

# 2014 Regular Season Bulletin 5

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## Illegal Touching

Play: First and 10 at team A's 20-yard line. A forward pass hits guard A65's back as he is blocking at Team A's 18-yard line.

Ruling: Even though A1 is an ineligible receiver, there is no foul for illegal touching because A65 did not catch, bat or muff the pass. The touching of the ball is ignored. Rule 7-5-13.

Comment: At the snap, eligible receivers are those in the backfield or on the end of the line numbered 1 to 49 or 80 to 99. Rule 7-5-6. Interior linemen (regardless of number) and ends or backs numbered 50 to 79 are ineligible at the snap. **Players numbered 50 to 79 CANNOT report to the Referee to become eligible receivers.**

## Line-to-Gain on Fourth Down

On a snap at or inside 5-yard line, with the line-to-gain short of the goal line, the covering wing official should treat the line-to-gain just like the goal line and slide-step to that line, NOT the actual goal line. If the ball carrier advances beyond the line-to-gain, the covering wing official continues slide-stepping to the actual goal line and then officiates back to the dead ball spot if forward progress is short of the goal line. The other wing official moves directly to the goal line and then officiates back to the dead ball spot.

## Ineligibles Downfield

Play: A's ball, 2nd and 9 on the A-34. Right tackle A75 runs 4 yards beyond the neutral zone and finding no one to block, retreats behind the neutral zone. Once behind the neutral zone, A75 blocks B70 while A9 throws a forward pass that crosses the neutral zone but falls incomplete.

Ruling: A75 is an ineligible player downfield. The prohibition against ineligibles downfield starts at the snap. If the 5-yard penalty is accepted, it will be A's ball, 2nd and 14 on the A-29; if not, it's 3rd and 9 from the A-34. Remember, it's not where the ineligible player is when the pass is thrown but **where he has been** between the snap and the pass.

## Penalty Enforcement

In a JV game, a touchdown was disallowed because the runner taunted his opponents at the 12-yard line. By rule, a foul for Unsportsmanlike Conduct on a scoring play is enforced on the try or on the subsequent kickoff. Rule 8-2-4.

## Starting/Stopping the Clock

When a team attempts to illegally consume time, the Referee shall invoke Rule 3-4-6 and start the clock on the snap when it would ordinarily start on the ready-for-play.

Play: With about a minute remaining in the first half, Team A is deep in their own territory facing a punting situation against a strong wind. With the clock running, A66 commits a false start.

Ruling: Penalize Team K 5 yards and start the clock on the snap. Under normal circumstances, the clock would start with the ready-for-play, but this would permit the period to end and Team K could then punt with the wind. Team K will not be permitted to gain this advantage by fouling to consume time.

Comment: The last two minutes of the first half and the last five minutes of the game are the most likely times for a team to attempt to manipulate the clock.

### **Coin Toss**

If the captain who won the toss elects to kick off, advise the captain that by choosing to kick, his/her team will probably also kick off to start the second half. That will give the captain an opportunity to confer with other captains to make sure that's really what the captain wants. Umpires, make sure you are close by to hear the conversation between the Referee and the captain as that team's coach will undoubtedly ask for an explanation.

### **Extending a Period**

A period is not extended for an untimed down following an accepted penalty that includes a loss of down. Example....an illegal forward pass. Rules 7-5-2 Penalty and 3-3-4b3.

### **Kicking Tee**

Question: On a free kick, Team K places the tee on the ground and then places the ball on the ground braced against the tee. Legal or not?

Answer: In my opinion, LEGAL. I don't see any advantage being gained and in fact, note at least one possible disadvantage....the kicker kicking the tee while also kicking the ball. Also, the ball less high than it would be with a tee; any advantage gained by elevating the ball with the tee is lost.

Webster defines "on" as "...in contact with (any surface)...attached to." Also "so as to be supported by."

So...we can say the ball is on the tee when the ball is braced against (in contact with or supported by) the tee.

### **Training Video**

This week's training video features two chapters from the LeMonnier series highlighting plays that involve the Goal Line and Player Safety issues.