

# San Diego County Football Officials Association Memo

---

**To:** Crew Chiefs, Head Coaches, and Athletic Directors

**CC:** SDCFOA Instructors & Staff

**From:** Steve Coover, Instructional Chair SDCFOA

**Date:** 9/4/2009

**Re:** Weekly Bulletin #1

---

## **Purpose of These Bulletins**

It is my purpose to provide important, relevant information to those listed above so that we might improve communication between all who are responsible for teaching and enforcing the rules of high school football. It is expected that all instructors and crew chiefs will read, understand, teach and enforce what is discussed in these Bulletins. All pre-game conferences must include the contents of these documents.

## **Sidelines and the Restricted Area**

Feedback from the coaches' clinics and from the Kickoff Classic events is that our crews can and must enforce the new rules regarding the restricted area. The coaches' biggest concern with this new rule is our ability, and will, to enforce it in a consistent manner. One game I saw, both flank officials enforced it quickly and the game went smoothly. The other game report was that one flank threw three flags throughout the game and the sideline was perfect. The other flank continued to warn the coaches all game long, never threw a flag and the sideline never truly improved. This is exactly what the coaches do not want! We must stop with the multiple warnings and throw our flags when a violation occurs. Next week the second coach is going to be upset when the next crew comes along and enforces the new rule. Let's get this behind us early. The kids and coaches are expecting us to do our job!

## **The Haka**

This dance of intimidation is now causing unsportsmanlike behavior between teams during the warm up and pre-game period. Southern California Colleges have banned the Haka from all contests unless done in the locker room. The CIF is supporting the following rule for the use of the Haka: ***If the act is done on the field before the game, it must be done between the 45 yard line and the end line, and it may not be directed toward the opposing team or their fans. Teams violating this policy should be given a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.***

## **Cutting Not Legal in Shotgun or Pistol**

Because the ball must be in the free blocking zone in order for a block-below-the-waist to be legal, it is the CA State Rules Interpreter's position, and ours, that cutting is not legal when the team is in shotgun or pistol as the ball has left the zone at the snap, prior to any contact.

## **Options for Teams When Opponent Fouls on Scoring Plays**

All crew chiefs must be ready to provide head coaches with all of their options when it comes to fouls by the opponents of scoring teams. That includes PATs and field goals. Head coaches are going to ask and we need to be ready to give prompt, clear options. And don't forget the new rule on fouls during the dead ball period following TDs when there is a foul **by either team.**

## **Knee Braces**

Here is the rule: "...all parts of the brace made of hard material and extending below the pants 'must be' covered." Please correct problems as they are encountered so players may participate and report any problems with equipment (in general) to me.

## **Microphones on Head Coach**

Coaches may wear a wireless microphone during a contest. The rule book states that a coach can use a recording device during a game. It is our understanding that the coach would use this recording for purposes after the game.

### **New "laser" Chains**

We have come across a school that is interested in using a new set of chains (standard in every other way) that uses a laser beam to determine if the line to gain has been reached. This laser is shot from the front stake toward the ball and the referee uses accompanying equipment to make the determination. If this equipment is used by a school please let me know how it goes.

### **QB and Motion in Shotgun and Pistol**

When in shotgun or pistol, teams want to start the motion first and then the QB uses some kind of signal to indicate to the center that he is ready for the snap. This double action is technically illegal as not all 11 players have set for one second following a shift (the QB signaling is a shift). We do not want to get technical but coaches are beginning to use some exaggerated signaling to the center (QB bending down and touching the grass in front of him.) Please report what you see this weekend. Let's try to keep it legal.

### **Legal Formations and the Offensive Line**

Reminder, please keep the formations legal and all players on the line of scrimmage breaking the center's waist. Don't let the linemen creep back. Warn once (preferably the head coach) and then flag it. Continued warning will get you no where. This can be a clear advantage for the blocking team. Please be consistent with this. Thanks.