



Getting on the Same Page: Targeting

SA-TASO Football

August 21, 2023

Always start with Rule 2

- No definition of targeting in Rule 2

Move on to Rule 9-1-3 (FR-93)

Targeting and Making Forcible Contact with the Crown of the Helmet.

ARTICLE 3. No player shall target **and** make forcible contact against an opponent with the crown of their helmet. The crown of the helmet is the top segment of the helmet; namely, the circular area defined by a 6-inch radius. This foul requires that there be at least one **indicator** of targeting.

When in question, it is a foul.

Move on to Rule 9-1-4 (FR-93)

Targeting and Making Forcible Contact to Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player.

ARTICLE 4. No player shall target and make forcible contact to the head or neck area of a **defenseless opponent** with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow, or shoulder. This foul requires that there be at least one **indicator** of targeting.

When in question, it is a foul.

What are “indicators”?

- **Launch** – requires leaving your feet to attack
- **Crouch** followed by an upward and forward thrust to attack – one or both feet can still be on the ground
- **Leading** with helmet, shoulder, forearm, fist, hand, or elbow to attack
- **Lowering** the head before attacking by initiating forcible contact with the crown of the helmet (indicator for 9-1-3)

Who is a “defenseless player”?

- Player in the act of or just after throwing a pass. QB in passing posture with focus downfield.
- Receiver attempting to catch a forward pass or in position to receive a backward pass OR one who’s just completed a catch and has not had time to protect themselves or has not clearly become a ball carrier
- Kicker in the act of or just after he has kicked a ball, or during the kick or return
- Kick returner attempting to catch or recover a kick OR one who’s just completed a catch or recovery and has not had time to protect themselves or has not clearly become a ball carrier

More “defenseless players”

- Player on the ground
- Player obviously out of the play
- Player who receives a blind-side block
- Ball carrier already in tackler’s grasp AND forward progress has stopped
- QB any time after change of possession
- Ball carrier who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first

Let's Check TASO Philosophies

- When in question, it is a foul for targeting
- When there is no question there is a foul for targeting, it shall be deemed to be a flagrant foul and the penalty will include disqualification, regardless the number targeting fouls the player has previously committed during the game
- Why is the second bullet important?
 - (UIL NOTE: In accordance with Rule 9-1-3 & Rule 9-1-4, when in question as to whether there is a foul for targeting, a foul should be called. If the foul is flagrant (“contact so extreme or deliberate that it places an opponent in danger of catastrophic injury”) the player shall be disqualified. If the foul is the player’s first targeting foul of the game, AND the foul is deemed not to be flagrant, the foul does not require disqualification. A second targeting foul by the same player in the same game is automatically classified as flagrant and therefore requires the player to be disqualified.)

Brief restatement

- 9-1-3 Target **AND** forcible contact with **crown of helmet**. Indicator: LOWERING HELMET
 - Where's the contact? Not specified. QB's belly? Targeting. Kid's ribs on a BSB? Targeting.
- 9-1-4 Target **AND** forcible contact to head or neck of defenseless player. Indicators: launch, crouch and thrust, leading, lowering
- Can have overlap between 9-1-3 and 9-1-4

Why do we need to get on the same page?

- Huge penalty paid by the offending team/player **BUT IF IT'S THERE, IT'S THERE AND MUST BE ENFORCED** (and reported accurately)
- You have to see it all -- your keys are the key
- Consistency across the chapter is key