



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2012 PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 3

NOTE: References are to the *NCAA 2012-13 Football Rules and Interpretations*, in pdf form on the NCAA and CFO web sites.

Eye Shield

1. A player with a clear, untinted eye shield affixed to his helmet is wearing tinted eyeglasses (sunglasses).

RULING: Illegal equipment. While Rule 1-4-5-c does not specifically prohibit sunglasses, the spirit of the eye-shield rule is to allow medical personnel to see the player's eyes without removing his helmet. Sunglasses compromise this capability and thus are not allowed. (1-4-5-c)

Action By Punt Receiver

2. A punt receiver points at the ball as it bounces along the ground. He does not make any waving motion. He then recovers the ball and advances.

RULING: Not an invalid signal. The advance is legal. However, if the player moves his hand or arm in any manner that constitutes waving this is an invalid signal, and the ball is dead when it comes into his possession. (2-8)

Disconcerting Signals

3. Team B has its defensive linemen positioned on its scrimmage line when the ball is made ready for play. As the quarterback is calling signals, defensive lineman B77 shouts a signal and his teammates on the line quickly shift positions but do not enter the neutral zone. Guard A66 reacts by lifting his hand from the ground.

RULING: Team B foul, delay of game for disconcerting signals. While B77 does not simulate the snap count, his action constitutes disconcerting signals. (7-1-5-a-3)

Illegal Touching

4. During a punt B22 is blocking A44 to prevent him from downing the ball. In the course of their interaction B22 is the first to touch the ball when it hits his foot as he continues his contact with A44. A33 recovers at the B-35.

RULING: First and ten for Team A at the B-35. B22's contact with the ball is not forced touching as A44 did not block him into the ball. The recovery by A33 is legal. (6-3-2, 6-3-4-a)

Intentional Grounding and 10-Second Runoff

5. Second and 5 at the A-40. Team A is behind in the score with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter. Quarterback A11 drops back to pass and, unable to find an open receiver, at the A-35 he throws the ball forward into the ground. Since he was not under a heavy rush, and in light of the time and the score, the referee correctly judges that this is intentional grounding to stop the clock.

RULING: Since the pass was grounded to stop the clock, the penalty is five yards from the spot of the foul plus loss of down. Third and 15 at the A-30. Because this is an incomplete illegal forward pass, there is a 10-second runoff. Clock starts on the referee's signal. (7-3-2-f, 3-4-4-a-2)

Substitution Foul

6. Team A runs a no-huddle offense. After the ball is made ready for play two Team A substitutes enter the field, and the Umpire comes to the ball to allow Team B to adjust. All thirteen Team A players remain on the field for five seconds as Team B waits to see which players leave the field before making its adjustments.

RULING: Dead-ball foul, substitution infraction by Team A for more than 11 players on the field for more than three seconds. (6-5-3-a)

Offsetting Dead-Ball Fouls

7. Second and five for Team A at the B-45. Ball carrier A44 is tackled at the B-35. After the ball is dead, B66 blocks A88, and A88 retaliates by slugging B66. As the officials discuss the penalties, A44 spikes the ball.

RULING: First and 10 for Team A at the B-35. The dead-ball fouls all offset, and A88 is ejected. (10-1-5)

Formation and Eligibility Rules

8. Third and five at the A-25. Team A has six players numbered 50-79 on the line of scrimmage. On the right side A80 is at the tackle position and A75 is to his right as the tight end. A88 is in the backfield wide to the left side. A75 steps into the backfield and re-sets, and A88 moves up to end of the line on the left side and re-sets. After all eleven Team A players are set for one second, A75 goes in motion across the backfield and is still moving laterally when the ball is snapped. A80 catches a legal forward pass and is tackled at the A-35.

RULING: Legal play; first and 10 for Team A at the A-35. A80 becomes eligible when A75 moving into the backfield makes A80 the end man on the line. (7-1-4, 7-3-3)

Non-PSK Foul During a Punt

9. Fourth and eight at the A-45. During a punt, B66 is flagged for holding at the B-48. Receiver B22 catches the kick at the B-26 and returns the ball to the A-3 where he fumbles. The ball strikes the goal-line pylon. **RULING:** The result of the play is a touchback, giving Team A the ball, first and 10 at the A-20. However, the penalty is

not subject to post-scrimmage kick enforcement because Team B will not next put the ball in play. Hence the penalty is enforced at the previous spot, with Team A retaining possession, first and 10 at the B-45. (10-2-3)

Impetus and Responsibility

10. Special teams player A22 muffs a punt in his end zone and the ball rolls into the field of play, just across the goal line. A22 is still in the end zone when he picks up the ball at the one-foot line and takes a knee. As A22 is holding the ball it is breaking the plane of the goal line.

RULING: Safety. A22 is responsible for the ball being in the end zone the second time. (8-5-1-a, 8-7)

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