

2019

Southern California Collegiate Football Officials Association Summer Study Guide

1. A wedge is defined as two or more players aligned shoulder to shoulder within two yards of each other.
2. A blind side block is defined as an open field block against an opponent that is initiated from outside the opponent's field of vision, or otherwise in such a manner that the opponent cannot reasonably defend himself against the block. (Exceptions: (1) the runner; (2) a receiver in the act of attempting to make a catch.)
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. When the defense is allowed to block below the waist by rule, the block must be directed from the front. This now lines up with the offensive team's requirement.
12. For a Free-kick down only: After the ball has been kicked, it is illegal for two or more members of the receiving team intentionally to form a wedge for the purpose of blocking for the ball carrier. This is a live-ball foul, whether or not there is contact between opponents. There is no foul if the play results in a Touchback, Free Kick Out of Bounds or Fair Catch.
13. It is a Personal Foul if a player delivers a blind-side block by attacking an opponent with forcible contact. In addition, if this action meets all the elements of targeting, it is a blind-slide block with targeting.
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. Defensive end B88 blocks below the waist against tackle A75 three yards beyond the line of scrimmage. The initial contact of the block is at the opponent's side. RULING: Legal block.
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 more than five yards 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. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B67 and B80 drop back and form a two-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled. RULING: Foul by Team B, illegal wedge formation. The penalty is enforced at the spot of the foul, half the distance to the goal. First and 10 for Team B at the B-8.
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. If a student-athlete receives a third or any subsequent targeting foul within the same season, that player is disqualified for the remainder of that game and the player would receive an automatic one-game suspension in his team's next scheduled 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. Defensive end B88 blocks below the waist against tackle A75 two yards beyond the line of scrimmage. The initial contact of the block is directed from the front. RULING: Illegal block.
25. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B67 and B80 drop back and form a two-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Receiver B22 catches the ball in the end zone and downs it there. RULING: No foul, because the play ends in a touchback.
26. Team A runs a reverse, and A78 blocks defensive lineman B45 outside of his field of vision at the A-18. The block is forcible with significant thrust and contact is made at the side of B45. RULING: Foul.
27. First and 10 at the A-40. A12 takes the snap and starts on a sweep to his right. Guard A66 pulls and leads the play. As the play develops linebacker B55 blocks A66 from the front at the thigh at the A-44. A12 is driven out of bounds at the A-48. RULING: No foul. B55's block below the waist is legal because it occurs from the front and fewer than 5 yards beyond the neutral zone.
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. Beginning with the fifth extra period, a team's possession series will be one play for a two-point try from the three yard line, unless relocated by penalty.

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 a fair catch 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 onside 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. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B67 and B80 drop back to block for the return, with B67 at the A-16 and B-80 at the A-14. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled. RULING: Legal play.
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. First and 10 @ A-20. Team A runs a reverse and A78 blocks defensive lineman B45 outside of his field of vision at the A-18. The block is made with the hands of A78 who pushes B45 from the side. The run ends at the A-25. Ruling No foul. A 2/5 @ A-25.
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 carrier's 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. Team A runs a reverse, and A78 blocks defensive lineman B45 outside of his field of vision at the A-18. The block is forcible with significant thrust and contact is made to the head and neck area of B45. RULING: Foul for blind side block is the only option.
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 kicks off at its 30-yard line. During the kick receiving team players B67 and B80 drop back and form a two-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled. In an attempt to "break up" the wedge A44 dives and hits B67 at the knees at the B-18. RULING: Offsetting fouls, and Team A re-kicks at the previous spot.