**April 2025 Study Guide**

Welcome to the 2025 GHSA Football season!  We will publish a study guide every month thru August and then start weekly quizzes the second week of August to coincide with the start of the season.  To begin let’s look at new rules overview for 2025.  Study guides generally will be put out the first week of the month but I had to go to Texas to pull my Florida Gators to the national championship!

New Rules Overview for 2025

Fumble Out of Bounds

If a player fumbles forward out of bounds the ball belongs to the fumbling team at the spot of the fumble.  Equally important is the clock will start on the ready for forward fumbles.  Backward fumbles will be placed at the out of bounds spot and the clock will start on the snap.  This is a major change.  Fumbles from the end zone forward out of bounds and those into the end zone and either out the end line or sideline will have special discussion as we progress through the months.

Mouthpieces

This rule change prohibiting mouthpieces with excessive adornment has been tabled pending litigation. As this evolves I will provide further guidance

Electronic Communications

Non-fixed sideline audio or electronic signage are legal.  Still any audio device or camera worn by a player remain prohibited.

Arm Sleeves

These products have exploded on the market. Beginning in 2027 all will have to pass SFIA specifications.

Illegal Participation

All types of illegal participation will now be enforced from the basic spot- depending on the type of play. More on this as we progress

Penalty Enforcement and Defenseless Receiver/Player

Multiple editorial changes have been made in these areas.  I will expand as we progress

Numbering Exception and Scrimmage Kick Formation

When the numbering exception is being used in scrimmage kick formation the positions involved become FIXED for shift purposes when the snapper touches the ball. This is an important rule change and also will be a mechanics emphasis. Someone has to see when the ball is touched.

RULE ONE

This is the field and equipment rule. Some highlights

1-2-4

When properly placed the pylon is out of bounds at the intersection of the sideline and the goal line extended

1-4-3

Legal numbers are defined

1-5-3

Illegal equipment.  Note that knee braces cannot be worn over the pants.

For Crew Discussion

1. What is the GHSA approach to knee pads in 2025 (recall camp teaching from 2024)

1. In 2025 can electronic signage for communication to on-field players be fixed (non-movable)?

RULE TWO

This is the definition rule and it is a core requirement for all officials.  Highlights

2-3-10

Definition of a blindside block

2-4-1

Definition of a catch

2-12-1/2

First Touching

2-17

Free Blocking Zone

2-32

Player designations.  For instance what is a passer? When does a player cease to be a passer. Critical in this rule is the definition of a defenseless player

For Crew Discussion

1. What types of plays are blindside blocks more common?
2. What is a LEGAL blindside block?
3. What is the difference between a catch and a muff?
4. When can first touching occur on a kickoff? A scrimmage kick?
5. How do penalties on either team affect First Touching ?
6. When and by whom is blocking below the waist legal in the free blocking zone?
7. Name the types of defenseless players
8. What are the requirements for LEGAL contact on a defenseless player