



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2012 PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 2

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

Kickoff: Kick Out of Bounds and Five-Yard Rule

1. Team A is in its formation to kick off at the A-35. Two players, A33 and A66, are positioned in a four-point stance with their feet on the A-29 and their hands on the A-31. The untouched kick hits the ground and rolls out of bounds at the B-20.

RULING: Team A has committed two fouls: illegal formation because A33 and A66 are not within five yards of the ball, and a free kick out of bounds. Team B may have the ball re-kicked at the A-30 or they may put the ball in play either at the B-35 (for the free kick out of bounds) or at the B-25 (five-yard penalty tacked on at the dead-ball spot). If Team B elects not to replay the down they clearly will take the ball at the B-35. (6-1-2-b, 6-2-1)

Touchback After Possession Change On Kickoff

2. B22 catches a kickoff and starts his return. At the B-40 he fumbles and A33 recovers the ball. A33 returns to the B-3 where he fumbles the ball which strikes the pylon at the goal line.

RULING: Touchback. Team B will have the ball at its 20-yard line. This is a touchback resulting from a running play not from the kickoff, and hence the touchback places the ball at the B-20 rather than the B-25. (8-6-2, 4-2-3-b)

Interruption of Ready-for-play

3. Lineman A77 is in a three-point stance after the ball has been made ready for play. As Team A sends in substitutes the umpire comes to the ball to allow the defense to match up, and A77 lifts his hand from the ground.

RULING: Legal play, not a false start. By coming to the ball during the substitution process the umpire has effectively interrupted the readiness of the ball for play, so the action by A77 is not a foul. (2-27-4-c, 7-1-2-b)

Penalty Enforcement After Punt

4. Team A punts on fourth and 10 at the A-30. At the snap Team A has five players in the backfield. The kick is blocked and does not cross the neutral zone. The ball goes out of bounds at the A-25.

RULING: Foul, illegal formation. In accepting the penalty Team B may elect to have fourth down repeated at the A-25 or put the ball in play at the A-20 after the penalty is enforced from the A-25 where the ball became dead. (7-1-4-a-4, 6-3-7, 6-3-13)

Helmet Off Directly Due to Foul

5. As receiver A88 catches a forward pass defensive back B22 launches and drives his forearm into A88's facemask, causing A88's helmet to come completely off. B22 is flagged for targeting and striking a defenseless player in the head.

RULING: Fifteen-yard penalty. A88 may remain in the game because his helmet came off as the direct result of the foul by B22. (9-1-4, 3-3-9-a)

Helmet Off Directly Due to Foul

6. After quarterback A12 releases the ball on a forward pass, defensive tackle B77 takes three steps, grabs A12 around the waist, picks him up and throws him to the ground. B77 does not contact his head. A12's head is the first part of his body to hit the ground, and his helmet comes completely off.

RULING: B77 is charged with a foul for roughing the passer. A12 may remain in the game. Although the contact by B77 was not directly to the head, A12's first contact with the ground because of the foul causes the helmet to come off, so by interpretation this is as a direct result of the foul. (9-1-9, 3-3-9-a)

Helmet Off Not Directly Due to Foul

7. Second and seven at the B-45. Defensive end B88 is flagged for roughing passer A12 by driving his shoulder into A12's sternum well after the pass is thrown. B88 does not contact his head. A12 hits the ground on his backside, and then his head hits the ground causing his helmet to come off. The pass is complete to eligible A44 who is tackled at the B-40.

RULING: Foul by B88, roughing the passer; 15-yard penalty. First and 10 at the B-25. A12 must leave the game for the next down. The helmet coming off was not the direct result of the foul. (9-1-9, 3-3-9-a)

Numbering Exception

8. Fourth and goal at the B-2. After the snapper is over the ball Team A assumes a formation with the following players on the line of scrimmage, left to right: 12, 95, 76, 62, 40 (snapper), 31, 42. In the backfield are 94, 77, and 96 with 25 in a shotgun formation. They then shift (no false start) into a place-kick formation with 25 becoming the holder, kneeling at the B-10, and 94 moving into the kicking position. Both 77 and 96 move to the line of scrimmage and 12 and 42 move into the backfield, so that the

line reads (left to right): 95, 76, 62, 40 (snapper), 31, 77, 96. The ball is snapped to the holder and the field goal is successful.

RULING: Foul, illegal formation. It is legal for Team A to have fewer than five players on the line numbered 50-79 if they are in a scrimmage kick formation at the snap. However, when 40 is established as the snapper, 95, 40 and 31 are all exceptions to the numbering rule since they are ineligible by position (not on the end of the line). They remain ineligible throughout the down, they must be on the line and they must not be on the end of the line at the snap. Because after the shift 95 is uncovered at the left end position, this formation is illegal. (7-1-4-a-5)

Foul During Scrimmage Kick: Postscrimmage Kick Enforcement

9. Team A punts on fourth and 10 at the A-40. During the kick B44 blocks below the waist at the B-35. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-30 and returns the ball to the B-45 where he is tackled.

RULING: Foul by B44 for blocking below the waist during a kick down. The foul occurs during the kick and thus is subject to postscrimmage kick enforcement. Fifteen-yard penalty at the end of the kick, which is the B-30. First and 10 for Team B at the B-15. (9-1-6-b, 10-2-2-c, 10-2-3, 2-25-11)

Foul During Return of Scrimmage Kick: Three-and-One Enforcement

10. Team A punts on fourth and 10 at the A-40. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-30 and returns the ball to the B-45 where he is tackled. During the return B44 blocks below the waist at the B-35.

RULING: Foul by B44 for blocking below the waist after a change of possession. The foul occurs during the return, not during the kick, and thus is subject to three-and-one enforcement, not postscrimmage kick enforcement. Fifteen yard penalty at the spot of the foul, which is the B-35. First and 10 for Team B at the B-20. (9-1-6-b, 10-2-2-c, 10-2-3, 2-25-11)

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