

2014 NCAA EDITORIAL CHANGE REQUEST

INCOMPLETE ILLEGAL FORWARD PASS (Rule 7-3-7-c-Exception)

RULE NUMBER & PAGE: RULE 7-3-7-c-Exception, FR-77.

EDITORIAL CHANGE:

7-3-7-c-Exception: When an illegal forward pass is incomplete, the ball belongs to the passing team at the spot of the pass (Exception: If the offended team declines the penalty for an illegal forward pass thrown from the end zone before a change of team possession, the ball shall next be put in play at the previous spot.

INTENT:

This option should not exist after a change of team possession.

PLAY: 3rd/goal B2. Team A is down by three or more points late in the game. B44 intercepts A16's legal forward pass in B's end zone. While still in B's end zone, B44 attempts to throw a backward pass but the ball is forward and incomplete.

RULING: Safety, since the penalty will be accepted. As the rule is written, Team A might have a strong wind at their backs and give Team B the ball on B's 2, the previous spot. It is highly unlikely that the rules committee or rules editor considers this a legitimate option.

SOURCE: Rom Gilbert [1/8/14] (7-3-7-c)(14)
