

# 2014 Regular Season Bulletin 6

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## Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Officials are reminded that there is a difference between Illegal Personal Contact fouls, Rule 9-4-8 and Noncontact Unsportsmanlike Conduct by Nonplayer fouls, Rule 9-8-3.

The fouls do carry similar penalties HOWEVER they don't mix/combine to create 2 fouls and an ejection. You must have 2 of the same foul to have an ejection - 1 of each does NOT create an ejection unless that one is deemed flagrant. Rules 9-8-3 and 9-4-8 are separate rules.

In other words, a foul under one rule DOES NOT affect the penalty for the other rule. Thus, a 15-yard penalty enforced for a contact foul under 9-4-8 does not affect the penalty sequence for violations of the restricted area or team box area under 9-8-3.

## Kick-Catch Interference

Play: 4<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the A 12-yard line. On the last play of the first half, B27 signals for a fair catch at the A 40-yard line. A11 tackles B27 before the ball arrives. The ball hits A11 in the back and bounces to the B 44-yard line where B33 recovers.

Ruling: Kick-catch interference foul on A11. B will have a choice to decline the penalty and go to halftime, or have an untimed down by accepting the penalty and having a choice of accepting the result of the play, OR a 15-yard penalty (half the distance in this case) from the previous spot and a replay of the down, OR a 15-yard penalty from the spot of the foul.

If they accept the 15-yard penalty from the spot of the foul, B will have an awarded fair catch which affords B a free kick from the A 25-yard line. This option will give B the opportunity to kick a field goal during an untimed down from a free kick formation. Rules 3-3-3; 6-5-4; 6-5-6; 8-4-1.

## Penalty Enforcement

Play: 1st/10; ball on A's 10-yard line. A12 drops back to pass and is in his end zone when his facemask is grabbed and pulled. A12 then fumbles the ball out of the back of the end zone. What is the enforcement spot for the 15-yard penalty?

Answer: This play is a loose ball play and thus the basic spot is the previous spot. Look at Rule 10-3-1 Note which states "the run which precedes such.....fumble.....is considered part of the action during a loose-ball play." A's ball, 1<sup>st</sup>/10 on A's 25-yard line.

Rule 10-4-7 is not applicable; it specifically refers to "running plays," and again, this is a loose ball play. Also, remember, it's not the end of run being in the end zone that caused the safety, it was the fumbled ball crossing the end line.

### **Basic Spot**

The basic enforcement spot for a foul that occurs during a running play is the end of the run. Rule 10-4-4. Fouls by the defense during a running play will result in additional yardage for the offense.

### **Roughing the Snapper**

During a field goal attempt or scrimmage kick, the snapper is entitled to additional protection. The snapper is vulnerable in a scrimmage-kick formation where keeping his head down is critical towards making sure the snap is executed properly.

At the snap when the offensive team is in a scrimmage-kick formation, no defensive player may charge directly into the snapper. Rule 9-4-6. This protection exists until the snapper is able to protect himself, blocks or otherwise moves to participate in the play.

“Protect himself” means the snapper has time to look up and regain his balance. If contacted directly while his head is still down and before he has a chance to look up, contact is likely to be a foul.

### **Eye Shade**

Officials are reminded that players may only wear a solid stroke of eye shade. Face paint and eye shade that contains words, logos and other symbols are illegal equipment. Rule 1-5-3c3.

### **Kudos**

As we approach the middle of the season, Brad and I would like to say thank you for the job you do in your role as a football official. We have not received a lot of comments or criticisms, even with the new rules regarding targeting and defenseless players. Some issues and concerns that we have heard about have been addressed in these weekly bulletins.

We appreciate the time and effort you commit to attending meetings, camps and clinics to become a better official. Keep up the good work; games take on new significance as the season progresses. Keep working on your rules knowledge, mechanics and interpretations.

### **Training Video**

This week’s training video is four plays shared by Darin Rutledge of the Klamath Falls association. Darin did many of the telestrations; I’ve added some others plus the voiceover. This is an excellent example of an association using Hudl technology to creating training material for local association meetings.