

2014 Regular Season Bulletin 4

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Illegal Participation

Play: Fourth and 10 at the A 35-yard line. A99 and A77 leave the field and A59 comes in as a substitute. Following the ready-for-play, Team A lines up in a scrimmage kick formation. During this time A21, the 11th A player, steps off the sideline at the LOS on to the field of play behind a wing official and starts downfield. The ball is snapped and A12 throws a legal forward pass to A21, who catches it and is tackled inbounds at the B10.

Ruling: Foul for Illegal Participation, 15 yards from the previous spot. Team A's ball fourth and 25 from the A 20-yard line. Clock starts on the RFP. Rules 7-2-1 and 9-6-4d.

Comment: This play is part of this week's video training series posted to the Central Hub.

Kick Catch Interference

On a punt, KCI was called when a K player bumped an R player as he was about to catch the ball. The muffed ball was recovered by K who advanced two yards before being tackled. The ball was snapped for the next play from where the kick play ended.

Please review enforcement options for kick-catch interference, Rule 6-5 Penalty. Also note the ball became dead when Team K recovered it so any advance by K was an advance of a dead ball.

Conserving Time

Play: Score is A=18 B=21. Clock is running with 0:08 seconds left in the game. A's ball, 2nd and 2 at the B 30-yard line. In an attempt to conserve time for a field goal attempt, Team A quickly lines up and the ball is legally snapped to quarterback A9, who throws the ball forward directly to the ground. Team A only had 6 men on the line of scrimmage at the snap. When the ball became dead, two seconds are left on the game clock. After penalizing Team A 5-yards for the Illegal Formation foul, the Referee invoked Rule 3-4-6, wound the clock on the ready-for-play, time then expired and the game ended.

Ruling: Incorrect application of Rule 3-4-6. Spiking the ball is a legal way to stop the clock and not an illegal way to conserve time. The clock should have been started on the snap with 0:02 on the game clock. Rule 3-4-3e.

Illegal Formation-Wing Officials

In a field goal attempt or a PAT by placekick, only one wing official is on the LOS, the other wing official is under an upright with the Back Judge (5-person crew) or the Umpire (4-person crew.) The wing official left on the LOS is responsible for the legality of the offensive formation. When the Referee and Umpire signal that they do not have 11 offensive players on the field, wing officials, if you are alone on the LOS, take a step or two into the offensive backfield so you can

view the entire offensive formation especially players on the far side of the snapper and make sure the formation is legal.

Horse-Collar Tackle

Play: We had a play where the QB rolled out, and was grabbed by the inside back of his jersey. While being grasp by the jersey, he throws the ball and after that is pulled down backwards by the inside collar. The covering official did not have a foul arguing that he was not a runner.

I felt it was a foul since the rule specifies a foul even if the runner loses possession of the ball. I also felt it was roughing the passer based on the personal foul against the passer rule. What do you think?

Ruling: I agree....roughing the passer. If the horse-collar is started while a player is a runner, it doesn't matter if he is no longer a runner when he is pulled down for the foul to be called. Personal fouls against a passer are enforced as roughing the passer. Rule 9-4-4.

Pass Interference - Ineligible Receivers

Pass interference restrictions only apply to eligible receivers. If an ineligible receiver is contacted by a defender while the ball is in the air, the foul may be for holding or a personal foul, but not for defensive pass interference. Rule 7-5-10a.

Mechanics Reminders

After the first 3 weeks of the season, some mechanics reminders for officials.

- On free kicks, Back Judges need to move to the center of the field and drift slowly downfield. Too many Back Judges are only coming in to the numbers.
- On scrimmage kicks, Umpires should start 10 yards off the LOS. This will help Umpires avoid linemen moving downfield and also give the Umpire a wider view of his/her coverage area.

Training Video

This week's training video has three plays that illustrate legal and illegal blocks and one play that shows illegal participation.