

# **SHAKOPEE YOUTH FOOTBALL**

## **COMMON NFHS RULE MISCONCEPTIONS**

Keep in mind and remind your parents that the football they are watching here is NOT the same as what they watch on Sundays (i.e. NFL). There are many rule differences that many people may not realize or understand. Here are some policy and rule misconceptions that parents (and coaches) may not know about.

- Player safety will be the primary rule of enforcement!
- There is no such thing as an Uncatchable Pass in high school. If there is contact while the pass is in flight, regardless if the pass was thrown into the stands, it's 15 yards and an automatic 1st down.
- It IS pass interference if any player (offense or defense) hinders an opponent's vision without making an attempt to catch, intercept, or bat the ball, even if no contact is made. (Rule 7 Sec. 5 Art. 10b)
- Free-Block Zone (4 yards either side of the snap and 3 yards behind each LOS):
  - Blocking below the waist IS permitted in the free-blocking zone by offensive linemen who are on the LOS and in the zone at the snap and the contact is in the zone.
  - Clipping & blocking in the back ARE permitted in the free-blocking zone by offensive linemen who are on the LOS and in the zone at the snap, and is against defensive players who are in the zone at the snap, and the contact is in the zone.
  - The free-blocking zone disintegrates and the above exceptions above are not to continue once the ball has left the zone. (Rule 2 Sec. 17)
- Neutral Zone. If a defensive player jumps into the neutral zone it is an immediate penalty. (Rule 7 Sec. 1 Art. 6)
- Kicks into the end zone cannot be run out. It's a touchback. (Rule 8 Sec. 5 Art. 3)
- Myth: "The ball isn't dead until the whistle blows!" The whistle merely draws everyone's attention to a ball which is already dead.
- Mouthguards do NOT have to be attached to the facemask, but they cannot be clear or white-colored. (Rule 1 Sec. 5 Art. 1c(5c))
- Simply grabbing the player by the shoulder pads is NOT a horse-collar. Horse-collar is defined as "grabbing the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey of the runner and subsequently pull that opponent to the ground". (Rule 9 Sec. 4 Art. 3k)