

2016 AIA Football Rule & Mechanic Experiments



Experiment Background

The Arizona Interscholastic Association continues to be a leader in player safety with the experimentation and development of new rules that enhance player safety.

As in the past, the AIA will again be running both rule and officiating mechanics experiments in conjunction with the NFHS. The data and information collected from these experiments will be reported to and utilized by the NFHS rules committee in order to determine the viability of future rule and mechanics changes.

All three experiments will be in effect for the 2016 football season.



Officiating Mechanics: Switching Sidelines



Wing Officials Switching Sidelines

- The head linesman (H) will work the first half on the Home team sideline. The line judge (L) will work the first half on the Visiting team sideline. H and L will switch sidelines at halftime.
- The chains will be positioned on the Head Linesman's sideline for each half. The ball personnel will be positioned with the Line Judge for each half.

Pre-Game w/ Head Coach

- Clarification from last year
- Slight addition to last year's experiment
- Get to home coach by 6:20
- BJ directly to 50 yd line OR clock operator
- H, L, U, with R to HOME Head Coach
- U & L intro (equipment verification) and LEAVE
- H STAYS with R HOME Head Coach
- R, HL, meets U & LJ at 50 to meet w/ visiting coach
- U & H intro (equipment verification) and LEAVE
- L STAYS with R & Visiting Head Coach



Victory Formation Protocol



Victory Formation Protocol

- Development of a procedure to have the end of games handled consistently when the game is no longer in doubt.
- When a team is ahead by 9 or more points, and can take a knee(s) to run out all of the remaining clock, officials will have the leading team declare their intentions.
- This can be one or multiple plays depending on the down and time left.

Victory Formation Protocol

- If the leading team wishes to take a knee the officials will inform the opposing team.
- Officials will then pinch in and ensure that both teams finish the game in a sportsmanlike manner.
- If the offense does not take a knee after declaring their intention to, it would be considered an unfair act.
- This does not apply if the offense fumbles the snap.

Blindside Block Experiment



Define the Action

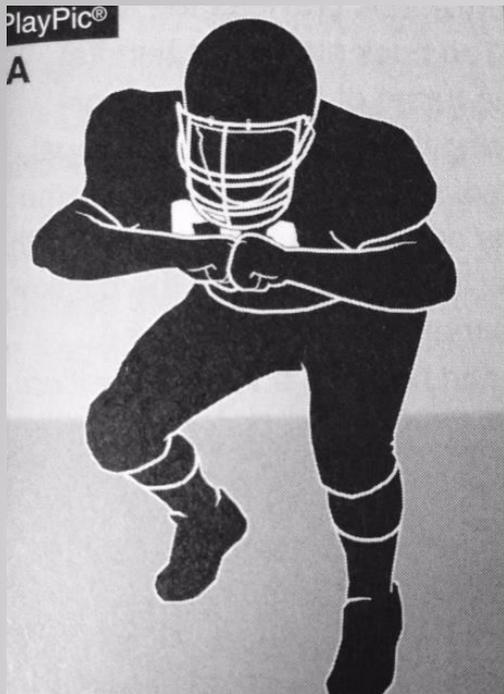
Coaches and game officials must work together to minimize risk to players from unnecessary and excessive contact by proper coaching from coaches and assessment of penalties by game officials.

Blindside Blocks create a high probability of creating unnecessary or excessive contact.

Blindside Block... A blindside block is any forceful block, outside the free blocking zone, against a defenseless player who does not have a reasonable opportunity to see the blocker approach.

Define the Suspect Blocking Style

Blindside shoulder blocks are especially dangerous because the blocker is often running at full speed while the opponent is in the process of turning or moving laterally in pursuit of the runner.

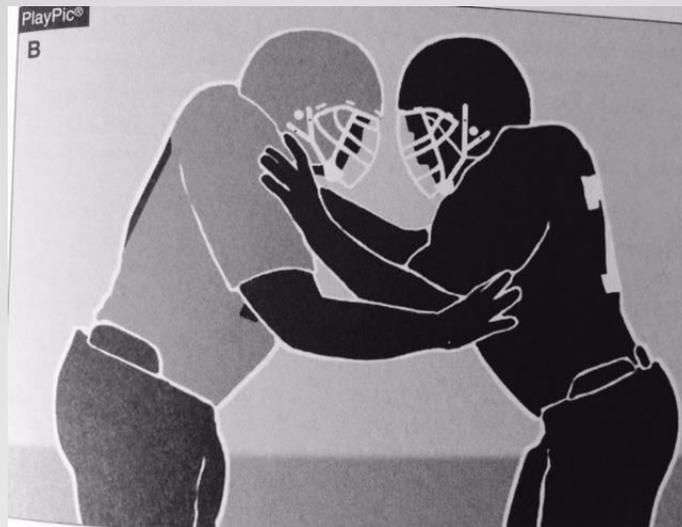


Four most commonly used blindside block techniques.

- Shoulder Dip
- Shoulder Drive
- Shoulder Thrust
- Shoulder Launch

Interpretation

This interpretation defines blindside blocks and limits legal blindside blocks to those initiated with the blocker's head up and with the open hand blocking technique. This does not eliminate all blindside blocks, only those initiated illegally.



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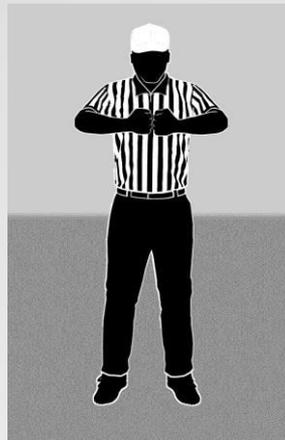
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Experimental Rule

Definition: A blindside block is any forceful block, outside the free blocking zone, against a defenseless player who does not have a reasonable opportunity to see the blocker approach.

Foul: No player or nonplayer shall...

n. Deliver a blindside block to an opponent unless initiated with open hands.



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Experimental Data Collection

1. Varsity crews will report any blind side blocks called throughout the season (Quarter/Time/#).
1. Varsity crews will also report borderline no calls that the officials chose not to penalize due to low risk factors (open hands, no launch, head up, etc.).
1. These plays will be found via hudl and evaluated on a weekly basis to determine the direction and focus of weekly training videos. Coaches are encouraged to send their game film weekly to the Arizona Football Officials Association hudl account.
1. All officials and varsity head coaches will be asked to respond to a survey about the experiment at the conclusion of the season.

Summary

The experimental rule is designed to protect the recipients of blindside blocks from being punished by driving or launching style shoulder hits.

When delivering a blindside block, blockers must initiate with the head up/open hand blocking technique.