



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2011-12 PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 1

Try Attempt, Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. On a successful try, B55 commits a live-ball foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.

RULING: Team A may repeat the try following enforcement of the penalty, or they may elect to have the penalty enforced on the succeeding kickoff. This is an interpretation of 8-3-3-b-1, treating live-ball unsportsmanlike conduct the same as personal fouls. (8-3-3-b-1, 10-2-5)

Roughing the Kicker

2. Fourth and 15 at the A-40. End B88 rushes the punter and is blocked legally by A43, and personal protector. B88 then crashes into the kicker. The referee rules that the block by A43 (a) did; (b) did not cause B88's contact with the kicker.

RULING: (a) No foul. (b) Roughing the kicker, 15-yard penalty, previous spot. First and 10 for Team A at the B-45. (9-1-16-a-5)

Blocking Below the Waist

3. Third and seven at the A-30. The ball is at the left hash mark. Back A22 is split outside the tackle box to his left, and B40 moves out to cover him. The handoff goes to back A44 who sweeps around the right end and is tackled at the B-45. As the play develops B40 runs to his left to follow the play and A22 chases him. At the A-40 beyond the right hash mark A22 overtakes B40 and blocks him below the waist at the side or front. The direction of this block is slightly off the north-south line toward the right sideline.

RULING: Because of his position A22 is restricted in how he may legally block below the waist. His adjacent sideline is to his outside, i.e., to his left. Foul, illegal block below the waist. The block is directed toward the non-adjacent sideline. Fifteen-yard penalty at the spot of the foul. Third and 12 at the A-25. (9-1-6)

Blocking Below The Waist

4. First and 10 at the A-40. A12 receives the snap at the A-35 and starts on a sweep to his right. Guard A66 pulls and leads the play. At the snap linebacker B55 is positioned at the A-42. As the play develops A12 has carried the ball to the A-47 when at the A-44 B55 blocks A66 from the side at the thigh. A12 is driven out of bounds at the A-48.

RULING: Foul by B55, blocking below the waist after the ball is more than five yards beyond the neutral zone. Fifteen-yard penalty enforced at the end of the run. First and 10 for Team A at the B-37. (9-1-6)

10-Second Runoff, Offsetting Fouls

5. Fourth quarter. Second and five at the B-20. Tackle B77 is in the neutral zone at the snap, but does not make contact. QB A12 rolls out to pass, runs to the B-17 and throws a forward pass, which falls incomplete. The game clock shows 15 seconds. **RULING:** Team A illegal forward pass and Team B offside. Offsetting fouls. No 10- second subtraction. Second and 5 at the B-20. The game clock remains at 15 seconds and starts on the snap. (3-4-4)

10-Second Runoff, Dead-Ball Personal Foul

6. Fourth quarter. Second and 10 at the B-30. Guard A66 in a three-point stance misses the snap count and lurches forward, committing a false start. B77 then commits a dead-ball personal foul or a dead-ball foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. The game clock is stopped with 8 seconds remaining.

RULING: The game is over because of the 10-second subtraction associated with the false start. Thus the penalty for the dead-ball Team B foul is not enforced.

NOTE: If this action occurred at the end of the first half the penalty for the Team B dead-ball foul would carry over to the second half. Because of the 10-second subtraction, by interpretation the Team B dead-ball foul effectively occurs after the half has ended and the penalty is thus carried over. (3-4-4)

Equipment: Towels

7. Each member of Team A's offensive line is wearing a towel. The towels are all white, 4" by 12", with a small team logo. However, the snapper's towel also has a large skull-and-cross-bones symbol.

RULING: It is legal for any player to wear a towel. The towels are all legal except that for the snapper. He must not be allowed to play while wearing this towel. (1-4-6-a)

Intentional Grounding

8. Third and five at the A-40. Quarterback A12 drops back to pass. Under a heavy rush, at the A-30 he throws the ball forward and it falls to the ground at the feet of back A44. A44 is pass-protection blocking at the A-35 and is not aware that the pass has been thrown.

RULING: Legal play, not a foul for intentional grounding. The passer only needs to get the ball into an area where there is an eligible receiver, whether or not the receiver has a chance of catching the pass. Fourth and five at the A-40. (7-3-2-h)

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Taunting

9. Second and five at the A-45, early in the second quarter. Ball carrier A33 breaks out into the open and has a clear path to the goal line. At the B-2 he suddenly makes a sharp left turn and trots along the B-2 as the Team B players begin to catch up to him. He then carries the ball into the end zone. A33 next runs to the stands and begins to exchange “high-fives” with the fans.

RULING: A33 is charged with two fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct, one live-ball and the other dead-ball. Both penalties are enforced and A33 is ejected from the game. First and 10 for Team A at the B-32. (9-2-1-a)

Momentum Exception

10. A47 intercepts a pass at the A-3. His momentum carries him into the end zone where he fumbles the ball. It rolls into the field of play. B33 recovers at the A-2 but he is hit and fumbles. The ball rolls into the end zone and over the end line.

RULING: Touchback. Team A’s ball, first and 10 at the A-20. The momentum rule applies only if the ball remains in the end zone and is declared dead there. (8-5-1-a-Exc.)

Intentional Grounding

11. Third and 5 at the A-40. QB A12 drops back in the pocket to pass. Under a heavy rush he throws a backward pass to back A22 who carries the ball outside the tackle box. A22 at the A-35 throws a forward pass that crosses the neutral zone and lands in an area 20 yards away from the nearest Team A eligible receiver.

RULING: Foul, intentional grounding. The tackle-box rule applies only to the player who receives the snap. Loss of down at the spot of the foul. Fourth and 10 at the A-35. (7-3-2-h-Exc.)

Ball Carrier Down: Exception on Place Kick

12. Team A is in formation to attempt a field goal. At the snap A22 is in position to execute a right-footed place kick and A33 is in position as the holder. The snap goes to A33 who has a knee on the ground. Just after the snap A22 breaks to his left and toward the neutral zone, and A33, while still on his knee, flips a forward pass to A22 who carries the ball beyond the line to gain before he is tackled.

RULING: Legal play, because at the snap A22 was in position to attempt a place kick. First and 10 for Team A. (4-1-3-b-Exc.)

Starting the Clock Following a Kick

13. Fourth and eight at the A-12, late in the fourth quarter. The punt is blocked and the ball does not cross the neutral zone. At the A-10, back A22 recovers the ball and throws a forward pass to eligible A88 who is tackled at the B-3. The game clock reads 0:03.

RULING: Team A’s ball at the B-3, first and goal. The game clock starts on the snap because of the legal kick play. (3-3-2-d-8, 3-3-2-e-1, 3-3-2-f)