
HOLDING PHILOSOPHIES

BY SEAN GERAGHTY

Western New England Chapter - EAIFO

Integrity · Judgment · Dedication



Eastern Association of
Intercollegiate Football Officials

Western New England Chapter





GOVERNING PRINCIPLE:

DOES THE OFFENSIVE PLAYER SIGNIFICANTLY HINDER THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER'S ABILITY TO AFFECT

HOLDING PHILOSOPHIES

- Are the defender's feet taken away, his stride broken or his shoulder turned/pulled down?
- Does the blocker have good position, (i.e., "Good Feet") or is he beat and reaching/grabbing?
- The defender has to earn the call. Is he trying to make the play, or is he just content to be there and turn the play inside?
- Does the blocker simply take the defender in the direction he was headed?
- Is the blocker just bigger and stronger and essentially overpowering the defender?
- Did the hold occur away from the Point of Attack (POA) with no conceivable effect on the play? If so, there is no foul unless it is clearly a bear hug or takedown.





HOLDING PHILOSOPHIES

- A takedown or throw down is always a foul.
- If there is a double team block, holding shouldn't be called unless the defender breaks the double team and is pulled back or taken down?
- Is the defender held into making the tackle?
- Did the defender run through the hold?
- Let the hold happen. Don't over-react to an initial grab.
- With blocks on the edge or out wide, ask yourself if the defender is released in time for him to make a play on the runner, or is he released after the runner has gone by?
- Are you comfortable calling back a TD with your call?