

REDDING RULING

I hope everyone is having a great summer. I know everyone is getting ready for the upcoming season.

Some of you have already started your training sessions. The clinic and test will be going online very soon. There are a few things I want to discuss as we prepare for the upcoming season. I know a lot of us use the Redding Study Guide to help us get a better understanding of the rules.

David Ross of Champions Officials Group out of Anne Arundel County found something of interest that he brought to my attention. It can be found at the top of page 14 and in Chapter 8, page 108 reads "On field goal attempts and kick tries, defensive linemen may hurdle offensive lineman in an effort to block the kick if the offensive lineman has at least one hand touching the ground when the lineman leaves his feet. Both Dave and I agreed that there were some issues with this. Of course, we all know the rule on Hurdling. The first question is why was this only limited to defensive linemen.

Dave reached out to George Demetriou and he stated that it should read defensive player. The other question is why this only applies on a field goal and kick try and not on a punt? No response was provided. I contacted the NFHS for clarification and this was their response "The Redding Study Guide that you reference is just that – a study guide. It is not produced by the NFHS and is not an official NFHS rules publication. Please refer to the current 2023 NFHS Football Rules Book and Case Book for guidance on hurdling in football".

Based on this a player, be it offensive or defensive, may hurdle as long as all legal requirements are met. If you do, make this call please make sure that you are 100% sure of what you have. If you have any questions in relation to this please do not hesitate to contact me.