Aug. 5, 1958 R. F. ROSELLE 2,846,224

FLAG FOOTBALL BELT

Filed May 11, 1956

Fig. 1

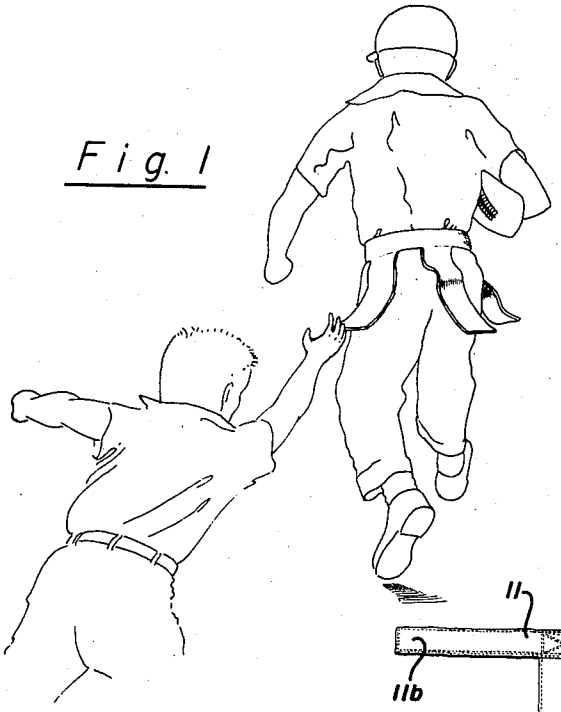


Fig. 2

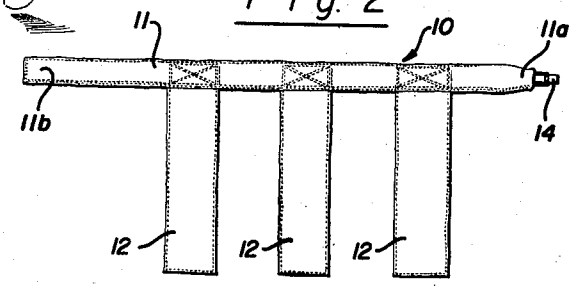


Fig. 3

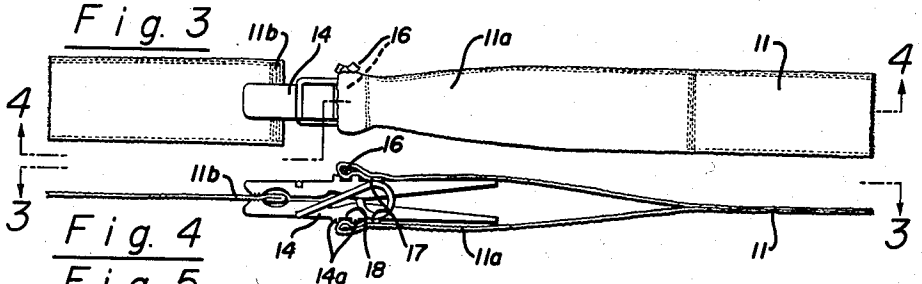


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

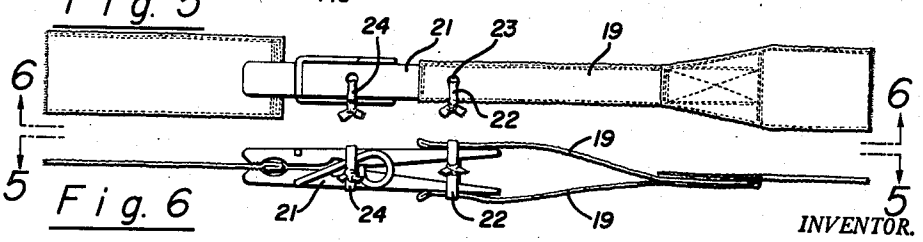


Fig. 6

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FLAG FOOTBALL BELT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273—55)

This invention relates generally to belts and more particularly to belts for use in playing flag football.

T make football safer to play, various modifications have been made in the game so that the game can be played by youngsters. For example, touch football has been played for many years. More recently, flag football is being played in which the players carry or wear a piece of material, such as a handkerchief carried in a pocket, which can be readily removed by the pursuing player or tackler. However, in playing flag football in this manner it has been found that injuries still have occurred.

In general it is an object of the present invention to provide a belt which will make it safer to play flag football.

Another object of the invention is to provide a belt of the above character which releasably engages the waist of the player.

Another object of the invention is to provide a belt of the above character in which the belt can be easily grasped.

Another object of the invention is to provide a belt of the above character in which the means for releasably securing the ends of the belt are attached to the belt by particularly novel means.

Additional objects and features of the invention will appear from the following description in which the preferred embodiments have been set forth in detail in conjunction with the accompanying drawing.

Referring to the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view showing a belt embodying the present invention secured to the waist of a player.

Figure 2 is a view of the belt showing it in a stretched-out position.

Figure 3 is an enlarged view of a portion of the belt taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 4 showing the means for releasably securing the ends of the belt.

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a view similar to that shown in Figure 3 taken along the line 5—5 of Figure 6 showing a modification of my belt; and

Figure 6 is a view taken along the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

In general, the present invention consists of a belt of flexible material having a plurality of streamers depending therefrom. The ends of the belt are adapted to be fastened together by releasable means so that when a player grabs one of the streamers, the belt may be pulled off of the player without injury to the player.

As shown in the drawing, my invention consists of a length of suitable flexible material such as canvas which has been folded and sewn together to form an elongate flexible member **11**. A plurality of streamers **12**, preferably of the same material, are sewn between the layers of materials forming the elongate member **11** and are spaced along the intermediate portion of the elongate member **11**. The edges of the streamers may also be sewn to prevent raveling.

Suitable means is provided for releasably connecting the ends **11***a* and **11***b* of the flexible member **11**. One means found to be suitable is shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 and consists of a clothes pin **14** which has one end fastened within the open end **11***a* of the flexible member **11**. A draw string **16** is accommodated within a folded-over portion **17** of the member **11** and is adapted to bring the end **11***a* into engagement with grooves **18** provided between raised portions **14***a* on the clothes pin **14**. Thus, after the draw string **16** is tightened, the clothes pin **14** is firmly held within the end **11***a*.

Use of my belt for flag football may now be described as follows: Let it be assumed that the belt shown in Figure 2 has been clamped to each of the players engaged in the game of flag football. This is accomplish merely by wrapping the belt around the waist of the player and fastening the clothes pin **14** to the end **11***b* of the belt. It is apparent from Figure 4 that the clothes pin **14** can be readily operated even though the operating portion of the clothes pin is enclosed within the end **11***a*. The length of the belt can be adjusted to accommodate the player's waist by folding over the end of the belt and fastening the folded end in the jaws of the clothes pin **14**.

Let it also be assumed that one of the players is carrying the ball as shown in Figure 1. The other players or tacklers pursuing the ball-carrying try to grab one of the streamers **12** so that they can pull the belt from the player. If the belt is pulled off of the ball-carrying player, he is considered to have been successfully tackled.

The belt is secured to the player in such a manner that it will not fall off of its own accord, but can be readily pulled from the player when one of the streamers **12** is grasped. This prevents injury to any of the players playing flag football.

The corners of the clothes pin **14** have been rounded so as to prevent injury to a player if the player should be accidentially struck by the clothes pin. In the event the clothes pin **14** is broken, it can be readily removed by untying the draw string **16** and inserting another clothes pin.

The streamers **12** may be carried in any desired position on the players, but preferably they should be carried in the rear, as shown in Figure 1. In this way the streamers flap outwardly from the body of the running player so that they may be grasped readily without striking the body of the player.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in Figures 5 and 6. The belt shown in Figures 5 and 6 is provided with narrow end portions **19** which are connected to a clothes pin **21** by a string **22** extending through holes **23** in the narrow end portions **19** and holes (not shown) in the clothes pin **21**. The string **22** is knotted and securely fastens the clothes pin to the narrow end portions **19** of the belt. The two halves of the clothes pin **21** are fastened together by a string **24** to prevent the clothes pin **21** from accidentally being pulled apart. The operation of this belt is similar to that hereinbefore described.

It is apparent from the foregoing that I have provided a belt which can be used for playing flag football and which serves to make the playing of flag football a much safer game. The releasable means for securing the ends of the belt insures that the belt will be readily released when it has been grabbed by a player.

I claim:

In a flag football belt, an elongate flexible member formed of material folded over and sewn together and adapted to encircle the waist of a player, one end of

said flexible member being open, a friction clamp mounted in the open end of said member and a draw string mounted in the open end of said member and adapted to draw the open end of the member into engagement with the clamp to hold the clamp firmly in place, and at least one streamer fixed to said elongate member and depending from said elongate member to facilitate grabbing of the belt from the player wearing the belt.

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