



## **Rule Changes/Clarifications for 2018 Flag Football Season**

1. **NEW RULE** – The ball can either be snapped between the center’s legs to the QB, or on the side of the hip as one CONTINUOUS motion from the ground to the QB. (*Old Rule – Ball could only be snapped between the legs of the center*) – **Will be changed/updated on pg. 12 & 15 in the SOKY Flag Football Manual for 2018**
2. **NEW RULE - MERCY RULE:** At any point, a team is up by 36 points or more, the clock will be continuously running the remainder of the game. Also, the second half of play will be shortened from 20 minutes to 15 minutes. If this 36-point differentiation is hit in the first half of play, the remainder of the first half will be a running clock, but not shortened in time. Once the 36-point differentiation is met, at no point will the clock or regular amount of time ever go back to the normal ruling. \*(COACHES – Once the mercy rule goes into effect, your key players should come out and subs (if any) should be brought in to play the remainder of the game) \* – **Will be added on pg. 10 in the SOKY Flag Football Manual for 2018 under Section F – The Game.**
3. **FORWARD HAND OFF CLARIFICATION / RULING UPDATE** – Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind, or to the side of the quarterback/offensive player, but **MUST** be behind the line of scrimmage. Laterals and Pitches are not allowed. (*Old Rule – Only direct hand-offs behind the line of scrimmage are legal, laterals and pitches are not allowed*) - **Will be changed/updated on pg. 12 under “Running” in the SOKY Flag Football Manual for 2018**





4. **MUFFED SNAPPED BALL CLARIFICATION / RULING** - When a muffed snap in the shotgun/under center formation(s) occurs (ball doesn't make it to quarterback, ball hits ground before ever making it to the quarterback, or rolls on the ground to the quarterback), the play is dead and the ball will return to the original line of scrimmage, but will be the next down. If the ball is snapped over the quarterback's head, or beside him/her in the air the ball will be placed at the spot where the ball hits the ground. If the ball is snapped into the end zone, the result is a safety. *(Previous rule was just a dead ball where the ball hit the ground no matter)* – **This clarification / ruling will be updated on pg. 13 under “Dead Balls/Fumbles” in the SOKY Flag Football Manual for 2018**

5. **EQUIPMENT UPDATES / POINTS OF EMPHASIS:**

- a. **Flag Belt** – ALL belts MUST be one piece (clip or buckle style clasp), that contain three flags that are PERMANENTLY attached to the belt. (The flag belts should be the thicker style belts, rather than flimsy style to prevent from complete breaking of the belt when pulled or stepped on. The belts also need to remain in the proper position on the waist line, with a flag on each hip and one in the back.
- b. **NEW: HEADGEAR** – Rugby style (SOFT-PADDED) head gear will now be allowed to be worn. This head gear is not mandatory, but is highly encouraged to help prevent serious head injury due to collisions, or any other type of event that may affect the head. This head gear must be one solid color (preferably black), and SOFT PADDED. You can find an example of these by going to Walmart.com and searching:

**Soft Padded Headgear Helmet (Black, Medium): Rugby, 7 on 7, Flag Football, Soccer Goalie, Rugby, Lacrosse, Epilepsy**

**\*ALL OF THESE CHANGES WILL ALSO BE UPDATED IN THE 2018 SOKY FLAG FOOTBALL MANUAL\***

