

2015 Regular Season Bulletin 8

Holder Restrictions

Play: A is set up in scrimmage kick (field goal) formation with A1 as the holder and A2 as the potential kicker. A1 receives the snap and, while still on his knee, throws a backward pass to A2, who runs for a TD.

Ruling: Look at Exception 1 to Rule 4-2-2a. A1 has to rise to throw a pass. If he throws a pass while his knee is still on the ground, the ball becomes dead immediately. Also look at Case Book play 4.2.2 Sit. A.

Hurdling

Play: On a scrimmage kick, R91 jumps over K's line right after the snap, lands behind K's line and blocks the kick. K's players were still crouched over as R91 jumped over them. It was hard to tell, but I think K's players were only on their feet when R91 jumped. R91 did not appear to touch any K player.

Ruling: Your play falls under the definition of hurdling. If K's players only contact with the ground were their feet, then R91 is guilty of hurdling. Rules 2-22 and 9-4-3d.

Penalty Enforcement

Question: (From a Coach) "At what point can my captain or myself reverse the decision on a penalty administration?"

Answer: Rule 10-1-1 says a captain's choice of a penalty option cannot be revoked. That said, the key to avoiding problems is making sure the captain or coach understands the options as presented, that officials don't assume anything even with an obvious choice, and that officials take time to make sure everything's clear and understood before enforcing a penalty.

Most of the time, captains don't know what the coach wants to do and usually look towards their team bench with a pleading look. Take time to let the captain communicate with his coach and don't put a captain in a situation to make a difficult game-affecting decision by himself.

Forward Handing

Play: 1/10, A-20. A33 runs to the 50-yard line. As he is being tackled, he hands the ball to a teammate A24 who is running parallel with him. A24 initially touches the ball at the 50, but doesn't control the ball until the B-48. A24 continues for a touchdown.

Ruling: Legal play. There is no foul for illegally handing the ball forward. A33 and A24 were both in contact with the ball at the 50-yard line. Rules 2-19-1a and b.

Ineligible Downfield

Here's a play that's sure to provoke some discussion.....which I'll start.....

Play: Team A's ball on the A-35. 2nd Down and 3. Team A is lined up in a legal formation with QB A9 in shotgun. A9 receives the snap and drops back to the A-27. A9 immediately throws a pass to A22 who is behind the line-of-scrimmage at the A-33. Lineman A69 is blocking B63 at the A-41 because the play is designed to be a screen pass with the ball caught behind the line-of-scrimmage. However, A9's pass sails over A22's head and goes beyond the line-of-scrimmage, landing incomplete at the A-40.

Discussion: By the letter of the law, Rule 7-5-12, A69 has committed a foul for being an ineligible downfield. The pass was definitely beyond the line-of-scrimmage as well. This play was a designed pass behind the line-of-scrimmage. What about a no-call, incomplete pass, 3rd down and 3 at the A-35? Think about the intent of the rule. Also, was any advantage gained by either team; was either team put at a disadvantage?

Training Video

This week's training video shows a play where the snapper is hurdled by a defensive player who is attempting to block an attempted field goal. The snapper goes into a 4-point stance after snapping the ball; by Rule 2-22, the defensive player cannot be guilty of hurdling.

I've also included two chapters from the LeMonnier series that deal with Player Safety and Ball Possession.

Here are the links.....

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3490/6027>

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3481/6014>

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/Front/105991/Video/player/3482/6015>