



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2020 NCAA FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 1

Prohibited Field Equipment – Rule 1-4-11

Play #1: The Head Coach of the home team is in quarantine, and wants to monitor the TV broadcast and (a) call in plays via cell phone to the offensive coordinator (b) use a virtual application (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) to communicate with the team in the locker room.

RULING: Rule 1-4-11-b is very specific and allows only voice communications between the press box and the team area, therefore in (a) the coach could not call into the press box or the sideline for anything related to coaching purposes.

Rule 1-4-11-a would prohibit the use of technology including computers to be used for coaching purposes and this would include all virtual types of communication back to a team during the game, consequently in (b) any virtual session with the team would not be allowed. This prohibition would begin at 90 minutes before the scheduled kickoff when the officiating crew assumes jurisdiction of the game and would include the time between periods until the end of the game when the Referee declares the score final.

Safety – Rule 8-5-1 & Fumble Rule 7-2-2 Exceptions

Play #2: 4/Goal @ B8. Runner A44 is hit at the B-5 and fumbles, and B54 bats the grounded loose ball at the B-3 back into his own end zone. A88 sees the loose ball and recovers while the ball is still in the end zone.

RULING: Safety, score 2 points for Team A. The bat by B54 is a legal bat since he is batting the ball backward (Rule 9-4-1-c), but B54 does add a new impetus to the ball, and is responsible for the ball's progress into his own end zone (Rule 8-7-2-b-1). When A88 recovers the ball, the ball is declared dead based on the 4th down fumble rule (Rule 7-2-

2-a Exception 2). The ruling is a safety because the ball becomes dead by rule in the end zone, and B54 is responsible for the ball being there (Rule 8-5-1-a). The safety rule and the 4th down fumble rule would seem to be in conflict here, but the spirit and intent of the safety rule is very specific to this play and would supersede the 4th down fumble rule which describes generically how we are to handle recoveries by Team A on 4th down.

Disqualified Player and Ejected Player – Rule 2-27-12

Play #3: Player number 21 for the home team was disqualified late in the 3rd quarter for Targeting and legally remains in the team area. Between the end of the 3rd quarter and the start of the 4th quarter, number 21 for the home team is flagged in the team area for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

RULING: Dead ball foul, 15-yard penalty from the succeeding spot. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules. Number 21 is ejected from the game and must leave the playing enclosure. Any player that has been disqualified and is subsequently penalized for Unsportsmanlike Conduct is automatically ejected.

Third Targeting Foul – Rule 9-1-3 / 9-1-4

Play #4: Player number 21 for the home team is disqualified late in the 3rd quarter for Targeting and this was number 21's third targeting foul in the season.

RULING: Enforce the 15-yard penalty for Targeting and number 21 is disqualified. He may remain in the team area for the balance of the game. If a player receives a 3rd Targeting foul within the same season, in addition to being disqualified for that game, the player will receive a one-game suspension in his team's next scheduled game. While serving this suspension, this player may not be in the team area nor in the playing enclosure.

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