



## **COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC**

### **2023 NCAA FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 2**

#### **Ejected Players and Coaches – Rule 9-2-6-a**

**Play #1:** 3/10 @ B-40. Late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in a very chippy game, QB A12 scrambles down the sideline and turns toward the boundary at the B-15, steps out of bounds at that point and then is hit hard by B21. All players from both benches empty and there is a large scrum with much pushing, shoving, etc. Officials work to restore order, and after some time, both teams return to their team areas. The officials huddle after order is restored and identify B21, B55, A44 and A54 as fighting. Additionally, the crew charges every Team A and Team B player with an Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul. A88 (a) was penalized for Unsportsmanlike Conduct previously in the game; (b) is penalized for Unsportsmanlike Conduct early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**RULING:** Team A will have 1/10 @ B-15 as all the dead ball personal foul and unsportsmanlike conduct foul penalties cancel and B21, B55, A44, and A54 are ejected (Rule 10-1-5). Every remaining player for each team will have an unsportsmanlike conduct counter. Officials should use the “all players are issued a UNS” situation very sparingly and only in situations where we cannot identify specific players involved in action and when there is danger of losing control of the game. A88 (a) is ejected following the play as this becomes his second Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul for the game; (b) is ejected after the play in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as this becomes his second Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul for the game. Rule 9-2-6-a is specific in stating that any coach, player, or squad member in uniform that commits two unsportsmanlike conduct fouls in the same game shall be ejected.

### **Invalid Signal – Rule 2-8-3**

**Play #2:** Free Kick @ A-35. The kickoff is high and deep, and deep receiver B21 gives the “T signal” as the kick is in flight. B21 catches the kick right at the goal line and returns the kick back to the B-35.

**RULING:** Team B will have 1/10 @ B-35. The “T signal”, if executed properly, is not considered a valid or invalid fair catch signal – and is not a signal at all from a rules perspective. It is important that the signal is executed properly and has no waiving motion, and the hands are extended straight out and remain at or below shoulder level. The “T signal” does not cause the ball to become dead and does not deprive the receiving team the opportunity to advance the ball.

### **Offensive and Defensive Requirements – Rule 7-1-2 & 7-1-5**

**Play #3:** 1/10 @ A-25. Defender B70 is lined up with his right hand and helmet in the neutral zone. As the play clock winds down, restricted lineman A77 reaches out and touches B70.

**RULING:** Dead ball foul, false start by A77 resulting in 1/15 @ A-20. The defense may enter the neutral zone, and their requirement is that when the snap starts no player may be in or beyond the neutral zone – live ball foul (Rule 7-1-5-b-1). If the defensive player contacts an opponent after the ball is ready and before the snap, it is a dead ball foul (Rule 7-1-5-a-1). In addition, if a defender enters the neutral zone and it causes an offensive lineman to react immediately, then it is a dead ball foul on the defense (Rule 7-1-5-a-2). In this play the defense is lined up in the neutral zone, and there is no immediate reaction by the offense, and then the offense subsequently moves to touch or contact the defender and is a false start on the offense (Rule 7-1-2-b-3).

### **Instant Replay Equipment – Rule 12-4-2-a**

**Play #4:** During the game, all video sources including the program feed on the communicator’s monitor are no longer available in the Replay Booth. The Replay Official alerts the Referee that the Replay Equipment has malfunctioned.

**RULING:** The Referee will make an announcement and alert both Head Coaches that the replay system is down, and there can be no challenges or reviews until the Replay Official declares the equipment is back up and operational. The Replay Official shall work with game management and the replay manufacturer to restore the system as

soon as possible. Once access to the program feed is restored the Replay Official will alert the Referee and the game will resume with the normal replay rules.

The type of equipment used to carry out all necessary instant replay duties shall be determined by each conference or member institution and is not variable during a game. The replay process cannot be converted in game to the optional use of replay without a booth replay official if the game was started with a booth replay official.

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