



2019 MIAA Football News

MIAA Football Schools,

All schools should have received the first summer football news on Aug. 9. Included in this newsletter today is additional information and a few new links for your coaches and spectators.

- 1) Rules reminders: Please click on this [link](#) for some rules reminders which game officials will be using as they implement NFHS rules for this season
- 2) Parent/Fan “Rules 101”: PLEASE consider getting the document at this [link](#) out to fans, spectators and anyone interested in learning more about the new rules. This document is a very brief rundown of some major differences to help in understanding the game. You could leave copies at the ticket booth for people when attending a game or send out to boosters in advance; just a few ideas.
- 3) 40/25 clock: Please click on this [link](#) for general principles for the use and management of the 40/25 second clock. These 14 points add additional clarity to 40/25 guidance found on the NFHS Football Rules Transition page found [here](#).
- 4) Included below are some examples and questions about **Blocking Below the Waist/Free Blocking Zone:**

Blocking below the waist is legal when both teams are in a two-point stance and QB is in a position for hand-to-hand snap, as long as the ball is in the zone.

During an inside hand-off with a run up the middle, there could be multiple blocks below the waist by any one lineman, offense or defense. Once the ball is out of the zone, only those blocks begun while the ball was in the zone are legal.

With a Three-step drop by the QB, blocks begun at the snap by O and D in a two- three- or four-point stance are legal if begun at the snap.

Shotgun formation: only those blocks begun at the snap by O or D linemen in a three- or four-point stance are legal. All blocking below the waist by linemen O or D in a two-point stance are illegal.

Examples:

- Q. An O lineman is in a 2 point stance, is it legal for a D lineman to fire out and block below the waist against that O lineman **at the snap**?
- A. Yes. If D lineman is in a three- or four-point stance. The rule says "player" not O or D, so both have the same restrictions on either side of the ball. Two-point stance verboten by either team. If nothing else it's in harmony with the intent of the rule.
- Q. Can an O lineman in a three or four-point stance block a D lineman below the waist in a two-point stance.

- A. Yes, as long as it is immediately at the snap with the ball in the zone. Any delay in the block could easily result in illegal blocking below the waist.
- 5) Overtime: The MIAA Tie-Breaker Rule from page 65 of the [MIAA Handbook](#) is the entire rule for overtime play. **Important clarification:** during overtime, defense can recover or intercept **and** advance the ball for a possible score on plays from scrimmage and field goal attempts not on any tries. For the first and subsequent tie breaking periods, any team that scores a touchdown must attempt a two-point conversion by run or pass from scrimmage. **The two point try ends if the defending team gains possession. The try is over.**
- 6) Be sure to review the 2019 MIAA Football Format at this [link](#) for important information including times, tournament procedures and state final rotations related to Gillette Stadium.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or contact one of your local football official board/leaders. Additionally, Tom Azevedo will be the football state interpreter for MIAA/NFHS football rules. He can be contacted at tomaziee@aol.com or thomas.azevedo@suez.com.

On behalf of the MIAA Football Committee and all football playing schools, I wish you and your school the best during the upcoming season.

Richard Pearson

MIAA Football Liaison

