

2017 Regular Season Bulletin 4

Shifts

Play: Tight end not covered in a three-point stance, slowly raises and shifts three yards back into the back field where he sets. Wide out moves to the line of scrimmage and sets for more than one second. Ball is snapped, do we have an illegal shift?

Ruling: Legal play. Doesn't matter how many players change position as long as they are all set for one second before the snap. After the one second pause, a player may also go in motion and be moving legally at the snap. In your play, both players could have shifted at the same time as long as they met the set-for-one second requirement. Rules 2-39 and 7-2-6.

Touchdown...or Not!

Play: Ball carrier is near the sideline, sideline is on his right. He leaps in the air at the B-1 and his body is over the goal line extended with his left arm extended and the ball over the field of play. When he crosses the goal line extended, the ball (in his possession) crosses the goal line over the field of play. Touchdown or no Touchdown?

Ruling: In your play, the runner is airborne with his body over the extended goal line, BUT, the ball, because it's possessed in the runner's inside (left) hand, breaks the plane of the goal line inside the goal line pylon and is therefore in the field of play before breaking the plane of the sideline. Touchdown. Had the ball been in his right hand, no touchdown, and forward progress is where the ball crossed the sideline. Rule 2-26-3.

Penalty Enforcement

Play: In first series of overtime, Team A scores a touchdown. After the play, Team A is flagged for excessive celebration. Can Team B have the option of having the enforcement on the try or at the subsequent spot which would give Team B the ball at the 12 and 1/2 yard line?

Ruling: The only option is to enforce on the try as there are no kickoffs in overtime. Rule 8-2-5.

Measurements

Play: 2nd and 7 from the B-45. A running play ends close to the B-38, but the Referee determines it is short of the line-to-gain. Following the ready-for-play, QB A11 asks for a measurement.

Ruling: Rule 5-3-2 Note and Case Book play 5.3.2. Sit B tell us that a request for a measurement may not be granted after the ball has been made ready-for-play. Common sense and preventive officiating suggest that, when close to the line-to-gain, the Referee take a few seconds to make sure no request is imminent before signaling the ready. If the clock had been stopped because of the ball being close to the line-to-gain, officials must either measure or award a first down.

Running Clock and Rule 3-4-7

Question: Running clock and a team fouls with less than two minutes remaining in the game, does the offended team still have the option to start the game clock on the snap?

Answer: The running clock protocol supersedes Rule 3-4-7. When a running clock is invoked, the clock is not stopped for penalty enforcement with more than 2 minutes in either half; it will not be stopped for penalty enforcement with less than 2 minutes remaining in either half.

Training Video

Last week's Bulletin featured plays involving action on the quarterback. Here are my thoughts.

In each of the 4 clips, the defensive player makes no attempt to avoid contact with the QB/passers. Also, the passer in each clip is a defenseless player as contact occurred just after the ball was thrown. Rule 2-32-16a. That makes any subsequent contact suspicious.

Clip 1: targeting by #63. There is an upward thrust of his helmet and the resultant contact is initiated above the shoulders by the defensive player's helmet.

Clip 2: this is RPS. Again, no attempt to avoid contact. There is a shove by #72. EZ view is the best.

Clip 3: this is RPS. Upward thrust by #72 who then pulls QB to the ground. No attempt to avoid contact, and #72 pushes off the downed QB as he is getting off him.

Clip 4: this one is close, but I'm going with RPS. No attempt to avoid contact and the passer is tackled to the ground. At least #72 attempts to atone for his sins by offering his hand to the downed QB!

This week's training video shows a blocked extra point with the ball being kicked a second time, as luck would have it, through the uprights. Is this a legal play? If not, what foul(s) are involved? Would your answers be different if this were a blocked field goal attempt? My opinion in next week's Bulletin and officials may agree or disagree with me or amongst yourselves. The idea is to generate discussion because some day, in some game, you may have to make the call!

Here's the link. Remember you need to be signed in to Arbiter to view the video.

<https://youtu.be/gegqfNRwXX8>