



# ATHLETIC OFFICIALS SERVICE

## You Make the Call!

**August 24, 2026 • Hoffman Estates High School**

*Hosted by Jeff Solomon*

# About the Presenter



## Jeff Solomon

20

Years Officiating Football

3

Years as BFOA Rules Interpreter

2nd

Year in Illinois

For the past three years I've served as the Rules Interpreter for the Broward Football Officials Association (BFOA), based out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Even after relocating to Illinois, BFOA asked me to stay on in that role remotely, and I remain an active member of that association, occasionally working games down there when I can.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

2x FHSAA State Championship (2022, 2024) • Televised games (past 4 years)

Aug 28: East St. Louis (IL) at American Heritage (FL) — NFHS Network | Aug 29: ESPN sideline support

# Play #1



KAHOOT FOLLOWS

## SCENARIO

2nd and 1, North Broward Prep ball at the A-29. 5:28 left in the 1st quarter, clock running. Focus on the line judge at the bottom of the screen.

## DOWN & DISTANCE

2nd & 1 LTG -30

## FIELD POSITION

Team A — A-29

## GAME SITUATION

1st Qtr — 5:28 — Clock  
Running

## KEY ON

LJ Bottom of the Screen



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**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*

**Playback Mode**

- ☒ Play All Clips
- ☐ Play Clip Once
- ☐ Loop Clip

**Options**

- ☐ Audio
- ☐ Annotations
- ☒ HD Quality
- ☒ Snap Detection

Set up a Hudl Remote

00:08.08 / 00:24.58



Undo



Pause

# Play #1 | Result



**FOUL**

**Flag Down — Sideline Warning | NBP (1st Warning — No Yardage)**

## **ENFORCEMENT**

No yardage — 1st warning only.  
Repeat offense results in 5 then 15-yard penalty

## **NEW DOWN & DISTANCE**

1st and 10

## **NEXT SERIES FROM**

Westminster 46

## **GAME CLOCK STATUS**

Starts on Ready for Play

## **PLAY CLOCK STATUS**

Reset to 25 due to the flag on the offense

## **RULE REFERENCE**

Rule 9-8-1k / 9-8-3

# Play #2



KAHOOT FOLLOWS

## SCENARIO

2nd and 18, Deerfield ball at the Deerfield 12. 4:37 left in the 2nd quarter, clock running. Watch the Referee and the Head Linesman.

## DOWN & DISTANCE

2nd & 18

## FIELD POSITION

Team A — A-12

## GAME SITUATION

2nd Qtr — 4:37 — Clock  
Running

## KEY ON

Referee and Head  
Linesman

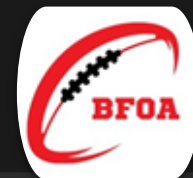




**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*

| REWARDS | TOL | 4:42 | TOL   | REWARDS |
|---------|-----|------|-------|---------|
| 14      | 3   |      | 3     | 0       |
| WILL ON | ON  |      | TO GO | ON      |

# Play #2 | Result



FOUL

**Intentional Grounding — Safety | New Trier scores 2 points**

## ENFORCEMENT

Foul occurred in the end zone — result is a safety. No yardage enforcement.

## NEW DOWN & DISTANCE

N/A — Safety

## NEXT Play

Deerfield free kick from their own 20-yard line

## GAME CLOCK STATUS

Start on touching by R of the kick

## PLAY CLOCK STATUS

Reset to 25

## RULE REFERENCE

Rule 7-5-2 — Intentional Grounding  
Rule 8-5 — Safety

**OFFICIATING MECHANIC NOTE:** Referee confirms QB released the ball from the end zone. Head Linesman confirms the ball did not reach the line of scrimmage and no eligible receiver was in the area. Both observations are required to confirm intentional grounding and rule the safety.

# Play #3



KAHOOT FOLLOWS

## SCENARIO

1st and goal, North Broward Prep ball at the Pine Crest 2. 11:30 left in the 3rd quarter, clock running.  
**(Hard to see on Film)**

The runner goes up the middle and has his helmet forcibly removed by a defensive player before crossing the goal line. Watch the Referee, Umpire, and both wing officials.

## DOWN & DISTANCE

1st & Goal

## FIELD POSITION

NBP Ball — in the B2

## GAME SITUATION

3rd Qtr — 11:30 — Clock Running

## KEY ON

Runner up the middle- R, U, & Both Wings





**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*

# Play #3 | Result



## FOUL

**Helmet Forcibly Removed — Dead Ball | PF Face Mask on Pine Crest. Helmet came off prior to crossing the goal line — play blown dead immediately. No touchdown.**

## ENFORCEMENT

Half the distance to the goal from the end of the play (Pine Crest 1).  
NBP #7 is permitted to remain in the game — helmet loss was caused by a foul, not his own action.

## NEW DOWN & DISTANCE

Replay 1st and Goal

## NEXT SNAP FROM

Team B ½ yard line

## GAME CLOCK STATUS

Starts on Ready for Play

## PLAY CLOCK STATUS

Reset to 40 — Defensive foul

## RULE REFERENCE

Rule 3-5-10 — Ball carrier's helmet comes off, ball dead immediately

# Play #3 | Let's Talk About It



**THE RULING:** Helmet forcibly removed before goal line — ball dead immediately. Half the distance, replay 1st and Goal from the  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard line.

## DISCUSSION 1

### Could we award a touchdown?

Rule 9-9-5 (Unfair Act) gives the Referee the authority to award a TD if a foul makes a travesty of the game. But does forcibly removing a helmet rise to that level — or is this just a garden variety personal foul?

Rule 9-9-5 — Unfair Act

## DISCUSSION 2

### What if this had been 3rd down?

Should an egregious foul like this carry an automatic first down in NFHS? College and pro give out automatic first downs more freely. Does high school give officials enough tools to address fouls that effectively take away a score?

NFHS vs. NCAA vs. NFL — Auto 1st Down Rules



*The Tommy James*

# "You Make the Call"

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## Watch the Play

Each clip runs once. No replays — just like the field.



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## Make Your Call

Foul or no foul? Who? What? Be ready to explain your ruling.



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## Discuss as a Group

No Kahoot on these — we talk it through together.

# You Make the Call | Play #1



## SCENARIO

3rd and 3, Elk Grove ball at the Schaumburg 34. 17 seconds left in the 2nd quarter, clock stopped. There will be an interception on this play. Watch the Back Judge and the Umpire.



🗣️ *Note: The sideline angle is limited on this clip — the play is more visible from the end zone angle.*

## DOWN & DISTANCE

**3rd & 3**

## FIELD POSITION

**Elk Grove Ball —  
Schaumburg 34**

## GAME SITUATION

**2nd Qtr — 0:17 — Clock  
Stopped**

## KEY ON

**Back Judge & Umpire**



**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*

17.0 2 21

# You Make the Call | Play #1 — Result



On Field CALL: Holding — Schaumburg | After the interception | 10 yards from the spot — Schaumburg 41

## ENFORCEMENT

10 yds from spot of foul —  
Schaumburg 41. Schaumburg retains  
ball.

## NEW DOWN & DISTANCE

1st and 10

## NEXT SNAP FROM

Schaumburg 31

## GAME CLOCK

2 seconds remaining — 2nd quarter -  
Start on the Snap

## PLAY CLOCK

Reset to 25

## RULE REFERENCE

Rule 9-2 Holding / Rule 10-4  
Enforcement



## What's Your Call?

*A few veteran officials saw this play and couldn't agree.*

1

**Does the contact rise to the level of a foul?**

---

Is what you saw holding — or a PF after the interception?

2

**If it is a foul — holding or personal foul?**

---

Does the severity of the contact change the nature of the call?

3

**Does it warrant a flag at all?**

---

Could this have been handled with a warning or a strong word instead?

*Remember — the Referee (me) did not see this play. I went with what my Back Judge and Umpire reported.  
Would you have thrown the flag?*

# YMTC 2



## SCENARIO

In this play, focus on the R (one flag) and the U & SJ (second flag) and their primary coverage areas.

### DOWN & DISTANCE

PAT

### FIELD POSITION

Miami North Western on  
the B-3

### GAME SITUATION

4th Qtr — 1:53 — Clock  
stop

### KEY ON

R, U, and S



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**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*

NORTHWESTERN  
13-0

22

RAINES  
12-0

17

4TH

01:53

1ST AND 10

# YMTC #2 | Result

Don't hesitate to step in and  
speak up!



## FOUL

We have a successful PAT with two live ball fouls: hurdling (Umpire) and running into the kicker (Referee).

## ENFORCEMENT

- Offense can keep the successful PAT and enforce 1 of the fouls on the kickoff (decline the other), or
- Accept 1 of the foul (decline the other) and go half the distance, and replay the try. (IE go for 2)

## RULE REFERENCE 10-2-4

ted more than one foul following the change.

**ART. 4 . . .** When two or more live-ball fouls (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike) are committed during the same down by the same team (multiple fouls), only one penalty may be enforced. The designated representative of the offended team may choose which one shall be administered, or all penalties may be declined. When a team commits a nonplayer or unsportsmanlike foul during that same down, it is administered from the succeeding spot as established by the acceptance or declination of the penalty for the other foul.

**Crewsaver situation—if missed applied, at least one official must step in with the correct ruling.**

# YMTC 3



## SCENARIO

1st and 10, Flanagan ball at the South Broward 48. 5:17 left in the 4th quarter, clock running.  
Watch the Back Judge.

## DOWN & DISTANCE

1st & 10

## FIELD POSITION

Flanagan Ball — South  
Broward 48

## GAME SITUATION

4th Qtr — 5:17 — Clock  
Running

## KEY ON

Back Judge



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**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*

# YMTC 3 | Result



## FOUL

**Missed Call — Should Have Been Flagged | Unsportsmanlike Conduct — Flanagan WR (Emphatic Spike after TD)**

### ENFORCEMENT

Touchdown stands. Defense (South Broward) has the option to enforce the 15-yard UNS penalty on either the PAT or the succeeding kickoff.

### NEW DOWN & DISTANCE

Touchdown — PAT attempt or kickoff pending enforcement choice

### NEXT SERIES FROM

Defense chooses — PAT from the 18 or kickoff enforcement from the -25

### GAME CLOCK STATUS

Stopped — touchdown

### PLAY CLOCK STATUS

25

### RULE REFERENCE

Rule 9-5-1 — Unsportsmanlike Conduct / Rule 10-4-5 — Enforcement Options after TD

Note: This is the correct ruling had the flag been thrown.

Per The Crew Chief Notes: spikes this emphatic must be flagged. The foul was not called on the field.

# You Make the Call | Play #4



## SCENARIO

Point After Touchdown — PAT from the 3 yard line. You are going to see 3PAT attempts from this game.

**KEY ON:** R & U Responsibilities at the Snap

## DOWN & DISTANCE

PAT

## FIELD POSITION

3 Yard Line

## GAME SITUATION

Taravella vs. Coral Springs  
Charter

## KEY ON

R & U Responsibilities at  
the Snap





**Click here to Play Video**  
*(Opens in YouTube)*



## What's Your Call?

*After watching all three PATs — here's what to consider:*

1

**Did A have a player with a knee down  
7 yards back?**

---

This is the first requirement for the  
numbering exception. No knee down —  
no exception.

2

**Was the holder at least 7 yards deep  
with a kicker behind him?**

---

For a PAT/FG formation

*(10 yards applies to punt formation only.)*

3

**If no exception — did they have 5  
players numbered 50-79 on the line?**

---

Only four were on the line in all three  
plays. Should this have been flagged each  
time?

# You Make the Call | Play #4 — Result



**MISSED CALL — ALL THREE PATs:** Illegal numbering. Only 4 players numbered 50-79. No scrimmage kick formation. Foul should have been called at the snap on each play.

## THE FOUL

**Illegal Numbering — Live Ball Foul at the Snap**

**PAT Good:** Offense accepts — 5 yards from previous spot, replay the PAT.

**PAT No Good:** Defense declines the penalty — no replay, proceed to kickoff.

## RULE REFERENCE

Rule 2-14-2 — Definition of Scrimmage Kick Formation

Rule 7-5-2b — Numbering Exception Requirements

Both rules apply — formation did not qualify for exception and did not have required interior linemen.

## TO QUALIFY FOR THE NUMBERING EXCEPTION:

PAT/FG Formation: Holder at least 7 yards from the line of scrimmage with a kicker behind him.

Punt Formation: Punter at least 10 yards from the line of scrimmage. Neither condition was met on any of these three plays.



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