



2026

Officiating Standards Safety Fouls



Officiating Standards



- **Safety Fouls:**
 - **Slow Down; See the Foul, Think the Foul, Call the foul**
 - **All elements of the foul**
 - **Focus on your primary coverage**
- **All Other Fouls:**
 - **Three Points of Philosophy**
 - **Primary Coverage Area**
 - **Point of Attack (POA)**
 - **Advantage/Disadvantage**
 - **Slow Down; See the Foul, Think the Foul, Call the foul**
 - **Make sure all elements of the foul exist**



Safety Fouls



- **Targeting**
- **Spearing / Illegal Helmet Contact**
- **Horse collar Tackle**
- **Blindside Block**
- **Clipping**
- **Chop Block**
- **Block Below Waist**
- **Tripping**
- **Late Hit**
- **Unnecessary Roughness away from play**
- **UNR Defenseless Receiver**



Flagrant Fouls



Definition: A foul so severe or extreme that it places an opponent in danger of serious injury, and/or involves violations that are extremely or persistently vulgar or abusive conduct.



Flagrant Fouls



Indicators of Flagrant Fouls:

- **Time/Distance**
- **Acceleration**
- **Low to High (Launch)**
- **High Aim Point**
- **Impact Acceleration**

Factors that Indicate a Non-Flagrant Foul:

- **Time/Distance**
- **Stationary or Minimal Forward Movement**
- **Low (or lowering) Aim Point**
- **Target compression**
- **Impact Reduction**



2026 New Rules



9-4-7: No Player may use the hand(s) to slap an Opponent's head.

See 2-20-2 Targeting Definition

**9-4-3(p) (editorial change): Defenseless
“Receiver” protections extended to (2-32-16(e))
returner attempting to catch or recover a kick.**



2026 New Rules



Defenseless Receiver During Kick Consideration:

- **Kick Catching Interference**
- **First Touching**
- **Penalty Enforcement – 10-4-2 Exception**



Targeting



Definition: An Act by any player who takes aim and initiates contact against an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders

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Information Deck





Targeting



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Targeting



Shows contact with the helmet to the opponent's chin/helmet

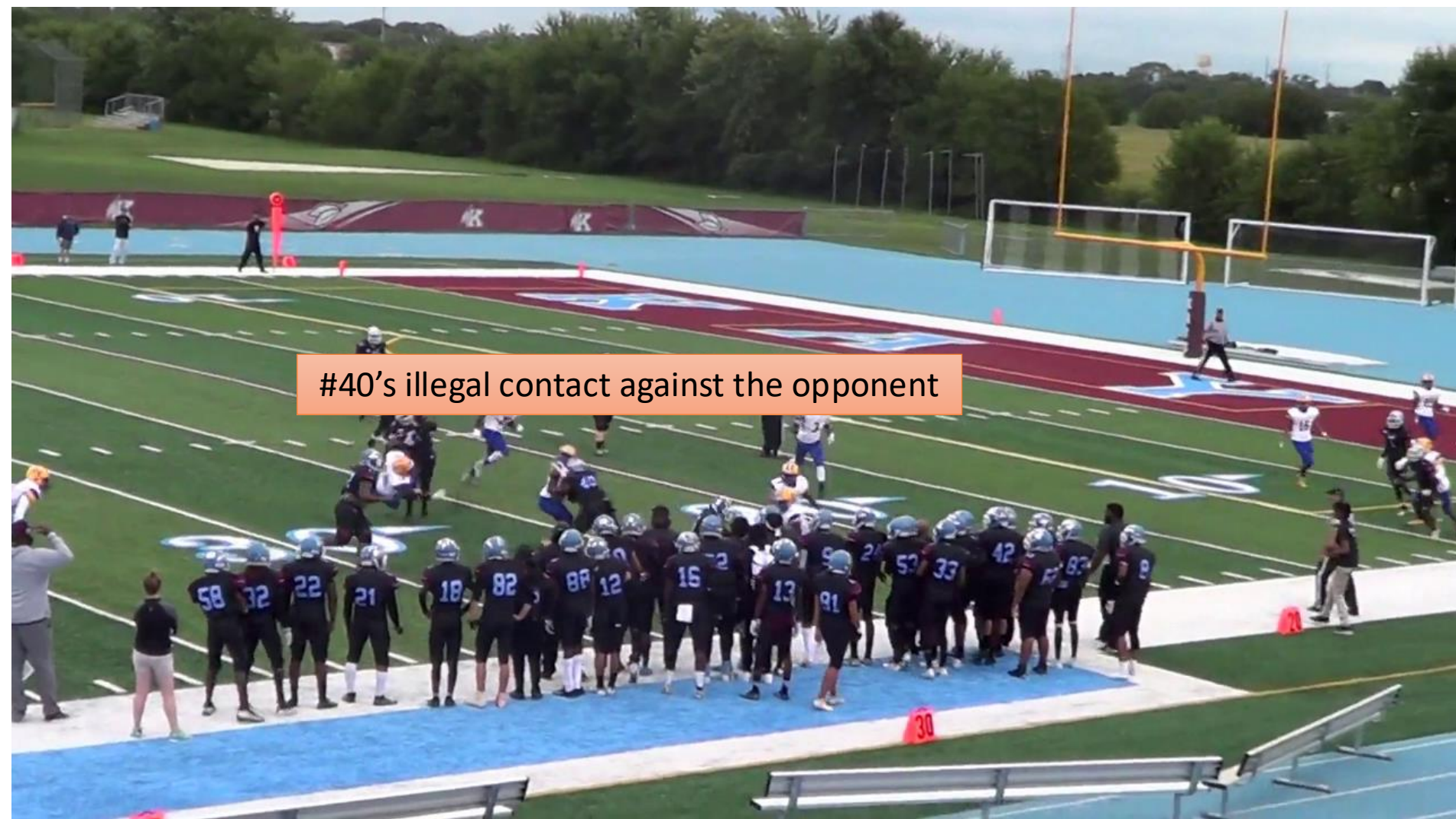




Targeting



#40's illegal contact against the opponent





Targeting



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Targeting



Approach to contact with defender lowering his helmet



Targeting



Defender making contact with the crown of his helmet

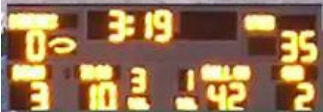


No Foul for Targeting



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No Foul for Targeting



Point of contact





Quarterback Slide



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IHSA CLASS 4A STATE FINAL

1ST AND 10



ROCHESTER

12



MONTINI

34

04:04

3RD



Quarterback Slide



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Quarterback Slide



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Defenseless Receiver



9-4-3(p): Permissible Contact on a receiver limited to:

- **Incidental Contact playing ball;**
- **Open Hand Contact; and**
- **Attempt to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around receiver**

Any other contact is a personal foul.



Defenseless Receiver



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Defenseless Receiver



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Defenseless Receiver



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Defenseless Receiver



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Punching at the Ball



9-4-3(j) – Strike an opponent with his fist, locked hands, forearm or elbow, nor kick or knee him.

CB 9.4.1 Sit C: Comment: This specific situation is intended to depict an act which is clearly a **personal foul and not inadvertent contact resulting from an attempt to dislodge the football. Game officials must continually use prudent judgment and see the entire play in order to view these types of acts in the proper context. If it is judged by the game official that this contact is **excessive**, but is not an act to be construed as fighting, the personal foul would result in an ejection for striking.**



Punching at the Ball



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JOHNSBURG

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1st & 10

1st

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Punching at the Ball



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(Opens in YouTube)

CLASS 7A STATE FINAL

3RD AND 2



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Flagrant Fouls



Indicators of Flagrant Fouls:

- **Time/Distance**
- **Acceleration**
- **Low to High (Launch)**
- **High Aim Point**
- **Impact Excalating**

Mitigating Factors:

- **Time/Distance**
- **Stationary or Minimal Forward Movement**
- **Low (or lowering) Aim Point**
- **Target compression**
- **Impact Reduction**