15 yards).

Ruling: A 1-10 A30 – Both of these fouls are enforced in the order of occurrence. Team A is penalized 5 yards back to the A15, then Team B is penalized 15 yards up to the A30.... resulting in a new first down for Team A.

6) Live Ball Fouls during Change of Possession Down (Non-PSK)

Foul Description	Enforcement Spot
Foul before COP	<p>Foul by A – Decline; B keeps ball</p> <p>Foul by B – Enforce as normal; A keeps ball</p>
Foul after COP	<p>Foul by A – EORR; B keeps ball</p> <p>Foul by B – EORR or SOF if behind EORR; B keeps ball</p>
Fouls by both teams	<p>Automatic offset, ignore COP, replay down</p> <p>**Exception** If B’s foul is after COP, B must decline A’s foul & enforce B’s foul in order to keep the ball – otherwise offset and replay down (Clean Hands Principle).</p> <p>See “<i>Fouls after COP</i>” for enforcement</p>

If there are multiple changes of possession during the down.....

- If **all** fouls occur BEFORE the final COP, automatically offset, and replay the down.
- If **any** foul occurs AFTER the final COP, see “*Fouls after COP*” or “*Fouls by both teams*” for enforcement.

1) A 4-5 A40. A’s pass is intercepted at the B25 and is tackled immediately. Before the pass, A #75 holds a Team B player at the B39.

Ruling: B 1-10 B25. The only enforcement option is the Previous Spot; therefore, B will obviously decline this foul and take the result of the play.

2) A 4-5 A40. A’s pass is intercepted at the B25 and is returned to the B45. During B’s return, a Team B player committed a blind-side block against a Team A player at the B30.

Ruling: B 1-10 B15. Since this foul occurred after the COP, B keeps the ball and has its foul enforced from the SOF since it is behind the EORR.

3) A 4-5 A40. A is lined up in an illegal formation at the snap. A’s QB throws a pass that is intercepted at the B25. Team B returns the interception to the B45. During B’s return, a Team B player committed a blind-side block against a Team A player at the B30.

Ruling: B 1-10 B15. Since B gained possession BEFORE committing a foul (clean hands exception), they can keep possession of the ball if they decline A’s foul and have their foul enforced. If they were to NOT decline A’s foul, these fouls would automatically offset, and Team A would replay the down from the previous spot.

7) Bridge/Carryover Fouls (Scoring Plays)

- Fouls by opponent of scoring team (typically the original defense)
- Foul occurs after the final COP during the play

Scoring Play & Foul Type		Enforcement Spot
Touchdown	Live Ball	TD Counts; Enforce on Try or Succeeding <i>Kickoff</i> (A's Choice)
	Dead Ball	Foul before RFP on Try - Enforce on Try or Succeeding <i>Kickoff</i> (A's Choice) Foul after RFP on Try – Can only enforce on Try
Successful Field Goal	Live Ball	Enforce from Previous Spot or Succeeding <i>Spot</i> (A's Choice)
	Dead Ball	Succeeding <i>Spot</i>
Unsuccessful Field Goal	Live Ball	Refer to “ <i>Live Ball Fouls during Scrimmage Kick Plays</i> ”
	Dead Ball	Succeeding <i>Spot</i>
Try	Live Ball	Enforce as normal OR Succeeding <i>Spot</i> (A's Choice)
	Dead Ball	Between RFP and Snap on Try – Can only enforce on Try After the Try – Succeeding <i>Spot</i> **unless Try is being replayed; then dead ball fouls MUST be enforced on the Try.
Safety	Live Ball	Offended team must decline foul to take safety (No Carryovers)
	Dead Ball	Succeeding <i>Spot</i>

*****Carryover fouls DO NOT have to be Personal Fouls or Unsportsmanlike Fouls in High School Rules. For example:**

A 2-8 B25. Prior to the pass, a Team B cornerback holds a WR at the B20. The QB throws the ball to a different receiver who catches the pass and runs for a TD.

Ruling: Team A has the choice of enforcing the Defensive Holding foul on the Try (half the distance) or on the Succeeding Kickoff (full 10 yards).

8) Special Circumstances & Exceptions

Foul Description & Team		Enforcement Spot
Fouls that occur in A's Endzone	Fouls by A/K	Safety
	Fouls by B/R	Enforce as normal – If enforcement is SOF and SOF is in the endzone, enforce from GL.
Fouls that occur in B's Endzone	Fouls by A/K	Enforce as normal – If enforcement is EORR and EORR is the EZ, enforce from GL.
	Fouls by B/R	Enforce as normal
Roughing the Passer	Foul by B	<u>If A is in possession at end of down</u> If play ends behind LOS – Previous Spot If play ends beyond LOS – Dead Ball Spot
		<u>If B is in possession at end of down</u> Previous Spot
Kick Catch Interference	Foul by K	Enforce from Previous Spot or SOF (R's Choice)
Fouls by A with a Loss of Down on a Try	Fouls by A	Try is no good and Try is NOT replayed
Free Kick Out of Bounds (untouched by R)	Foul by K	R has 3 choices: 1) Previous Spot – 5 yards ⇒ Re-kick 2) OOB Spot + 5 yards ⇒ R's Ball 3) 25 yards from Spot of Kick ⇒ R's Ball For options 2 & 3: Spot ball on nearest hash (no options)

9) Overtime Fouls (including fouls that occur on the last play of regulation)

Foul Description	Enforcement Spot
<p>Fouls DURING a scoring play on the last play of regulation</p>	<p>During a Touchdown: Since OT is not guaranteed, foul may only be enforced on the TRY.</p> <p>During a Successful Try or FG: If a successful Try or FG forces OT, the foul is enforced on the first play of OT</p> <p>**On a successful Try or FG, Team K always has the option of enforcing from the previous spot and extending regulation for one untimed down (i.e. replaying the down, but take the points off the board)**</p> <p>Mechanics: If enforcing in OT, inform both coaches of the enforcement options because this will affect their coin toss choices.</p>
<p>Fouls AFTER last play of regulation & BEFORE first down of OT</p>	<p>Can ONLY be enforced at the succeeding spot</p> <p>Mechanics: Inform both coaches of the enforcement options because this will affect their coin toss choices.</p>
<p>Fouls DURING or AFTER a scoring play in OT</p>	<p>Since there are no kickoffs in OT, all bridge/carryover fouls must be enforced at the succeeding spot, whether that is the Try or the first snap of the next OT possession.</p> <p>**Fouls during a TD may ONLY be enforced on the Try**</p>