



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2013 PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 4

Kick-Catch Interference With Targeting

1. B44 is in position to catch a punt at the B-25 when A88 launches and drives his shoulder into B44's upper chest before the ball arrives. B22 recovers the ball and is tackled (a) at the A-45; (b) at the B-20. The Back Judge drops his flag and reports to the Referee that B44 is charged with interference with the opportunity to catch the kick and targeting, and that B44 is disqualified. The play goes to review by Instant Replay. After review, B44 is returned to the game as Instant Replay concludes that the contact was not to the head/neck area.

RULING: The 15-yard penalty is enforced (a) at the A-45. Team B has first and 10 at the A-30; (b) at the B-25. Team B has first and 10 at the B-40. (9-1-4, 6-4-1-g)

Illegally Kicking the Ball

2. Fourth and 5 at the A-20. Punter A22 is at his five-yard line when he muffs the backward pass from the snapper and the ball falls to the ground. At the A-8 A22 kicks the rolling ball, which goes to the A-27 where it is recovered by A44.

RULING: Foul for illegally kicking the ball. The 10-yard penalty is enforced half the distance to the goal at the spot of the foul and includes loss of down. Team B's ball, first and goal at the A-4. (9-4-4)

Intentional Grounding

3. Second and 5 at the A-40. Quarterback A11 drops back to pass and under a heavy rush he scrambles out of the tackle box. At the A-30 he throws the ball away toward the sideline where the ball strikes the rear stake of the chain at the A-35 or a person in the team area near this stake. There are no Team A eligible receivers in the area.

RULING: Foul for intentional grounding. Loss of down at the spot of the foul. A11 has not satisfied the requirement that the ball must cross the neutral zone extended. Third and 15 at the A-30. (7-3-2-h-Exc.)

Targeting the Passer

4. Defensive end B88 is flagged and disqualified for targeting passer A12 to the head/neck area on a play in which eligible A44 catches the pass and is tackled at the B-45. After review the decision by Instant Replay is that the contact was not to the head/neck area and B88 is returned to the game.

RULING: This foul is treated as roughing the passer. Fifteen yards added to the end of A44's run. First and 10 at the B-30. (9-1-4, 9-1-9)

Too Many Players

5. Second and 10 at the B-30 with the game clock stopped at 3:15 after an incomplete pass on first down. Team B has made some substitutions but does not have their players set for the snap. Just as the ball is snapped the 12th player B66 is sprinting toward his sideline and is just outside the numbers. He runs several more steps and leaves the field. The officials do not drop a flag. The ball carrier is tackled inbounds at the B-28 with the game clock reading 3:10. At 3:00 Instant Replay buzzes the field and reviews the play, ruling that the review shows that Team B played with 12 men.

RULING: Live-ball foul for too many players on the field. Five-yard penalty at the previous spot. Second and five at the B25. Game clock is set to 3:10 and starts on the Referee's signal after enforcement of the penalty.

Note: If B66's next step after the snap would take him out of bounds, the play is not reviewable. (12-3-5-a, IR Casebook Plays 163 and 164)

Duplicate Jersey Numbers

6. On a kickoff, Team A running back Jones, wearing uniform #3, is deep to return the kick. On a punt play later in the game, free safety Smith, also wearing #3, is in the game as a punt returner.

RULING: Legal play, as a punt returner and a kick returner are not considered the same position. (1-4-2-e)

Forward Progress: Safety

7. Second and 12 at the Team A one-yard line. Quarterback A12 takes the snap and retreats into his end zone to attempt a draw play. When A12 is tackled with the ball in his possession, it is resting on the goal line with only the nose of the football in the field of play.

RULING: Safety. To avoid a safety, Team A must advance the entire ball out of the end zone. (8-5-1, A. R. 8-5-1-l)

Postscrimmage Kick Enforcement

8. Fourth and seven at the A-45. While the punt is in the air, B65 clips at the B-40. B22 muffs the kick at the B-15. At the B-8, to prevent Team A from recovering, B37 bats the ball into Team B's end zone. B80 recovers there and returns the ball to the B-18 where he is tackled.

RULING: Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-10. The batting by B37 is backward and therefore legal. The foul by B65 is subject to postscrimmage-kick enforcement.

Because the kick ends in Team B's end zone, the postscrimmage-kick spot (i.e., the basic spot) is the B-20. The penalty for B65's foul is beyond the basic spot, so it is enforced at the basic spot. (2-25-11, 9-4-1, 10-2-3)

Sideline Interference

9. Second and 20 at the A-30. B17 tackles the ball carrier at the A-35 by grabbing and pulling the facemask. Team A's head coach is in the restricted area between the sideline and the coaching line or on the field of play, obscuring the view of the Line Judge covering the play. In response the Line Judge drops his flag.

RULING: First and 10 for Team A at the A-35. The penalty for the facemask foul is enforced (15 yards plus automatic first down), followed by the 15-yard penalty for the sideline infraction, which is administered as a dead-ball foul. (9-1-8, 9-2-3-a)

Contact With the Snapper

10. Fourth and 20 at the A-45. Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation with punter A89 at the A-30, where he receives the backward pass from the snapper. Immediately following the snap, nose guard B77 grabs snapper A55 by the shoulder pads and pulls him forward, allowing linebacker B52 to shoot the gap in an attempt to block the kick. A89 starts into his kicking motion but, convinced that the kick will be blocked, does not kick and tries to advance. He is tackled at the A-43.

RULING: First and 10 for Team A at the B-40. B77's action is a personal foul against the snapper rather than defensive holding. When Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation, the defense may not initiate contact with the snapper until one second has elapsed following the snap. The fact that the ball was not kicked is irrelevant to this rule. Clock starts on the ready-for-play signal by the referee. (9-1-14, 3-3-2-e-1)

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