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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

October 21, 2010

TO: Divisions I, II and III Supervisors of Football Officials,  
Conference Commissioners and Head Football Coaches.

FROM: Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Football Bulletin No. 4.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the fourth set of play situations for the 2010 season. The committee hopes this information assists with the understanding of NCAA Football rules.

If you have any questions, please contact Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, via e-mail at ([footballrules@ncaa.org](mailto:footballrules@ncaa.org)).

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Enclosure

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members

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## NCAA FOOTBALL RULES

### 2010 INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN No. 4

1. Ball carrier A44 sweeps right end, hurdles linebacker B55 at the B-40, and runs out of bounds at the B-25. When A44 hurdles him, B55 is in a crouch with both feet on the ground and no other part of his body touching the ground.

**RULING:** Legal play. Hurdling by the ball carrier is not a foul. (2-14-1, 9-1-2-i)

2. First and 10 at the A-45. Quarterback A12 is tackled for a loss at the A-35. To get the spot, the Head Linesman has to run around some Team B coaches in the restricted area adjacent to the coaching box. He drops his flag to indicate a foul against Team B for game administration interference. This is the first such foul in the game against Team B.

**RULING:** Five-yard penalty from the succeeding spot. Second and 15 at the A-40. Game administration interference is administered as a dead-ball foul and the offending team is penalized for delay of game for the first two such infractions. (9-1-6)

3. First and 10 at the A-30. Quarterback A12 completes a pass to A44 at the A-35 and he carries the ball down the sideline for a touchdown. Trailing the play the Line Judge collides with a Team A substitute or coach who is in the restricted area or on the field. The Line Judge drops his flag to indicate a foul against Team A for illegal interference.

**RULING:** The rules allow the referee discretion in assessing a penalty. In this case the interference is treated as a dead-ball foul. The 15-yard penalty may be enforced on either the try or the succeeding kickoff, at the option of Team B. (9-1-5-a)

4. Team A executes an on-side free kick at the A-30. The untouched kick is at the A-38 when A55 blocks B44 above the waist in the front at the A-41. A28 muffs the ball at the A-39, and after it rolls to the A-41, A88 blocks B22 at the A-37. The ball is then forced back across the A-40 and is recovered by A20 at the A-39.

**RULING:** The block by A55 is a foul and the touching by A28 is illegal because Team A is not eligible to touch the ball since it has not gone 10 yards nor has it been touched by Team B. The block by A88 is legal because it occurs after the ball has gone 10 yards. Team A is in legal possession of the ball when A20 recovers it at the A-39.

Team B has these options: They may decline the penalty for the illegal block and have the ball at the A-38 via the illegal-touching privilege, or they may cancel the illegal-touching privilege by having Team A re-kick from the A-25 following the 5-yard penalty for the block by A55. Note that the dead-ball spot, the A-39, is not an enforcement spot because the ball does not belong to Team B when the down ends. (6-1-2-g, 6-1-3, 6-1-6-a, 6-1-8 )

5. Team A kicker A10 executes an on-side free kick at the A-30. After the ball is kicked, B66 and B55 run from behind their restraining line to the A-35. They block A22 and A44, respectively, in the front at the waist while the ball is bouncing at the A-33. The ball does not go 10 yards and no player touches it until A28 recovers at the A-39.

**RULING:** There are no fouls on the play. Team B players are allowed to block at any time. Since the blocking contact is initiated by players of Team B, there is no foul by either A22 or A44. The recovery by A28 is illegal touching since Team A is not yet eligible to touch the ball. First and 10 for Team B at the A-39. (6-1-3, 6-1-6)

6. Fourth and nine at the A-3. Team A is behind 17-13 late in the game. Quarterback A12 drops back in his end zone to pass. Under a heavy rush, he is about to be tackled three yards deep in the end zone when he spikes the ball to the ground just in front of him. Eligible receivers A25 and A48 are one yard deep in the end zone attempting to block for A12, and neither player is looking back at A12.

**RULING:** This is an incomplete illegal forward pass thrown by A12 to avoid a sack (“intentional grounding”). There is no Team A eligible receiver with an opportunity to catch the pass. The penalty results in a safety. Because the illegal forward pass was thrown from the end zone, Team B may decline the penalty and have the ball returned to the previous spot for the next down. Under this option the ball would go over on downs to give Team B first and goal at the A-3. (5-1-1-c, 7-3-2-f, 7-3-7-c-Exception)

7. Third and 10 at the A-35. Quarterback A12 drops straight back in the pocket to pass. Under a heavy rush, he is at the A-25 when he throws the pass forward in an attempt to end the down and avoid a sack. Guard A66 catches the ball at the A-30 and carries it to the 50-yard line where he is tackled. No Team A eligible receivers were in the vicinity of the pass and thus had no opportunity to make a catch.

**RULING:** Foul by A12, illegal forward pass to save loss of yardage. Team A will have fourth and 20 at the A-25 following the loss-of-down penalty at the spot of the foul. There is no foul by A66 for illegal touching of a forward pass, since eligibility rules apply only for legal forward passes. (7-3-2-f, 7-3-3, 7-3-11)

8. Fourth and 10 at the B-40. Team A lines up in field goal formation, with potential holder A11 at the B-47 and potential kicker A44 in position to attempt the kick. A44 is still in this position when the ball is snapped to A11 who has a knee on the ground. A44 then runs to his right behind A11 who passes the ball which A44 catches at the B-43. He is tackled at the B-25.

**RULING:** Legal play. By interpretation A44 has satisfied the provisions of the exception to Rule 4-1-3-b as being in position to kick the ball. First and 10 for Team A at the B-25. (4-1-3-b-Exception)

9. Third and 10 at the B-40. Quarterback A12 is positioned at the B-46 to take the snap. After receiving the snap, A12 drops back to throw a screen pass. The offensive

linemen give only token resistance to the on-rushing defensive linemen. Right tackle A77 allows lineman B55 to move by on his left. When B55 is passed him A77 (a) swings his right arm across his body and uses his forearm to club B55 in the back near the neck; (b) uses his right hand to push B55 directly in the back at the numbers, sending him to the ground.

**RULING:** (a) Personal foul by A77 for striking a blow. Fifteen-yard penalty at the previous spot. If the foul is judged flagrant, A77 is ejected. Third and 25 at the A-45. (b) Foul by A77 for a block in the back. The ball has left the blocking zone, making A77's block illegal. Ten-yard penalty at the previous spot. Third and 20 at the 50-yard line. (9-1-2-a, 9-3-3-c-Exception 1-b)

10. Team A is behind 7-3 in the fourth quarter with 0:03 on the game clock. They execute an on-side free kick at the A-30. The ball is kicked directly off the tee and goes high into the air. Team B drops back when the ball is kicked, apparently expecting a deep kick. The ball is still airborne at the A-45 where A22 jumps in an attempt to catch it. There are no Team B players in the vicinity to have an opportunity to catch the ball. A22 muffs the ball which hits the ground at the A-45 and bounces sharply away. After a scramble that lasts about five seconds, B88 recovers the ball while grounded at the 50-yard line.

**RULING:** The clock starts when it is legally touched by A22. This touching is legal because the ball has gone more than 10 yards. By the time B88 recovers the ball the clock reads 0:00. Game over. (6-1-3-a, 3-3-2-a)