



Football: Volume I, Bulletin 2
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Uniform Pants and Pads

This will likely not be the last time that this is addressed in a bulletin, but we are still seeing many instances where players (primarily backs and receivers) are either not wearing proper padding, or are not wearing their uniforms properly over the padding. This is especially prevalent with knees pads and pants.

All players must wear knees pads that cover the entire knee, are not altered from the manufacturer's design, and **are worn in the proper manner**. Lately, a fad of player "rolling up" their knee pads so that the pad is inside-out even while still covering the knee completely. This *is not legal*. We are also seeing many more instances of pads being worn inside compression pants or shorts. This *is legal* as long as the pads meet the standards set out in the rules; however, the uniform pants must still entirely cover both the knee pad and knee. Players should not be allowed to wear a compression short/pad combination that covers the knee, but only have their pants reach the top of their knee.

Another question has involved these requirements as they relate to braces. In all enforcement we should utilize good judgment. Please take into consideration the difficulty of the uniform pants extending ovetop a medical brace. Also, if you recognize that a player is not wearing the equipment properly, **and it can be fixed within before the next play without a stoppage of the play clock**, address it by informing the player to correct the issue. If they do not have the proper equipment, they cannot correct it within a reasonable time, or the players are lined up and the ball is ready to be snapped, the official should stop play and call an official's time out. The affected player(s) is removed from the field for one play. The play clock will be reset to 25 seconds.

This, of course, is different than a player wearing illegal equipment. When this occurs, the official will call a timeout, remove the player, and an unsportsmanlike penalty will be charged to the head coach under Rule 9-8-1h. In all of the above cases, there is no opportunity for a team to circumvent the "player removal" requirement by calling a timeout of their own. The player must sit out one play, except for when halftime or an intermission before overtime occurs.

Illegal Shift or Illegal Motion

Both the illegal shift and illegal motion penalties are live ball offensive fouls created at the snap. This means the officials should permit the play to continue and allow the defense to accept or decline the penalties. Illegal motion is when (1) two players are in motion at the snap, or (2) when a player in motion is moving towards the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped, or (3) when a player that starts on the line of scrimmage is in motion less than 5 yards from the LOS at the snap and before he has established himself by stopping in the backfield for at least one second. An illegal shift occurs when all 11 players have not come to a complete stop for at least one second following a huddle or shift to a new set position. A player in motion at the snap is not a shift.

Play to Consider

3rd and 7 on B's 45. The TE begins his motion parallel to the LOS towards the opposite end of the line. He stops, turns and faces the LOS, and moves into a three-point stance. Just as his hand touches the ground, the ball is snapped. The ball is handed off for a six yard gain. Is there a foul? If so, what is the foul? If there is a foul, what is the down and distance if the penalty is accepted and if it is declined? Check back next bulletin for the proper ruling.