

2018 RULE CHANGE REQUEST

INELIGIBLE RECEIVER DOWNFIELD - (Rule 7-3-10)

RULE 7-3-10, FR-79.

DELETE: “or have been more than three yards” starting in Line 1.

Rule 7-3-10: (after change): During a down in which a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone, no originally ineligible receiver shall be or have been beyond the neutral zone until a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone has been thrown (A.R. 7-3-10-I).

DELETE: Rule 7-3-8-b-1.

Rule 7-3-8-b-1 (2017): When, after the snap, a Team A ineligible player immediately charges and contacts an opponent at a point not more than one yard beyond the neutral zone and maintain the contact for no more than three yards beyond the neutral zone. (7-3-10-II)

INTENT:

On most forward passes, interior linemen retreat and form a pocket to block for the passer. Interior linemen may still go downfield on screen passes which is legal provided that the legal forward pass does not cross the neutral zone. Interior linemen may also block and drive opponents downfield provided the pass does not cross the neutral zone. Rules should maintain a balance between the between the offense and the defense. Ineligible receivers should not be downfield until a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone is released. This change would also make it easier to officiate. In the middle of the battle, it is difficult for a HL or LJ to get a handle on three yards beyond the neutral zone while watching blocking after the snap and action against his keys. Plus, it’s about time a rule change was made to cut the defense some slack.

SOURCE: Rom Gilbert [8-23-17] (rc18-7310)
