

## **2018 Regular Season Bulletin 9**

### **Penalty Enforcement**

Play 1: Following a touchdown, the offensive team is lined up to attempt an extra point. After the RFP has been blown, a defensive player is flagged for encroachment. Does the offensive team have the option of taking the penalty on the ensuing kickoff? Also, does it matter what type of dead ball foul it is, such as an illegal substitution or unsportsmanlike conduct? Now, what if the defense commits a dead ball foul after the scoring play has ended but before the RFP is blown to begin the try? What are the options then? Do they change or is it still the same since the foul did not occur during a scoring play?

Ruling 1: The threshold question is when the foul occurred, before the RFP or after the RFP. After the RFP, the only enforcement option is to go ½ the distance. Before the RFP, the options are enforcement on the try or on the subsequent kickoff. Doesn't matter what type of foul you're enforcing. Rule 8-2-5.

Play 2: An onside kick struck a Team K player in the neutral zone. Another K player then blocked an R player before the ball traveled 10 yards. The ball was given to R at the spot of first touching and the penalty enforced from there.

Ruling 2: You cannot enforce a penalty from a spot of first touching unless the FT spot is also the dead-ball spot (succeeding spot). Under Rule 6-1-7 the right of R to take the ball at the spot of first touching is canceled if the penalty for any foul during the down is accepted.

### **Spiking the Ball**

Play: From a shotgun formation, a running back was lined up right in front of and beside the QB and the QB just threw the ball at the RB's feet.

Ruling: Foul for intentional grounding; the pass was purposely thrown incomplete to conserve time. Rule 7-5-2e. Note the exception!

### **Overtime Interception**

In overtime, the ball is immediately dead when Team B intercepts. The interceptor will almost certainly take a few steps before the whistle can be blown, but if you let the play progress nothing good can happen. This occurred, and the intercepting player fumbled; Team A recovered and "scored." Quite messy, but the crew ultimately got it right after a lengthy crew conference.

## Out-of-Bounds

Play: A punt was touched by a Team R player near the sideline and then recovered by a Team K player perpendicular to the sideline; his hips were on the sideline and his feet were out-of-bounds. The LJ signaled K's ball then mildly argued with the R and U who clearly saw the player was out-of-bounds when he touched the ball

Ruling: If a loose ball is touched by any player who is touching out-of-bounds, the ball is dead and in this play, belongs to Team R at the out-of-bounds spot. Rule 2-29-3.

## Kick-Catch Interference

Play: K's free kick from the K 40-yard line is high and short and is caught by a Team K player at the R 45-yard line. No Team R players are anywhere near where the ball was caught as they have backed away from attempting to catch the ball.

Ruling: Foul for kick-catch interference. Team R could accept a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot and replay the free-kick down (why would they??) or take an awarded fair catch after enforcement of the 15-yard penalty from the spot of the foul. Rule 6-5-6 and Penalty.

Comment: Legal play if this were a scrimmage kick instead of a free kick. Rule 6-5-6 Exception.

## Hurdling

Play: Team K is attempting a try. Linebacker R55 runs toward the line of scrimmage and, after the ball is snapped, hurdles snapper K76 and lands on his feet. At no time does R55 make contact with any Team K player. The try fails.

Ruling: R1 is guilty of hurdling which is a personal foul. The 15-yard penalty is enforced from the previous spot with a replay of the try.

Food for Thought: If snapper K76 raises up and initiates contact with airborne R55, is R55 still guilty of hurdling?

## Professionalism

This week, some classifications will have play-in games involving visiting teams from outside your normal service area. It is important to be professional in your contacts with players, coaches, AD's and school administrators. **Represent your local association well!**

## Training Videos

We'll finish this season's training videos with the last chapters from the 2018 LeMonnier series.