

Some Holding Considerations for Officials

The following considerations regarding holding are not intended to be all inclusive but are to be considered in calling holding infractions.

1. **"Take downs"** by the blocker should be called regardless of whether or not the **"take down"** has any effect on the play since ignoring **"take downs"** engenders ill will between opponents and can create retaliation type personal fouls.
2. During running plays holding at the immediate "point of attack" near the ball carrier which prevents or delays a potential tackle should be called.
3. If there is a potential for offensive holding and the opponent being held is tackling the runner behind the line of scrimmage at or near the spot of the hold, offensive holding could be ignored because the holding has not had an effect on the play.
4. If there is potential for offensive holding simultaneously with the runner being tackled by another defensive player behind the line of scrimmage, offensive holding could be ignored because the holding has not had an effect on the play.
5. If there is a potential for offensive holding when there is no line of scrimmage (i.e., punt return or kickoff return), offensive holding may not be called if the player who is being held is involved in making the tackle at or near the spot of the potential hold or if the potential for holding occurs at the time the runner is being tackled by another defensive player, because the holding has not had an effect on the play. However, during these types of plays holding should be called at the immediate "point of attack" near the ball carrier if the hold prevents or delays a tackle or "springs" the runner.
6. If there is a potential for offensive holding but the holding clearly occurs after a pass has been thrown to a downfield receiver, offensive holding could be ignored because the holding has not had an effect on the play.
7. If there is a potential for offensive holding but the action occurs away from the point of attack and has no effect on the play, offensive holding could be ignored.
8. If there is a potential for offensive holding as part of a double team block, offensive holding could be ignored unless the opponent is pulled to the ground by one of the blocker's.
9. During a defensive charge, if a defensive player uses a rip technique that puts an offensive player in a position that would normally be called holding, offensive holding should not be called unless the defender's feet are taken away from him by the offensive player's actions.

THOUGHTS ON HOLDING

- 1 Holding can sometimes be best determined by watching the disengagement.
- 2 Grasping an opponents' shirt doesn't necessarily mean holding. When the shirt is stretched because a defensive player is trying to get away, it does.
- 3 Did the hold restrict the movement the defender is trying to make a tackle?
- 4 Was the defender still able to make penetration up field?
- 5 Was the defender still able to make or participate in the play?
- 6 Was the runner already past the point where the supposed hold took place?
- 7 Takedowns on defenders trying to get away are holding fouls.

VERY IMPORTANT

MAKE THE CALL THE SAME IN EVERY QUARTER.

PONDER POINTS

PLAYER SAFETY - NUMBER ONE
CONCERN

WHAT EFFECT DOES IT HAVE
ON THE PLAY?

JUDGEMENT - THROUGH GOOD
MECHANICS

ENGAGEMENT &
DISENGAGEMENT

GAME TEMPO & READ KEYS TO
RECOGNIZE BLOCKING
PATTERNS & TECHNIQUES

PENALTY PRIORITIES

"ZONE OF EMPHASIS"

PRIORITY 1 ALWAYS CALLED

Takedowns
Tackle
Safety Fouls
(Clips, Chops, Slugs
Facemask, Head Shots)

PRIORITY 2 SOMETIMES CALLED

Stretched shirt
Out of Frame Grasp
Hands To Mask

PRIORITY 3 RARELY OR NEVER CALLED

Face to Face Dancing
(within frame work)

Double Team

Superior Legs

No Advantage