



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Divisions I, II and III Supervisors of Football Officials, Conference Commissioners and Head Football Coaches.

FROM: Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Football Clarification and Play Situations Bulletin No. 4.

Attached with this memorandum are the fourth set of play situations and several interpretations for the 2008 season. The committee hopes these examples assist in the understanding of NCAA Football rules. Each play includes the ruling and a rule reference to assist.

If you have any questions, please contact Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, via e-mail at footballrules@ncaa.org.

RR:nkb

Attachment

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee
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2008 PLAY SITUATIONS—BULLETIN #4

1. After a touchdown is scored, Team A lines up to attempt the try at the B-3. After the ball has been declared ready for play and the snapper is over the ball, the officials throw a flag because Team B has 12 players in its defensive formation.

RULING: Dead-ball foul. If accepted, the penalty will locate the ball at the B-1.5. This foul takes place during the try, because the try down begins when the ball is declared ready for play. (3-5-2-c, AR 3-5-2-IV, 8-3-2-b)

2. At the snap, A82 is split wide on the end of the line and A23 is on the line of scrimmage to the inside of A82. Thus A23 is “covered up” by A82. A82 runs a deep route and A23 goes downfield 10 yards and cuts across the middle. Quarterback A12 throws a legal forward pass intended for A23 who is contacted by defender B45 before the ball gets to A23, who does not touch the ball. The Back Judge throws a flag for defensive pass interference and the Head Linesman throws a flag for A23 being an ineligible receiver downfield.

RULING: No foul for pass interference, since A23 is not an eligible receiver. Foul for an ineligible receiver downfield. If accepted, the penalty is five yards from the previous spot and the down is replayed. (7-3-3, 7-3-8-c, 7-3-10)

3. Team A attempts a field goal. B23 in his end zone leaps above the crossbar and bats the ball in flight, and the ball goes out of bounds in the end zone. This happens (a) on a fourth down play in the third quarter; (b) on a fourth down play in an extra period; (c) on a try attempt at the B-3.

RULING: Foul by B23 for batting the ball in the end zone. In (a), the penalty is enforced under postscrimmage kick rules, so the outcome of the penalty is a safety. The end of the kick (basic spot) on the unsuccessful field goal attempt is the previous spot. The foul takes place behind the basic spot and hence is a spot foul, which would leave the ball in Team B’s end zone. In (b) and (c), postscrimmage kick rules do not apply on the try or during extra periods. The 15-yard penalty is enforced at the previous spot. (9-4-1-c, 8-5-1-b, 10-2-2-e-Exc. 3(a), AR 9-4-1-I)

4. After the ball is dead following a running play that end inbounds, the Back Judge stops the game clock because of an injury to B45. A21 is also injured on the same play.

RULING: After both players have left the field, the play clock is set to 40 seconds. The play clock and the game clock start when the referee signals to declare the ball ready for play. (Redding Interpretation, 10-16-2008)

5. Eligible receiver A88 is inbounds very near the sideline when he leaps for a legal forward pass. While airborne he muffs the ball and lands with one foot out of bounds. With the ball still in the air A88 quickly leaps again, grasps at the ball a second time, and comes to the ground inbounds with the ball in his firm possession.

RULING: Foul for illegal touching. Penalty is loss of down at the previous spot. A88 loses his eligibility by going out of bounds. His original legal touching of the ball has no effect on the ruling because the ball was still a forward pass untouched by a Team B player when A88 touched the ball after returning from out of bounds. (7-3-4)

6. Third and seven at the B-30. Team A attempts a field goal that is blocked by B77 who leaps at the B-28 and knocks the ball to the ground at the B-29. The ball then rolls to the B-32 where it is recovered by A44.

RULING: Unsuccessful field goal attempt, Team B's ball at the B-32. Because B77 blocked the kick within three yards of the neutral zone, he is deemed not to have touched the ball beyond the neutral zone. However, because the ball landed at the B-29, it has crossed the neutral zone, and A44's recovery is illegal touching. The ball is dead behind the neutral zone when A44 recovers it, so Team B will put the ball in play at that spot. (2-15-7-Exc., 6-3-1-b, 6-3-2-a, 8-4-2-b)

7. Following the touchdown and before the try, Team A commits two fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct. Team B elects to have both penalties enforced on the kickoff. Team A is then flagged for a third unsportsmanlike conduct foul after the try.

RULING: The first two penalties are enforced to locate the ball for the kickoff at Team A's 7.5-yard line. The third penalty may not be enforced before the kickoff. This penalty will be enforced following the free kick down at the succeeding spot. If time expires in the quarter during the free kick down, the quarter will be extended for one untimed down following enforcement of the penalty. (8-3-5, 10-2-2-g-3, 10-2-2-h)

8. Fourth quarter, second and goal at the B-12. The game clock is stopped at 0:02. With his team trailing by five points, quarterback A12 takes the snap, sprints to his right and (a) at the B-14 he throws a forward pass to A77 who catches the ball in Team B's end zone; (b) at the B-2 he is about to be tackled when he throws the ball to a Team A player who catches the ball in Team B's end zone. In both cases the clock reads 0:00 when the ball is dead.

RULING: Under the current rule neither of these plays is a touchdown, as 8-2-1-b requires that the receiver be eligible and that the forward pass be legal. However, the rules are silent on what the results of the play are in these two situations. Based on the principle that there must be a result to every play, the interpretations are:

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- (a) The result of the play is a touchdown. Fouls for ineligible receiver downfield and for illegal touching of a forward pass by an ineligible receiver. If accepted, the penalty is five yards from the previous spot, and the quarter is extended for one untimed down: second and goal at the B-17.

- (b) The result of the play is a touchdown. Foul for an illegal forward pass. If accepted, the penalty is five yards from the spot of the pass, plus loss of down, and the quarter is extended for one untimed down: third and goal at the B-7.