

HOLDING



Considerations, Rules & Philosophies

Holding - Things to Consider

Offensive and defensive holding is a restriction that has an adverse effect on an opponent's opportunity to make a play, such as, rush the quarterback, tackle the runner, block a defender, run a pass pattern, etc.

The following should be considered when ruling on holding:

- Rule on “material” restriction
- Distinguish Advantage – Disadvantage
- Know your classifications of holding
- Know the four Ws of holding (Who, Where, When, & What)
- Pause – Read – React

Holding – Officiating Philosophies

~ 2023 CCA Football Officiating Manual, Officiating Philosophies, Blocking

- If a player is legally blocked or held “into” making a tackle, no foul should be called unless the action is a personal foul or there is an element of time between the foul and the tackle.
- Obvious and intentional takedowns create special focus and should be called.
- If there is a potential offensive holding but the action occurs clearly away from the POA and no (or could have no) effect on the play, offensive holding should not be called.
- If there is a potential for defensive hold but the action occurs clearly away from the POA and has (or could have no) effect on the play, defensive holding should not be called. Example: A defensive back on the opposite of the field holding a wide receiver on a designed run play to the other side.

Holding – Officiating Philosophies (cont.)

- A grab of the receiver's jersey that materially restricts the receiver and takes away his feet should be defensive holding if other criteria are met and could also be defensive pass interference.
- Holding can be called even if the quarterback is subsequently sacked, and there is an element of time between the foul and the tackle.
- Rarely should you have a hold on a double team block unless there is a takedown, or the defender breaks the double team and is pulled back.
- When in question if an illegal block occurs in the end zone or field of play, it occurs in the field of play.

Holding - Considerations

Every grab does not rise to the level of a foul for holding. To be a foul, the restriction must have an effect on the play. The following could be considered when determining if action is a foul:

- Holding during tackle for loss, with no element of time – could be ignored
- Holding at LOS after pass is gone – could be ignored
- Ask yourself:
 - Was defender's movement restricted by the hold?
 - Was defender still able to penetrate up field?
 - Was defender still able to participate in the play?
 - Was ball carrier clearly past point of hold?

Some Reasons for Holding

- Blown Assignment
 - Feet beat
 - Technique, hands outside the frame of body, etc.
- Over matched
 - Size
 - Strength
 - Speed
- Fatigue

Gary Slaughter's 1-5 Scale

- Gary Slaughter has taught a scale system to help officials progress through their “It’s a foul, it’s a foul, it’s a foul” thought process
 - **1** – No foul at all
 - **2** – Setting up for a potential foul (technique, situation, match-up, etc.)
 - **3** – It definitely has your attention and antenna are up. Could even potentially be a foul if at the POA.
 - **4** – It’s a foul if it meets all other criteria (POA, ball carrier doesn’t get tackled immediately, etc.)
 - **5** – Definitely a foul at any level...a layup that can’t be missed
- This system also allows supervisors & trainers teach what actions constitute what levels for consistency
- The game is played between 2-3 causing us to continuously judge in the gray

Offensive Holding - Rules

Use of Hands or Arms by **Offense** {9.3.3.a -b}

A ball carrier's or passer's teammate may legally block with his shoulders, hands, the outer surface of his arms or any other part of his body under the following provisions:

- The hand(s) shall be:
 - In advance of the elbow
 - Inside the frame of the opponent's body. The frame of a player's body is at the shoulders or below other than the back {2.3.5} (exception: when the opponent turns his back to the blocker)
 - At or below the shoulder(s) of the blocker and the opponent (exception: When the Opponent squats, ducks or submarines)
 - Apart and never in a locked position.
 - Open with the palm(s) facing the frame of the opponent or closed or cupped with the palms not facing the opponent

Offensive Holding – Rules (cont.)

Use of Hands or Arms by **Offense** (cont.)

Holding by a teammate of the ball carrier or passer occurs when:

- The hands and arms are used to grasp, pull or encircle in any way that illegally impedes or illegally obstructs an opponent
- The hands or arms used to hook, clamp, or otherwise illegally obstruct an opponent.

PENALTY: 10 yards. Penalties for Team A fouls behind the NZ are enforced from the previous spot. It is a safety if the foul occurs behind team A's goal line.

Offensive Holding - Types

Grab & Restrict:

The blocker controls the defender with two hands outside the defender's frame usually at the shoulders. The blocker controls the defender's movement preventing him from reaching for the runner to make a tackle or rushing the passer. The key to recognizing this as a foul will be the defender's unsuccessful attempts to tackle the runner or rush the quarterback.

Hook & Restrict:

The blocker hooks the defender above the waist with one hand and controls or redirects defender's movement. This usually occurs when the blockers feet are beat, and the defender is even with him or past him.

Offensive Holding – Types (cont.)

Grab & Turn:

The blocker grabs the defender above the waist, often by the jersey or collar, with one hand and spins the defender.

Take Downs :

3 Types:

- For a **take down**, the blocker grabs the defender with two hands or hooks him with one hand above the waste and takes him to the ground.
- For a **reverse take down**, the blocker, who appears to be getting overpowered or run over, grabs the defender inside the frame of his body and pulls the defender down on top of him as he is falling backward.
- A **tackle** usually occurs when the blocker loses contact with the defender; or the defender beats the blockers feet and is even with him or beyond him, or the defender is running away from the blocker. The blocker grabs or hooks the defender around the waist or below or dives and hooks the defender with one or both arms or hands at the lower legs or ankles causing the defender to go to the ground.

Defensive Holding – Rules

Use of Hands or Arms by **Defense** {9.3.4.a-f}

Defensive players:

- may use hands and arms to push, pull, ward off or lift offensive players when attempting to reach a runner or in an attempt to reach a loose ball.
- may **not** use hands and arms to tackle, hold or otherwise illegally obstruct an opponent other than the ball carrier.
- may use hands and arms to push, pull, ward off or lift offensive players obviously attempting to block them. This includes “warding off” an eligible receiver until he reaches the defender’s yardline or until blocking the receiver is not possible.

Defensive Holding – Rules (cont.)

Use of Hands or Arms by **Defense** (cont.)

- When a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone during a pass play and a contact foul that is not pass interference is committed beyond the neutral zone, the enforcement spot is the previous spot.

PENALTY: 10 yards plus loss of down if not in conflict with other rules.

Defensive Holding - Types

At or near Line of Scrimmage (2):

- **Pull & Shoot**

The defender deliberately pulls the offensive blocker toward him or down the line creating a gap for a teammate to run through. Must have both the puller and shooter to be a foul.

- **Grab & Restrict**

This usually occurs on a running play when a defensive lineman grabs or hooks an offensive lineman and obviously prevents him from getting to his blocking assignment. The defensive lineman is obviously not making an attempt to get to the runner. This often creates an opportunity for an unblocked defender to tackle the runner for a loss of yardage. If the offensive lineman manages to get to his blocking assignment no foul should be called.

Defensive Holding – Types (cont.)

Grab or Hook Eligible Receiver:

Prior to the pass being released, the defender prevents an eligible receiver from running his pass route.

NOTE: Tight Ends are treated as interior linemen if they stay in to block and as receivers if they are obviously trying to run a pass pattern.

Take Down:

When the defender grabs the receiver and takes him to the ground or tackles the receiver to prevent the receiver from running his pattern.

Questions / Discussion

