

Regular Season Bulletin 7

Measurements

Question: Can the captain of the team on defense request a measurement for a first down?

Answer: The Note to Rule 5-3-2 says, "A measurement may be requested by the captain..." It doesn't specify the offensive or defensive captain, therefore either captain may request a measurement. The only example I can think of a defensive captain asking for a measurement is when he believes the Referee has erroneously awarded the offense a first down without measuring. Now, we know that the Referee doesn't have to grant any request for a measurement, but good PR suggests that we grant reasonable requests, especially in a close ball game. It doesn't hurt to take a few extra minutes to (try to) keep everyone happy!

Timeouts

Several reminders.....

To avoid potential problems, if a team has used its last timeout of the half or overtime, the Referee should personally inform the Head Coach that he is out of timeouts. This is in addition to wing officials reminding their sidelines of how many or no timeouts remaining.

If both teams request a timeout at the same time, both requests should be granted and each team is charged with a timeout. The timeouts may run consecutively if desired.

During timeouts, wing officials are responsible for monitoring conferences near their sideline. Officials need to "put their nose" in the huddle to verbally and physically get the teams back onto the field at the end of a timeout. A 60 second timeout should not last 70 seconds. Be respectful, but be assertive when necessary. The same mechanic should be used to get teams back onto the field for the ensuing kickoff when they huddle near their team bench area following a score.

There is no foul if a timeout is requested in excess of a team's allotment. Simply ignore the request. If a timeout is erroneously granted, reset and start the 25-second clock, and if appropriate, start the game clock as soon as possible.

Muffed Scrimmage Kick

Question: It is 4th and 40. K punts the ball and R muffs the kick in front of the line-to-gain where K recovers. Far too many times I have had an official wanting to award the ball to R because K did not reach the line-to-gain. As I understand, once R has legally touched the ball, whoever is in possession when the ball becomes dead it is theirs 1st and 10. Is this not correct?

Answer: When Team R touches/muffs the ball beyond the line of scrimmage, there is no longer a line-to-gain; the continuity of downs is broken. Team K may recover the ball and it's 1st and 10 for Team K at that spot. Team K may not advance the recovered kick; the ball becomes dead as soon as Team K gains possession. Rule 4-2-2f.

Penalty Enforcement – Overtime

On the first series of the second OT period, Team A scored a touchdown on a play when the defense was flagged for Illegal Participation. The penalty was declined by the officials and not enforced on the try. Please review Rule 8-2-2 and related Rules 8-2-3, 4 and 5.

Line-to Gain Inside the 5-Yard Line

Wing officials should treat the line-to-gain just like the goal line when the ball is snapped at or inside the 5-yard line. Release to the line-to-gain, not the goal line, then continue to the goal line once the line-to-gain has been made. Do not go directly to the goal line and then attempt to come back to the line-to-gain; there's less chance of getting an accurate progress spot.

Training Videos

This week's training videos feature plays from the LeMonnier series that deal with the Kicking and Passing Game. Here are links to both videos.

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/front/105991/Video/player/3477/6010>

<http://osaafotball.arbitersports.com/front/105991/Video/player/3478/6011>