



2023 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2023

2023 NFHS Football Rules Book Clarification:

Rule 10-4 and TABLE 10-4 are correct as listed in the 2023 NFHS Football Rules Book.

In compiling the multitude of changes to Rule 10 necessitated by the discussion around the proposed 2023 NFHS football rules change that was approved unanimously, there remains two additional clarifications to be made for coaches, administrators and game officials for the upcoming 2023 high school football season.

To summarize, if on-field game situations involving a loss of possession create a conflict between the end of the run or related run and the succeeding spot, game officials should apply the standard related to the end of the run as intended by the cleanup in Rule 10-4-8. This does not apply to fouls as detailed in Rule 10-4-5a through 10-4-5d which explicitly call for succeeding spot enforcement (the spot where the ball will

next be put in play per Rule 2-41-10). Rule 2-41-9b will help clarify those situations in which conflict might exist.

Rule 10-4 and TABLE 10-4 Clarification – (Play Situations):

PLAY 1: A first and 10 on A's 40. The runner runs to B's 40, where he fumbles the ball forward and out of bounds at B's 30. During the run (before the fumble), A11 commits a holding foul at B's 38. **RULING:** The holding penalty is enforced from the end of the run (B's 40 - the fumble spot). A first and 10 at the 50.

PLAY 2: A first and 10 on A's 40. The runner runs to B's 40, where he fumbles the ball forward and out of bounds at B's 30. During the run, B18 commits a face mask foul anywhere on the field. **RULING:** The penalty for illegal face mask is enforced from the end of the run (B's 40 - fumble spot). A first and 10 on B's 25.

PLAY 3: A first and 10 on A's 40. The runner runs to B's 40, where he fumbles the ball forward and **B RECOVERS** at B's 30. During the run, B11 commits a face mask foul anywhere on the field. **RULING:** The penalty for illegal face mask is enforced from the end of the run (B's 40 - fumble spot). A first and 10 on B's 25.

2023 NFHS Football Case Book Clarification:

(Underlining shows additions; ~~strike-through~~ shows deletions.)

Page 75, 9.2.1 SITUATION J: On a successful try for point by kick, the interior linemen of K all reached across and grasped the teammate immediately to their inside after the snap. **RULING:** Interlocked blocking, 10-yard penalty from the previous spot ~~spot of the foul~~ ~~since this spot is probably behind the basic spot.~~ (10-4-2)