

2014 REPLAY CHANGE REQUEST

REPLAY: OFFICIAL SIGNALS BALL DEAD (Case Play 113.A)

RULE NUMBER & PAGE: RULE 12-3-3-c, FR-107.

CASE PLAY 113.A (new), Case Book Page 37.

INTERPRETATION UPDATE:

Rule 12-3-3-c (no change): Live ball ruled dead in possession of a ball carrier.

Case Play 106.1 (new): Fourth and 7 on the A-35. A5's punt is rolling on B's 33 when the BJ gives a timeout signal. B44 picks up the ball and returns it for a touchdown. .

RULING: Reviewable. Ball should have been ruled dead when the BJ signaled time out. Rule 4-1-2-a has correctly stated for over 30 years that the ball becomes dead when an official otherwise signals the ball dead. NOTE: It would be Team B's ball at the location of the ball when the play was killed. If the crew owned up to the timeout signal and replay did not get involved, the play would be treated as an inadvertent whistle since the ball was still rolling. Once replay gets involved, inadvertent whistles are not one of the options.

INTENT:

[1] A team should not be allowed to score a touchdown with a dead ball. This play occurred in a conference championship game in 2012. Video showed that (a) some Team B players had left the field; and (b) an official had already retrieved a ball for the next play.

[2] The BJ did not own up to killing the play. It is not known why one of other officials did not do something if they knew that the BJ gave the timeout signal.

SOURCE: Rom Gilbert [1/11/14] (rc14-ir113A)(14)
