

NFHS Rule and Case Ruling regarding Backs

Rule 2, Section 32, Article 3

A back is an A player who has no part of his body breaking the plane of an imaginary line drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the nearest teammate who is legally on the line, **except for the player under the snapper, who is also considered a back.**

Rule 2, Section 43, Article 2

A is the team which puts the ball in play. The opponent is B.

Rule 7, Section 2, Article 3

Of the players of A who are not on their line at the snap only one may penetrate the vertical plane through the waistline of his nearest teammate who is on the line. He must have his hands in position to receive the ball if it is snapped between the snapper's legs but is not required to receive the snap. Any other player(s) must be in legal position as a back. (See 2-32-3)

2.32.3 SITUATION

A players assume their pre-snap positions. A1 takes a position behind the line of scrimmage as a potential runner. A1 is standing and is turned so he is directly facing the quarterback.

At the snap, A1's shoulder and elbow are breaking the plane through the waist of his nearest teammate who is on the line.

RULING:

Since A1 is not on the line and is not positioned as a back, it results in an illegal formation. To be a back, A1 cannot have any part of his body breaking the plane through the waist of his nearest teammate who is on the line.