

2018

Southern California Collegiate Football Officials Association Summer Study Guide

1. When the field goal is successful, Team A may accept the score with penalties for personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls enforced on the succeeding kickoff or from the succeeding spot in extra periods.
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. Team A linemen with initial position completely inside the tackle box may legally block below the waist inside the tackle box until the ball leaves the tackle box.
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. The team that scores a touchdown as time expires at the end of the game may forego the try when they are ahead by one or two points.
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 considered down and the ball is dead at the forward-most point at which he begins his slide. This sliding ball carrier is also protected under the defenseless-player portion of the targeting rules.
7. Coaches' headsets are restricted to a maximum of 20 for each team and it is the responsibility of the officials to assure each team has the same number of headsets.
8. If a Team B player makes a fair catch of a free kick behind Team B's 25-yard line, the ball belongs to Team B at its own 25-yard line.
9. Knee pads must be covered by pants. Furthermore, the pants and knee pads must cover the knees. No pads or protective equipment may be worn outside the pants.
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. Fouls for interference with the opportunity to catch a kick (KCI) on free or scrimmage kick plays are penalized from the spot of the foul.
12. As Team A is about to break its huddle, the Referee notices that A35 is not wearing pants and knee pads that cover the knees. RULING: A35 must leave the game for one down to get legal pants and knee pads that cover his knees. Team A may use an available charged timeout in order that A35 not miss a down.
13. A88 is airborne and secures firm control of A12's forward pass. A88's right foot lands inbounds and he maintains firm control of the ball as he contacts the ground. B28, who is standing out of bounds, has his hand touching the ball while A88 is airborne and in firm control of the ball. RULING: Completed forward pass.
14. Beyond the neutral zone, receiver A36 is about to receive a legal forward pass. B18 lowers his head and drives his helmet with forcible contact into A36 prior to the pass arriving. The pass falls incomplete. Ruling: A foul for Defensive Pass Interference is the only option.

15. Back A41 is stationary at the snap directly behind the right tackle in a balanced line formation. His left shoulder is inside the tackle box. The quarterback hands the ball to back A22 who runs straight ahead. A41 blocks B2 who moves into the offensive backfield to make a play on the ball carrier before A22 reaches the line of scrimmage. The block is below the waist and clearly at the side. RULING: Legal block. A41 is partially inside the tackle box and behind the second lineman at the snap.
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. Team A players may not block below the waist when the block occurs five yards or more beyond the neutral zone.
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. 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, crosses into Team B's secondary and blocks low on linebacker B55 less than 5 yards beyond the line of scrimmage. The contact is at B55's thigh from the side and is directed straight ahead of A22. 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. Team A players not initially position completely inside the tackle box are allowed to block below the waist only if the force of the initial contact is directed from the front. "Directed from the front" is defined as within the clock face region between "10 o'clock and 2 o'clock" forward of the area of concentration of the player being blocked.

28. A ball from a free kick formation must be kicked legally and from some point on Team A's restraining line and on or between the hash marks. The ball may be relocated at any time after the ready-for-play signal and prior to the ball being kicked.
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. During a free kick, if a Team B receiver gives any waving signal, valid or invalid, and subsequently catches the ball behind the B-25 yard line the ball belongs to Team B at its own 25-yard line.
33. When a Team A player is holding the ball to pass it forward toward the neutral zone, any intentional forward movement of his hand with the ball firmly in his control starts the forward pass.
34. Late in the game with the score tied, Team A lines up to free kick from the A-35. Kicker A10 places the ball down at the right hash for an apparent outside kick. After the Referee's ready-for-play signal, A10 approaches the ball and then picks up the ball runs to the left hash at the A-35, places the ball down and quickly kicks the ball. Team A legally recovers the grounded kick at the A-46. When the ball was kicked, Team A met the requirement of at least 4 players on each side of the kicker. RULING: Legal. Team A's ball at the A-46.
35. 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 more than 5 yards beyond the neutral zone. RULING: Illegal crackback block, 15-yard penalty.
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. It is a foul if a defensive player moves forward and tries to block a field goal or try by leaving his feet and leaping into the plane directly above the frame of the body of an opponent whether or not he makes contact with another player.
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 referee's signal, no option for 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. While a free kick is in the air, B21 gives an invalid fair catch signal. The ball is caught by B21 at the B-5. RULING: The ball is dead when caught. Team B ball, first and 10 at the 5-yard line.
47. The penalty for roughing or any other personal foul against the kicker who is in the act or just after kicking the ball is 15 yards from the previous spot, plus automatic first down if not in conflict with other rules.
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. Team A, trailing by nine points, has 1st-and-10 on the B-22 with 35 seconds remaining in the game. At the snap, B21, B40 and B44 blatantly hold, wrapping both arms around Team A's wideouts and take them to the ground. Quarterback A12 has no receiver in the route, scrambles and then legally throws the ball away. After the play, the game clock reads 26 seconds. The back judge, field judge and side judge have a flag down for Team B holding on each of their keys. RULING: This is a blatant and obvious unfair act designed to take time off the clock. The referee will convert the holding fouls to an unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Penalize half the distance to the goal. Team A will have 1st and 10 at the B-11. The game clock is reset to 35 seconds and starts on the next snap. B21, B40 and B44 each have one unsportsmanlike foul.