

2017

Southern California Collegiate Football Officials Association Summer Study Guide

1. A scrimmage kick formation is a formation with no player in position to receive a hand to-hand snap from between the snapper's legs, and with either (1) at least one player 10 or more yards behind the neutral zone; or (2) a potential holder and potential kicker seven or more yards behind the neutral zone in position for a place kick. For either (1) or (2) to qualify as a scrimmage kick formation, it must be obvious that a kick will be attempted.
2. The tackle box is the rectangular area enclosed by the neutral zone, the two lines parallel to the sidelines five yards from the snapper, and Team A's end line. The tackle box disintegrates when the ball leaves it.
3. No player shall target and make forcible contact against an opponent with the crown of his helmet. The crown of the helmet is the portion of the helmet above the level of the top of the facemask.
4. Team A snaps the ball at the B-15 to attempt a field goal. The kick is blocked, crosses the neutral zone and lands at the B-12. Before any player touches it beyond the neutral zone, the ball rebounds behind the neutral zone and goes out of bounds at the B-17. **RULING:** Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-20.
5. It is a foul to grab the quarterback by the back of jersey and immediately pull him to the ground while he is still in the tackle box.
6. A sliding ball carrier, who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first, is now protected under the defenseless-player portion of the targeting rules.
7. Fourth and three at the Team A 40 yard line. B intercepts A's legal forward pass and advances across A's goal line. B was offside. A accepts the penalty. The clock will start on the ready as Team A is awarded a first down after enforcement of the penalty.
8. No defensive player who runs forward from beyond the neutral zone may leap or hurdle in an obvious attempt to block a field goal or try.
9. Beginning in 2016, tripping is defined as intentionally using the lower leg or foot to obstruct any opponent below the knees.
10. Team A ball 2nd and eight and the B-38 yard line. During the play, the ball carrier fumbles at the B-35 and several players dive for the ball. B55 grabs A33 and slings him off the pile. **RULING:** B55 is charged with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. 15 yards and automatic first down.
11. It is a foul if a defensive player aligned in a stationary position within one yard of the line of scrimmage when the ball was snapped leaps or hurdles in an obvious attempt to block a field goal or try
12. At the end of a down, B55's shoulder pad has become exposed and is not covered by the jersey. **RULING:** Illegal equipment, B33 is required to leave the game.
13. After the ball becomes dead, head coaches may enter the field of play to attend to an injured player.
14. Beyond the neutral zone, receiver A36 is about to receive a legal forward pass. B18 drives into his helmet into A36 prior to the pass arriving. **Ruling:** A foul for Defensive Pass Interference is the only option.

15. At the snap A82 is positioned on the line of scrimmage to the right side of the formation, 10 yards from the snapper. As the play develops A82 blocks linebacker B62 toward the line through the original position of the ball. The block by A82 is below the waist and directly at the front, clearly inside the “10 o’clock to 2 o’clock” width. The block occurs after ball carrier is clearly beyond the neutral zone. RULING: Illegal crackback block. 15yard penalty.
16. Coaches who enter the field of play to question, protest or otherwise demonstrate disagreement with an officiating decision are subject to an immediate 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
17. Second and 6 at the B-45, Team A is in an alignment in which the snapper A88 is on the right end of the line. The linemen on his left are numbered 56, 63, 72, 22, 79, and 25. There are four players in the backfield. A44 is ten yards directly behind the snapper, and the other backs are to his left a few yards behind the line of scrimmage. No player is in position to hold for a place kick. After the snap, A44 completes a pass to snapper A88 for a touchdown. RULING: Legal Play: touchdown.
18. During timeouts coaches may enter the field of play near the sideline to communicate with players. These team huddles should not extend beyond the bottom of the numbers.
19. First and 10 at the A-40. A12 takes the snap and starts on a sweep to his right with guard A66 pulling to lead the play. Linebacker B55 blocks A66 from the side at the thigh at the A-44. RULING: B55’s block occurs within the five-yard band of territory beyond the neutral zone, and is legal.
20. “Targeting” means that a player takes aim at an opponent and makes forcible contact either with the crown (top) of his helmet; or to the head or neck area of a defenseless opponent”.
21. It is illegal for a player to go out of bounds to block an opponent who is out of bounds. This is a personal foul and the 15-yard penalty is enforced from the spot of the block.
22. The penalty for targeting fouls in the first half now includes disqualification for the remainder of the game. For targeting fouls in the second half the penalty includes disqualification for the remainder of the game and the first half of the next game.
23. Indicators of targeting include but are not limited to a launch (player leaving his feet to attack an opponent by an upward and forward thrust of the body to make forcible contact in the head or neck area), a crouch followed by an upward and forward thrust to attack with forcible contact at the head or neck area, even though one or both feet are still on the ground, leading with helmet, shoulder, forearm, fist, hand or elbow to attack with forcible contact at the head or neck area, and lowering the head before attacking by initiating forcible contact with the crown of the helmet.
24. At the snap tight end A85 is aligned six yards from the snapper. Before the ball has left the tackle box A85 blocks tackle B77 below the waist at the side. RULING: Legal Block.
25. When the ball is dead after scrimmage down, the Umpire notices that linebacker B55 has an exposed back pad at waist level, which apparently became exposed during the previous down. RULING: B55 is not required to leave the game, but he must cover the exposed pad with his jersey before the next down.
26. Dead-ball contact fouls such as pushing, shoving, striking, etc. that occur clearly after the ball is dead and that are not part of the game action are now unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.
27. Third and six at the A-35. Back A22 is stationary inside the tackle box at the snap. After the snap he shoots between the tackle and the guard on his side and blocks low on linebacker B55 at the A-38 before the ball has left the tackle box. The contact is at B55’s thigh from the side and is directed straight ahead of A22. RULING: Illegal block below the waist. Since A22 leaves the tackle box before making the block, he is restricted from blocking other than with a “10-2” block. 15-yard penalty.

28. Fourth and 10 at the A-40. B23 catches the punt at the B-17 and carries the ball to the B-21 where he fumbles. During the fumble B92 holds A46 at the B-18. A37 recovers the ball at the B-20 and returns it across Team B's goal line. RULING: The touchdown counts and the holding penalty is carried over to the try or the kickoff.
29. After the ball is ready for play, Team A comes to the line and fails to get all eleven players set for a full second before snapping the ball. Let the play continue, this is a live-ball foul resulting in a 5-yard penalty.
30. Second and five at the A-45. Ball carrier A3 breaks into the clear and races toward the goal line far ahead of his pursuers. At the B-2 he suddenly makes a sharp left turn and trots along the B-2 as the Team B players begin to close in on him. He then carries the ball into the end zone for a touchdown. RULING: Foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. There is no touchdown and the 15-yard penalty is enforced from the B-2.
31. A player on defense sticks out his foot and trips the ball carrier. RULING: Legal play.
32. 10-Second Runoff supersedes all other clock rules. If the runoff is accepted, the game clock starts on the Referee's signal. If the runoff is declined, the game clock starts on the snap.
33. Second and 10 at the B-20. Team A trails late in the fourth quarter. The game clock is running. Tackle B77 is in the neutral zone at the snap (no contact). A12 takes the snap, rolls out to his right, and runs to the B-17 where he throws a forward pass which falls incomplete. When the ball is dead the game clock reads 0:15. RULING: Offsetting fouls; by rule there is no 10-second runoff of the game clock.
34. Team A completes a pass to the tight end who runs for a touchdown. The left tackle is called for holding. Following the 10-yard previous spot penalty the game clock will start on the ready for play.
35. It is possible to have a foul for roughing the passer even if the passer throws an illegal forward pass.
36. During a dead-ball time, a head coach or an assistant coach is flagged for coming out to the numbers and cursing the officials in a loud and abusive manner. This is the coach's second unsportsmanlike foul. RULING: The officials charge either the head coach or the assistant coach with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. The referee announces that this is the second unsportsmanlike conduct foul against the coach in question and that the coach in question is disqualified from the game.
37. Ball carrier A33 breaks away and is racing toward the Team B goal line. He drops the ball just inside the one-yard line and, thinking he has scored a touchdown, circles through the end zone and runs to his team area. No official signals a touchdown nor blows a whistle. The ball rolls into the end zone where it then comes to rest and is declared dead with no player making an attempt to recover it. RULING: Touchback. Team B's ball at the B-20.
38. Penalties for all personal fouls by Team B during a completed legal forward pass play are enforced at the end of the last run when it ends beyond the neutral zone. If the pass is incomplete or intercepted, or if there is a change of possession during the down, the penalty is enforced at the previous spot.
39. If the ball is being snapped from beyond the team area, the head coach may leave the coaching box to request a time-out. He must stay "in the white" and move directly to the nearest official on his sideline.
40. When an offensive player is in a passing posture with one or both feet on the ground, no defensive player rushing unabated shall hit him forcibly at the knee area or below. However, it is not a foul if the defender grabs or wraps this opponent in an attempt to make a conventional tackle without making forcible contact with the head or shoulder.
41. When in question it is a foul for situations involving targeting an opponent or initiating contact with the crown of the helmet.

42. Second and seven at the A-25. Team A is ahead in the score late in the second quarter. When ball carrier A22 is tackled in the field of play, the game clock reads 1:47. The umpire reports to the referee that he has a flag for holding by snapper A55. On the play, A22 gained nine yards. RULING: After enforcement of the penalty, the game clock starts on the snap or on the referee's signal, at the option of Team B.
43. If a player goes to the ground in the act of catching a pass (with or without contact by an opponent) he must maintain complete and continuous control of the ball throughout the process of contacting the ground, whether in the field of play or in the end zone.
44. It is now a foul if a player grabs the nameplate area of a ball carriers jersey and immediately pulls the ball carrier down.
45. Scrambling passer who takes the snap or the backward pass from the snapper may legally ground the pass if he does not relinquish possession to another player before throwing the pass.
46. An airborne ball carrier, who dives head first in an effort to gain yardage, is now protected under the defenseless-player portion of the targeting rules.
47. Free kick at the A-35. B17 leaps from inbounds and is the first player to touch Team A's free kick when he grasps the ball while airborne. He then lands out of bounds with the ball in his control. RULING: B17 is inbounds when he touches the kick. Team B will have the ball at the yard line where B17 crossed the sideline.
48. At the snap Team A has four linemen numbered between 50-79 and three linemen numbered outside this range. A potential kicker is eight yards deep but there is no potential holder. RULING: Legal formation.
49. On the opening kickoff, B22 catches the kick at his goal line and returns the ball down the sideline on Team B's side of the field. As he moves down the sideline officiating the play, the side judge must run around a Team B coach or squad member in the restricted area ("the white"). B22 is driven out of bounds at the A-20. RULING: First infraction: Warning for sideline interference. No yardage penalty.
50. Third and 5 at the A-40. Quarterback A12 drops back to pass and, under a heavy rush, throws a backward pass to back A22 who carries the ball outside the tackle box. About to be tackled at the A-35, A22 throws a forward pass that crosses the neutral zone lands in an area 20 yards from the nearest Team A eligible receiver. RULING: Legal play, under the exception to Rule 7-3-2-h.