

## 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

### Referee - Game Day & Pre-Game Responsibilities

You're the Game Manager. This starts by being organized. Make sure your crew is prepared, on time and ready to work a game.

Hold Pre-Game (Game Officials Manual - p12) weekly, assign topics to crew members (case plays, video review and scouting reports, etc)

Preventive Officiating; Managing the Flow of the Game; Philosophy; Foul Threshold (If you "Think it's a foul," it's Not a Foul);

Sideline Management: **(9-4-8 Unintentional Contact: S38-S29/15 yds) (9-8-3 Restricted Area: S15; S7-29/5 yds; S7-S29-S27/15 yds)**

Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA]. Work on Consistent Ready for Play Signal & Penalty Signal(s)

R is responsible for knowing location of security & game administration.

Any game official may join Referee at Pre-Game Meeting with Coaches. Review Wing Officials with Head Coach

Walk the field with crew in professional manner. Perform duties per MSHSAA handout.

R- Introduce Yourself to Chain Crew and Ball Boys. Thank them!

**Coin Toss** (p108): Referee can either face or have back to scoreboard.

### Fouls / Penalties

CREW: Don't fish in someone else's pond. However, assist with information when necessary.

Calling official to provide (1) Results of the play, (2) Status of the ball when the foul occurred, (3) Foul, O/D/K/R & number. (020)

Wing Officials: Convey Foul / Penalty information to both Head Coaches. Obtain penalty choice from the offended teams Head Coach.

All officials have an obligation to enforce the penalty correctly. If it doesn't feel right, get together and discuss.

Officials should verify clock is stopped during penalty enforcement.

Each official on your crew MUST know the Rules. Know your foul/penalty expert.

Consider writing fouls on Game Card. (B notate fouls called by R).

Offended Teams Option to Start Clock on Snap on Accepted Penalty under 2 minutes **(3-4-7)**; Consider assigning B as under 2 min expert.

### Game Officials Manual Points of Emphasis

Penalty Communication, Forward Progress, Free Kick Coverage

### Recent Rule Changes

Forward Fumbles OOB's to be Returned to the Spot of the Fumble. Rule 9-4-7 (slapping blockers head) applies to both Offense and Defense.

#### All Officials Duties During Game

B; Responsible for all timing situations, Kicking & Passing Game

H & L = Responsible for Forward Progress & Sideline Control

U = Responsible for assisting R on Penalty Enforcement & Inside Game

Focus on Being a Great Dead Ball Official (p6)

Always Hustle During the play

All officials need to be aware of the play/game clock status

Know your Key & # before the snap

#### Referee Pre-Snap Position & Ritual

Be on the passing arm of QB

Starting Position: 15 yds. deep / 5 yds. wide

Know your QB's and his abilities & adjust

Too Deep = You're not Involved in the play

Too Short = Get caught inside / dangerous

R => 100% responsible for QB safety

KEY: Opposite Tackle/Backs

### Free Kicks / Be Alert for Short Kick

| Position: | Responsibility #1:                                                   | Responsibility #2:                             | Count: |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| R @ GL    | Ensure there are 4 players on each side of the kicker <b>(6-1-4)</b> | Momentum Rule [Bag it] <b>(8-5-2a)</b>         | R      |
| U @ 50YL  | Encroachment by R & 1st touching by K                                | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB)                 | K      |
| L @ GL    | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks                      | Progress on your side of the field             | R      |
| B @ 40YL  | Encroachment by K*. Pop Up Kick                                      | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB) & K's Goal Line | K      |
| H @ GL    | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks                      | Progress on your side of the field             | R      |

\*Officiate K's Free Kick Line as a Plane for Short Kicks

Forced Touching = No Touching = Ignore It (6-1-6)

When the kick is over - Spot the ball on a yard line to start the series

### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                             |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pop Up Kick <b>(2-24-10) (6-1-11)</b>                                                                                     |                                                                                             | <b>S7 - S19</b> - 5 yards   |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) <b>(2-17) (9-3-2)</b>                                                                         |                                                                                             | <b>S40</b> - 15 yards       |
| Block in the Back (IBB) <b>(9-3-6)</b>                                                                                    | Make sure it's from the back, not in the side                                               | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards       |
| Blindside Block (BSB) <b>(2-3-10) (9-4-3n)</b>                                                                            |                                                                                             | <b>S38 - S26</b> - 15 yards |
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) <b>(6-5-6)</b>                                                                           | <b>S33</b> : Options: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, OR 15 yards previous spot |                             |
| Holding <b>(9-2-3c)</b>                                                                                                   | Make sure Holding is at the POA                                                             | <b>S42</b> - 10 yards       |
| Kick out of Bounds (KOB) <b>(6-1-9)</b>                                                                                   | <b>S19</b> : Options: 5 yds / Re-Kick; 5 yds succeeding spot, OR 25 yds. from previous spot |                             |
| K initiating contact prior to kick traveling 10 yds; Eligible to recover FK; R initiates block in NZ (IBK) <b>(9-3-7)</b> |                                                                                             | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards (IBK) |
| Blocking <b>(6-5-1)</b> after signaling Valid <b>(2-9-3)</b> or Invalid Fair Catch Signal <b>(2-9-4)</b>                  |                                                                                             | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards (IBS) |

## 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

### Referee - Running Play

Count Team A players; Confirm with U; identify Eligible Backs/Receivers  
 One Second count following huddle or shift (7-2-6)  
 Ball, runner, action around runner & blocks behind NZ  
 Know Reverse G/L mechanics. R has G/L when Reverse Mechanics in Effect.

#### Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA]. Work on Consistent Ready for Play Signal & Penalty Signal(s)

|                                                                                    |                                                   |                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                         | Make sure Holding is at the POA                   | S42 - 10 yards                  |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK) |                                                   |                                 |
| Facemask (9-4-3h)                                                                  | Major Grasp & Turn (FMM) vs. Incidental           | S38-S45 - 15 yds vs S45 - 5 yds |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                            |                                                   | S38 - S26 - 15 yards            |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                    | Make sure it's on the back, not the side          | S43 - 10 yards                  |
| UNS (9-5) / Personal Foul (PF) (9-4)                                               | Be Alert for Off Ball Type Fouls. Talk & Prevent! | S27 / S38 - 15 yards            |
| Illegal Substitution (ILS) (3-7) / Formation (ILF) (7-2)                           |                                                   | S22 / S19 - 5 yards             |
| Illegal Motion (ILM) (7-2-7) / Illegal Shift (ISH) (7-2-6)                         |                                                   | S20 - 5 yards                   |

### Referee - Passing Play

**Stay with / protect the QB;** Rule on Illegal Forward Pass (7-5-2)  
 Rule on Forward / Backward Pass behind LOS (2-31-2 / 2-31-5)  
**Continue to officiate behind LOS before you leave players. Don't PEEK at the pass.**  
**After Pass is Thrown:** Be Very LOUD / VOCAL. Alert the Defense the ball is gone / thrown. **Know where QB released ball - potential ING**

#### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                          |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Intentional Grounding (ING) (7-5-2d, e)                                                                                                    | Obtain help from wing officials when required                                            | S36-S9 - 5 yards & LOD |
| Illegal Touching (ITP) (7-5-13)                                                                                                            |                                                                                          | S16-S9 - 5 yards & LOD |
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                                                                                 | Holding at the POA with visible restriction                                              | S42 - 10 yards         |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK)                                                         |                                                                                          |                        |
| DPI (Requires Contact) (7-5-10)                                                                                                            | No DPI if ball touched in flight (7-5-9c)                                                | S33 - 15 yards         |
| Arm Bar (DPI/AB); Cutoff (DPI/CO); Grab & Restrict (DPI/GR); Hook & Turn (DPI/HT); Not Playing ball (DPI/NPB); Playing Thru Back (DPI/PTB) |                                                                                          |                        |
| OPI (Starts at Snap) (7-5-10)                                                                                                              | No OPI for eligible A if ball touched in flight (7-5-9a)                                 | S33 - 15 yards         |
| Blocking Downfield (OPI/BD); Creating Separation (OPI/CS); Driving Thru (OPI/DT); Pickoff (OPI/PO)                                         |                                                                                          |                        |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                                                                                    |                                                                                          | S38 - S26 - 15 yards   |
| Contact on Defenseless Player (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)                                                                                 |                                                                                          | S38 - 15 yards         |
| Roughing the Passer (RPS) (9-4-4)                                                                                                          | S34-S8 - 15 yds/AFD from dead ball spot when beyond NZ, or 15 yds/AFD from Previous Spot |                        |

### Referee - Scrimmage Kick Play

**Starting Position:** 3-5 yds. O/S TE & 2-3 yds. Behind Kicker. **Key:** All backs! **Primary Responsibility:** Fouls on Kicker  
 R/U communicate when K is in 'scrimmage kick formation'  
 Line up Covering Officials on a KOB; Stay alert for players *swimming upstream* and hits on Defenseless Players  
 Help H cover goal line on long returns  
 Any K player may advance scrimmage kick when it is in or behind the NZ (6-2-3)  
**PSK Fouls (2-16-2h):** (1) Ball crosses Expanded NZ; (2) Foul occurs beyond Expanded NZ; (3) Foul before end of kick; (4) K will not put ball in play.  
**First Touching by K (6-2-5). Consequences of touching eliminated if offsetting fouls, or accepted foul.**

#### Probable Penalties:

|                                                  |                                                                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Roughing Kicker (RRK) / Holder (RFH) (9-4-5)     |                                                                                      | S38-S30-S8 - 15 yards & AFD |
| Running into Kicker (RNK) / Holder (RNH) (9-4-5) |                                                                                      | S30 - 5 yards               |
| Illegal Kick (KIK) (6-2-1)                       | Kicking ball beyond LOS                                                              | S31 - 15 yards              |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)          |                                                                                      | S38 - S26 - 15 yards        |
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) (6-5-6)         | S33: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, OR 15 yards previous spot & Re-Kick |                             |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) (2-17) (9-3-2)       |                                                                                      | S40 - 15 yards              |

# 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

| Umpire - Pre-Game & Game Day Management Responsibilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Know the Player Equipment Rules (1-5)<br>Assist R in knowing location of security & game administration.<br>You're the #1 Assistant to the Referee in controlling the Tempo of the Game & Establishing the Ready for Play<br>Walk the field with crew in professional manner. Perform duties per MSHSAA handout.<br>Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA]<br>Work on Consistent Ball placement (set ball prior to 25 sec remaining on play clock)                                                                                               |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Fouls / Penalties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| CREW: Don't fish in someone else's pond.<br>If you "Think it's a foul," ... it's Not a Foul. Be the official who helps R on all Foul Enforcements Be R's - Foul Expert<br>"See everything you call, but don't call everything you see"; "Make it Big"; "Make it be There"<br>Remember to Stop the Clock for fouls that prevent the snap.<br>Calling official to provide (1) Results of the play, (2) Status of the ball when the foul occurred, (3) Foul, O/D/K/R & number. (020)<br>ALL PENALTIES: Confirm with R. Communicate with H & L on Enforcement |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Game Officials Manual Points of Emphasis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Penalty Communication, Forward Progress, Free Kick Coverage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Recent Rule Changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Forward Fumbles OOB's to be Returned to the Spot of the Fumble. Rule 9-4-7 (slapping blockers head) applies to both Offense and Defense.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| All Officials Duties During Game                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               | Umpire Pre-Snap Position & Ritual                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                |
| B; Responsible for all timing situations, Kicking & Passing Game<br>H & L = Responsible for Forward Progress & Sideline Control<br>U = Responsible for assisting R on Penalty Enforcement & Inside Game<br>Focus on Being a Great Dead Ball Official<br>Always Hustle During the play<br>All officials need to be aware of the play/game clock status<br>Know your Key & # before the snap                                                                                                                                                                |                                                               | Starting Position = 5 to 10 yards deep<br>Move to position to see the ball<br>Too Deep = You're not Involved in the play<br>Too Short = Get caught inside / dangerous<br>Confirm Count of Team A players with R<br>Five players #50-79; False Start<br>Note position of ball between hash marks<br>KEY(S): Guard/Center/Guard |                |
| Free Kicks / Be Alert for Short Kick                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Position:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Responsibility #1:                                            | Responsibility #2:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Count:         |
| R @ GL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ensure there are 4 players on each side of the kicker (6-1-4) | Momentum Rule [Bag it] (8-5-2a)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | R              |
| U @ 50YL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Encroachment by R & 1st touching by K                         | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | K              |
| L @ GL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks               | Progress on your side of the field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | R              |
| B @ 40YL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Encroachment by K*. Pop Up Kick                               | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB) & K's Goal Line                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | K              |
| H @ GL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks               | Progress on your side of the field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | R              |
| *Officiate K's Free Kick Line as a Plane for Short Kicks<br>Forced Touching = No Touching = Ignore It (6-1-6)<br>When the kick is over - SPOT the ball on a yard line to start the series                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Probable Penalties:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Pop Up Kick (2-24-10) (6-1-11)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                               | S7 - S19 - 5 yards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) (2-17) (9-3-2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                               | S40 - 15 yards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                               | Make sure it's from the back, not in the side                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | S43 - 10 yards |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                               | S38 - S26 - 15 yards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) (6-5-6)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                               | S33: Options: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, OR 15 yards previous spot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |
| Holding (9-2-3c)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               | Make sure Holding is at the POA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | S42 - 10 yards |
| Kick out of Bounds (KOB) (6-1-9)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               | S19: Options: 5 yds / Re-Kick; 5 yds succeeding spot, OR 25 yds. from previous spot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |
| K initiating contact prior to kick traveling 10 yds; Eligible to recover FK; R initiates block in NZ (IBK) (9-3-7)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                               | S43 - 10 yards (IBK)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |
| Blocking (6-5-1) after signaling Valid (2-9-3) or Invalid Fair Catch Signal (2-9-4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                               | S43 - 10 yards (IBS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |
| Field Goal / Try Inside B-20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |
| Position                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Responsibility #1:                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Count:         |
| R                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2-3 yds behind & 7-10 yds to side of Kicker facing holder     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | K              |
| U                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Behind end line and Goal Post on Press Box Side               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | K              |
| H                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | R              |
| L                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | R              |
| B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Behind end line and Goal Post Opposite of Press Box           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | R              |

## 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

### Umpire - Running Play

**Primary Responsibility:** Free Blocking Zone @ POA. Illegal Blocks

**When Play is Over:** Become a presence with your voice (not your whistle)! Your job is to control the middle Hustle to obtain the ball at the end of the play. Spot It and get back into position ASAP.  
When the game clock is stopped, stand over ball & face Referee until released by R  
Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA].

Any Run toward you [Protect Yourself] and Observe Blocks at the POA

Don't insert yourself into the game. Majority of your calls are HOLDING. Make sure these calls are BIG HOLDS.

**Goal Line Mechanics:** **DO NOT** block the view of H & L at the G/L. **DO NOT** give 'secret signal' for ball breaking plane.

#### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                    |                                                   |                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                         | Make sure Holding is at the POA                   | <b>S42</b> - 10 yards                         |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK) |                                                   |                                               |
| Chop Block (CHB) (2-3-8) (9-3-6)                                                   | High / Low - With or Without Delay                | <b>S41</b> - 15 yards                         |
| Facemask by Defense (9-4-3h)                                                       | Major Grasp & Turn (FMM) vs. Incidental           | <b>S38-S45</b> - 15 yds vs <b>S45</b> - 5 yds |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                            |                                                   | <b>S38</b> - <b>S26</b> - 15 yards            |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                    | Make sure it's on the back, not the side          | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards                         |
| UNS (9-5) / Personal Foul (PF) (9-4)                                               | Be Alert for Off Ball Type Fouls. Talk & Prevent! | <b>S27 / S38</b> - 15 yards                   |

### Umpire - Passing Play

**Primary Responsibility:** Free Blocking Zones @ POA. Illegal Blocks

Read Pass - Move towards NZ; Cover short pass over middle; Know where forward pass touches anything, and if pass crosses NZ  
Assist R on Illegal Forward Pass beyond NZ

#### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                    |                                             |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Illegal Touching (ITP) (7-5-13)                                                    |                                             | <b>S16-S9</b> - 5 yards & LOD      |
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                         | Holding at the POA with visible restriction | <b>S42</b> - 10 yards              |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK) |                                             |                                    |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                            |                                             | <b>S38</b> - <b>S26</b> - 15 yards |
| Unnecessary contact on a defenseless player                                        | (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)                | <b>S38</b> - 15 yards              |
| All officials need to be aware of the play/game clock status                       |                                             |                                    |

### Umpire - Scrimmage Kick Plays (Punts)

**Starting Position:** 5-10 yards deep, favoring the L's side of the field, keeping snap in view. Count K players.

R/U communicate when K is in 'Scrimmage Kick Formation'

**Primary Responsibility:** Numbering Exceptions (7-2-5b1); Be alert to illegal contact on the snapper ("Snapper is Protected")

All officials need to be aware of the play/game clock status

Be alert to the Pull & Shoot by Defense. This is HOLDING

Assist H in determining if the ball crosses the NZ. Any K player may advance scrimmage kick when it is in or behind the NZ (6-2-3)

Stay disciplined & alert for players "swimming upstream" to Cherry Pick Defenseless Players

Be alert for Hurdling by defensive players (2-22) (9-4-3d)

**PSK Fouls (2-16-2h);** (1) Ball crosses Expanded NZ; (2) Foul occurs beyond Expanded NZ; (3) Foul before end of kick; (4) K will not put ball in play  
**First Touching by K (6-2-5). Consequences of touching eliminated if offsetting fouls, or accepted foul**

#### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                    |                                          |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Roughing the Snapper (RTS) (9-4-6)                                                 |                                          | <b>S38-S8</b> - 15 yards & AFD     |
| Chop Block (CHB) (2-3-8) (9-3-6)                                                   | High / Low - With or Without Delay       | <b>S41</b> - 15 yards              |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                    | Make sure it's on the back, not the side | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards              |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) (2-17) (9-3-2)                                         |                                          | <b>S40</b> - 15 yards              |
| Illegal Kick (KIK) (6-2-1)                                                         | Kicking ball beyond LOS                  | <b>S31</b> - 15 yards              |
| Holding on Offense (6-2-1)                                                         | Make sure Holding is at the POA          | <b>S42</b> - 10 yards              |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK) |                                          |                                    |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                            |                                          | <b>S38</b> - <b>S26</b> - 15 yards |
| Unnecessary contact on a defenseless player                                        | (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)             | <b>S38</b> - 15 yards              |

### Field Goal / Try Outside B-20

|   | <u>Position</u>                                           | <u>Responsibility #1:</u>                      | <u>Count:</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| R | 2-3 yds behind & 7-10 yds to side of Kicker facing holder | Kicker / Holder                                | K             |
| U | 5-10 yards beyond LOS between B's defensive tackles       | Roughing Snapper, Numbering Exceptions, Blocks | K             |
| H | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks        | R             |
| L | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks        | R             |
| B | Behind end line under center of crossbar                  | Eligible #'s, Uprights(s)/Crossbar/Whistle     | R             |

# 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

## H & L - Pre-Game & Game Day Management Responsibilities

Positions require focus and concentration the entire game - EVERY PLAY matters on Forward Progress!  
 Sideline Management/Control is paramount throughout the game. Despite the heat, always be courteous with Head Coach.  
 Sideline Management (9-4-8: S38-S29/15 yds) (9-8-3: S15; S7-S29/5 yds; S7-S29-S27/15 yds)  
**H/L** - Provide Instructions to Chain Crew **H/L** - Provide Instructions to Ball Boys on Your Side.  
 Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA]. Work on Consistent Ready for Play Signal & Penalty Signal(s)  
 Be a Great Dead Ball Official  
**Coin Toss:** L bring out Kicking ball

## Fouls / Penalties

**CREW:** Don't fish in someone else's pond.  
 If you "Think it's a foul," ... it's Not a Foul. **Was an Advantage Gained on DPI or OPI?** **Did it impact the play?**  
 "See everything you call, but don't call everything you see"; "Make it Big"; "Make it be There"; Be Consistent in Judgement  
 Calling official to provide (1) Results of the play, (2) Status of the ball when the foul occurred, (3) Foul, O/D/K/R & number. (020)  
 Convey Foul / Penalty information to both Head Coaches. Obtain penalty choice from the offended teams Head Coach.  
 Assist R on all UNS fouls - and remind them the 2nd UNS foul = DQ.

## Game Officials Manual Points of Emphasis

Penalty Communication, Forward Progress, Free Kick Coverage

## Recent Rule Changes

Forward Fumbles OOB's to be Returned to the Spot of the Fumble. Rule 9-4-7 (slapping blockers head) applies to both Offense and Defense.

## All Officials Duties During Game

B; Responsible for all timing situations, Kicking & Passing Game  
 H & L = Responsible for Forward Progress & Sideline Control  
 U = Responsible for assisting R on Penalty Enforcement & Inside Game  
**Focus on Being a Great Dead Ball Official**  
 Always Hustle During the play  
 All officials need to be aware of the game clock status  
 Know your Key & # before the snap

## H & L - Pre-Snap Position & Ritual

Count Defense / Confirm w/ B  
 Start at LOS 1 yard beyond the Sideline  
 Read the Formation / Unbalanced Line  
 Find your KEY: Tackle & I/S Receiver(s) & #'s  
**Stay on LOS until ball crosses NZ or pass is inevitable**  
**Know where the Line to Gain is located**  
**Square off on Forward Progress**

## Free Kicks / Always be Alert for Short Kick

| Position: | Responsibility #1:                                            | Responsibility #2:                             | Count: |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| R @ GL    | Ensure there are 4 players on each side of the kicker (6-1-4) | Momentum Rule [Bag it] (8-5-2a)                | R      |
| U @ 50YL  | Encroachment by R & 1st touching by K                         | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB)                 | K      |
| L @ GL    | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks               | Progress on your side of the field             | R      |
| B @ 40YL  | Encroachment by K*. Pop Up Kick                               | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB) & K's Goal Line | K      |
| H @ GL    | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks               | Progress on your side of the field             | R      |

\*Officiate K's Free Kick Line as a Plane for Short Kicks  
 Forced Touching = No Touching = Ignore It (6-1-6)  
 When the kick is over - SPOT the ball on a yard line to start the series.

## Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pop Up Kick (2-24-10) (6-1-11)                                                                                     | S7 - S19 - 5 yards                                                                  |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) (2-17) (9-3-2)                                                                         | S40 - 15 yards                                                                      |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                                                    | Make sure it's from the back, not in the side                                       |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                                                            | S43 - 10 yards                                                                      |
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) (6-5-6)                                                                           | S38 - S26 - 15 yards                                                                |
| Holding (9-2-3c)                                                                                                   | S33: Options: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, OR 15 yards previous spot |
| Kick out of Bounds (KOB) (6-1-9)                                                                                   | Make sure Holding is at the POA                                                     |
| K initiating contact prior to kick traveling 10 yds; Eligible to recover FK; R initiates block in NZ (IBK) (9-3-7) | S42 - 10 yards                                                                      |
| Blocking (6-5-1) after signaling Valid (2-9-3) or Invalid Fair Catch Signal (2-9-4)                                | S19: Options: 5 yds / Re-Kick; 5 yds succeeding spot, OR 25 yds. from previous spot |
|                                                                                                                    | S43 - 10 yards (IBK)                                                                |
|                                                                                                                    | S43 - 10 yards (IBS)                                                                |

## Field Goal / Try Inside B-20

|   | Position                                                  | Responsibility #1:                      | Count: |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| R | 2-3 yds behind & 7-10 yds to side of Kicker facing holder | Kicker / Holder                         | K      |
| U | Behind end line and Goal Post on Press Box Side           | Roughing Snapper, Eligible #'s, Upright | K      |
| H | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks | R      |
| L | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks | R      |
| B | Behind end line and Goal Post Opposite of Press Box       | Eligible #'s, Upright/Crossbar/Whistle  | R      |

# 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

## H & L - Running Play

**Primary Responsibilities:** FST, ENC, Illegal Blocks, Forward Progress, Substitutions (3-7), ILF (No More than 4 in backfield)

Use **Cross-Field Mechanics** for Forward Progress

**Run To Your Side:** Observe blocks in front of runner; **Run Away From Your Side:** Watch backside

Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA]

**Goal Line Mechanics: Own the G/L - it's yours!**

**Ball snapped between B-10 & B-5:** slowly release to G/L, Stay Ahead of Runner.

**Inside 5 YL:** Immediately release diagonally to the GL extended at the snap.

**Reverse Goal Line Mechanics:**

**Ball Snapped between A-5 and GL:** Immediately release to GL at the snap.

**Pinch in on all G/L Plays.** DO NOT get in a hurry. Don't signal TD until you have progress & ball.

### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                                |                                                   |                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                                     | Make sure Holding is at the POA                   | S42 - 10 yards                  |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK)             |                                                   |                                 |
| Illegal Participation (9-6-1, 9-6-2). Know if Receiver Steps OOBs on his own or is forced out? |                                                   | S28 - 15 yards                  |
| Facemask (9-4-3h)                                                                              | Major Grasp & Turn (FMM) vs. Incidental           | S38-S45 - 15 yds vs S45 - 5 yds |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                                        |                                                   | S38 - S26 - 15 yards            |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                                | Make sure it's on the back, not the side          | S43 - 10 yards                  |
| UNS (9-5) / Personal Foul (PF) (9-4)                                                           | Be Alert for Off Ball Type Fouls. Talk & Prevent! | S27 / S38 - 15 yards            |
| Illegal Substitution (ILS) (3-7)/ Formation (ILF) (7-2)                                        |                                                   | S22 / S19 - 5 yards             |
| Illegal Motion (ILM) (7-2-7)/ Illegal Shift (ISH) (7-2-6)                                      |                                                   | S20 - 5 yards                   |

## H & L - Passing Play

**Primary Responsibilities:** FST, ENC, Illegal Blocks, Forward Progress, Substitutions (3-7), DPI/OPI, ILF

**Read Pass:** Stay on LOS as long as possible. May release downfield after receiver has gone 12-15 yds downfield, or QB has released the ball.

Be ready to rule on direction of a quick pass (forward or backward), and if pass crosses NZ

### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Intentional Grounding (ING) (7-5-2d, e)                                                                                                    | Let R know if a receiver was in the area                 | S36-S9 - 5 yards & LOD |
| Illegal Touching (ITP) (7-5-13)                                                                                                            |                                                          | S16-S9 - 5 yards & LOD |
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                                                                                 | Holding at the POA with visible restriction              | S42 - 10 yards         |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK)                                                         |                                                          |                        |
| DPI (Now Requires Contact) (7-5-10)                                                                                                        | No DPI if ball touched in flight (7-5-9c)                | S33 - 15 yards         |
| Arm Bar (DPI/AB); Cutoff (DPI/CO); Grab & Restrict (DPI/GR); Hook & Turn (DPI/HT); Not Playing ball (DPI/NPB); Playing Thru Back (DPI/PTB) |                                                          |                        |
| OPI (Starts at Snap) (7-5-10)                                                                                                              | No OPI for eligible A if ball touched in flight (7-5-9a) | S33 - 15 yards         |
| Blocking Downfield (OPI/BD); Creating Separation (OPI/CS); Driving Thru (OPI/DT); Pickoff (OPI/PO)                                         |                                                          |                        |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                                                                                    |                                                          | S38 - S26 - 15 yards   |
| Unnecessary contact on a defenseless player                                                                                                | (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)                             | S38 - 15 yards         |
| All officials need to be aware of the play/game clock status                                                                               |                                                          |                        |

## H / L - Scrimmage Kick Play (Punts)

**L:** Slowly Release on the Snap

**H:** Hold LOS at Snap. Move downfield after ball crosses Neutral Zone. **Help determine if kick crosses Neutral Zone.**

Stay disciplined & alert for players "swimming upstream" to Cherry Pick Defenseless Players

**PSK Fouls (2-16-2h):** (1) Ball crosses Expanded NZ; (2) Foul occurs beyond Expanded NZ; (3) Foul before end of kick; (4) K will not put ball in play

First Touching by K (6-2-5): Bean Bag. **Consequences of touching eliminated if offsetting fouls, or accepted foul.**

### Probable Penalties:

|                                             |                                                                                      |                    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) (6-5-6)    | S33: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, or 15 yards previous spot & Re-Kick |                    |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)             | Make sure it's on the back, not the side                                             | S43 - 10 yards     |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) (2-17) (9-3-2)  |                                                                                      | S40 - 15 yards     |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)     |                                                                                      | S38-S26 - 15 yards |
| Unnecessary contact on a defenseless player | (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)                                                         | S38 - 15 yards     |

## Field Goal / Try Outside B-20

|   | Position                                                  | Responsibility #1:                             | Count: |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| R | 2-3 yds behind & 7-10 yds to side of Kicker facing holder | Kicker / Holder                                | K      |
| U | 5-10 yards beyond LOS between B's defensive tackles       | Roughing Snapper, Numbering Exceptions, Blocks | K      |
| H | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks        | R      |
| L | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks        | R      |
| B | Behind end line under center of crossbar                  | Eligible #'s, Uprights(s)/Crossbar/Whistle     | R      |

# 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

| Back Judge - Pre-Game & Game Day Management Responsibilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA].<br>Walk the field with crew in professional manner. Perform duties per MSHSAA handout.<br><b>Coin Toss:</b> Bring out Kicking Ball.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Fouls / Penalties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA].<br>If you "Think it's a foul," ... it's Not a Foul. Was an Advantage Gained on DPI, OPI or KCI? Did it impact the play?<br>"See everything you call, but don't call everything you see"; "Make it Big"; "Make it be There"; Be Consistent in Judgement<br>Calling official to provide (1) Results of the play, (2) Status of the ball when the foul occurred, (3) Foul, O/D/K/R & number. (020)<br>Assist R on all UNS fouls - and remind them the 2nd UNS foul = DQ.<br>Assist R with clock on penalties under two minutes <b>(3-4-7)</b> |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Game Officials Manual Points of Emphasis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Sportsmanship & Defenseless Player / Targeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Recent Rule Changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Forward Fumbles Out of Bounds to be Returned to the Spot of the Fumble 3-4-3, 4-3-1 EXCEPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| All Officials Duties During Game                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                      | Back Judge Pre-Snap Position & Ritual                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
| B; Responsible for all timing situations, Kicking & Passing Game<br>H & L = Responsible for Forward Progress & Sideline Control<br>U = Responsible for assisting R on Penalty Enforcement & Inside Game<br><b>Focus on Being a Great Dead Ball Official</b><br>Always Hustle During the play<br>All officials need to be aware of the game clock status<br>Know your Key & # before the snap                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      | B must <b>ALWAYS KNOW</b> the Status of Clock<br><b>Help R manage the Play/Game Clock</b><br>Starting Position = 20-25 yards deep<br>Ball Snapped Between B-10 & GL: start on EL<br>Ball Snapped Between B-10 & B-15; may start in EZ<br>Count Defense, Confirm with H/L<br>1st Move = Read the Play. Don't BAIL OUT.<br>Too Deep = You're not Involved in the play<br>Too Short = Get caught inside / dangerous<br><b>NEVER</b> Get Beat Deep |                       |
| <b>BALL MECHANICS:</b> Be Involved 99% of time. Learn and Use the Triangle Method for Ball.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Free Kicks / Always be Alert for Short Kick                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Position:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Responsibility #1:                                                   | Responsibility #2:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Count:                |
| R @ GL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ensure there are 4 players on each side of the kicker <b>(6-1-4)</b> | Momentum Rule [Bag it] <b>(8-5-2a)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | R                     |
| U @ 50YL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Encroachment by R & 1st touching by K                                | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | K                     |
| L @ GL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks                      | Progress on your side of the field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | R                     |
| B @ 40YL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Encroachment by K*. Pop Up Kick                                      | Illegal blocks (BSB, BBW, IBB) & K's Goal Line                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | K                     |
| H @ GL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Winding Clock When Touched by R, Illegal Blocks                      | Progress on your side of the field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | R                     |
| *Officiate K's Free Kick Line as a Plane for Short Kicks<br>Forced Touching = No Touching = Ignore It (6-1-6)<br>When the kick is over - SPOT the ball on a yard line to start the series                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Probable Penalties:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Pop Up Kick <b>(2-24-10) (6-1-11)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                      | <b>S7 - S19</b> - 5 yards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) <b>(2-17) (9-3-2)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                      | <b>S40</b> - 15 yards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |
| Block in the Back (IBB) <b>(9-3-6)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                      | Make sure it's from the back, not in the side                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards |
| Blindside Block (BSB) <b>(2-3-10) (9-4-3n)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                      | <b>S38 - S26</b> - 15 yards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) <b>(6-5-6)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                      | <b>S33:</b> Options: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, OR 15 yards previous spot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| Holding <b>(9-2-3c)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                      | Make sure Holding is at the POA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>S42</b> - 10 yards |
| Kick out of Bounds (KOB) <b>(6-1-9)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                      | <b>S19:</b> Options: 5 yds / Re-Kick; 5 yds succeeding spot, OR 25 yds. from previous spot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| K initiating contact prior to kick traveling 10 yds; Eligible to recover FK; R initiates block in NZ (IBK) <b>(9-3-7)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                      | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards (IBK)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
| Blocking <b>(6-5-1)</b> after signaling Valid <b>(2-9-3)</b> or Invalid Fair Catch Signal <b>(2-9-4)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      | <b>S43</b> - 10 yards (IBS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
| Field Goal / Try Inside B-20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
| Position                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Responsibility #1:                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Count:                |
| R                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2-3 yds behind & 7-10 yds to side of Kicker facing holder            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | K                     |
| U                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Behind end line and Goal Post on Press Box Side                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | K                     |
| H                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | R                     |
| L                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | R                     |
| B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Behind end line and Goal Post Opposite of Press Box                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | R                     |

# 2026 MSHSAA Position Checklist

## Back Judge - Running Play

**Primary Responsibilities:** Work Inside-Out Coverage. Keep play Boxed In.

**Key:** Widest Receiver(s) on Strong Side. Know receiver's #.

Counts defense / Confirm with H & L

Check Play/Game Clock

Always stay behind deepest WR. After the play - BE VOCAL with players. Presence!

Follow MSHSAA Mechanics & Guidelines [not NCAA]

### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                    |                                                   |                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                         | Make sure Holding is at the POA                   | S42 - 10 yards                  |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK) |                                                   |                                 |
| Facemask (9-4-3h)                                                                  | Major Grasp & Turn (FMM) vs. Incidental           | S38-S45 - 15 yds vs S45 - 5 yds |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                            |                                                   | S38 - S26 - 15 yards            |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)                                                    | Make sure it's on the back, not the side          | S43 - 10 yards                  |
| UNS (9-5) / Personal Foul (PF) (9-4)                                               | Be Alert for Off Ball Type Fouls. Talk & Prevent! | S27 / S38 - 15 yards            |

## Back Judge - Passing Play

**Primary Responsibilities:** Work Inside-Out Coverage. Keep play Boxed In.

**The Passing / Kicking Game is where a B earns their pay.**

Know Momentum Rule (8-5-2a)

Man  
Zone  
Ball

### Probable Penalties:

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Intentional Grounding (ING) (7-5-2d, e)                                                                                                    | Let R know if a receiver was in the area                 | S36-S9 - 5 yards & LOD |
| Illegal Touching (ITP) (7-5-13)                                                                                                            |                                                          | S16-S9 - 5 yards & LOD |
| Holding on Offense (9-2-1)                                                                                                                 | Holding at the POA with visible restriction              | S42 - 10 yards         |
| Grab & Restrict (OH-GR); Hook & Restrict (OH-HR); Takedown (OH-TD); Tackle (OH-TK)                                                         |                                                          |                        |
| DPI (Requires Contact) (7-5-10)                                                                                                            | No DPI if ball touched in flight (7-5-9c)                | S33 - 15 yards         |
| Arm Bar (DPI/AB); Cutoff (DPI/CO); Grab & Restrict (DPI/GR); Hook & Turn (DPI/HT); Not Playing ball (DPI/NPB); Playing Thru Back (DPI/PTB) |                                                          |                        |
| OPI (Starts at Snap) (7-5-10)                                                                                                              | No OPI for eligible A if ball touched in flight (7-5-9a) | S33 - 15 yards         |
| Blocking Downfield (OPI/BD); Creating Separation (OPI/CS); Driving Thru (OPI/DT); Pickoff (OPI/PO)                                         |                                                          |                        |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)                                                                                                    |                                                          | S38 - S26 - 15 yards   |
| Unnecessary contact on a defenseless player                                                                                                | (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)                             | S38 - 15 yards         |
| All officials need to be aware of the play/game clock status                                                                               |                                                          |                        |

## Back Judge - Scrimmage Kick Play

**If there is a chance something will go wrong, it'll happen on a Scrimmage Kick**

**Starting Position:** 10-12 yds. wider & 2-3 yds than deepest receiver on H's side of field

**Primary Responsibility:** End of Kick (Bag) (2-24-2); 1st Touching (Bag) (2-12); KCI (6-5-6); Touchback (8-5-3); Safety (8-5-2)

Stay disciplined & alert for players "swimming upstream" to Cherry Pick Defenseless Players

Know Momentum Rule (8-5-2a)

**Touchback** = Kick breaks plane of R's Goal Line [dead ball] (4-2-2d) (8-5-3a)

**PSK Fouls (2-16-2h);** (1) Ball crosses Expanded NZ; (2) Foul occurs beyond Expanded NZ; (3) Foul before end of kick; (4) K will not put ball in play

First Touching by K (6-2-5): Bean Bag. **Consequences of touching eliminated if offsetting fouls, or accepted foul.**

### Probable Penalties:

|                                             |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kick Catching Interference (KCI) (6-5-6)    | S33: Result of Play, 15 yards from spot of foul, or 15 yards previous spot & Re-Kick |
| Block in the Back (IBB) (9-3-6)             | Make sure it's on the back, not the side                                             |
| Block Below the Waist (BBW) (2-17) (9-3-2)  | S43 - 10 yards                                                                       |
| Blindside Block (BSB) (2-3-10) (9-4-3n)     | S40 - 15 yards                                                                       |
| Unnecessary contact on a defenseless player | S38 - S26 - 15 yards                                                                 |
| (UNR/HDP) (2-32-16) (9-4-3g)                | S38 - 15 yards                                                                       |

## Field Goal / Try Outside B-20

|   | Position                                                  | Responsibility #1:                             | Count: |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| R | 2-3 yds behind & 7-10 yds to side of Kicker facing holder | Kicker / Holder                                | K      |
| U | 5-10 yards beyond LOS between B's defensive tackles       | Roughing Snapper, Numbering Exceptions, Blocks | K      |
| H | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks        | R      |
| L | Straddle LOS no further than 1 yard behind the sideline   | Formations, False Start, Illegal Blocks        | R      |
| B | Behind end line under center of crossbar                  | Eligible #'s, Uprights(s)/Crossbar/Whistle     | R      |