



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2012 PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 4

NOTE: References are to the *NCAA 2012-13 Football Rules and Interpretations*, in pdf form on the NCAA and CFO web sites.

Roughing The Passer

1. Quarterback A12 is roughed after he releases a legal forward pass. Eligible A88 catches the pass and runs to the B-4, where he fumbles. The ball strikes the goal-line pylon.

RULING: The result of the play is a touchback. The accepted penalty is enforced at the B-4, which is the end of the run. First and goal for Team A at the B-2. Note that Team B did not have possession at any time during the down. (8-6-1-a, 2-31-3, 9-1-9)

Legality Of Pass Receiver

2. At the snap, A82 is split wide on the end of the line and A23 is on the line of scrimmage to the inside of A82. Thus A23 is “covered up” by A82. A82 runs a deep route and A23 goes downfield 10 yards and cuts across the middle. Quarterback A12 throws a legal forward pass intended for A23 who is contacted by defender B45 before the ball gets to A23, who does not touch the ball. The Back Judge throws a flag for defensive pass interference and the Head Linesman throws a flag for A23 being an ineligible receiver downfield.

RULING: No foul for pass interference, since A23 is not an eligible receiver. Foul for an ineligible receiver downfield. If accepted, the penalty is five yards from the previous spot and the down is replayed. (7-3-3, 7-3-8-c, 7-3-10)

Postscrimmage Kick Enforcement

3. Fourth and 12 at the A-45. During a punt, B66 is flagged for holding at the B-48. Receiver B22 catches the kick at the B-26 and returns the ball to the A-3 where he fumbles. The fumbled ball rolls out of bounds at the A-2.

RULING: All the elements for postscrimmage kick enforcement are present. The penalty is enforced at the end of the kick: first and 10 for Team B at the B-16. (10-2-3)

Postscrimmage Kick Enforcement

4. Fourth and 12 at the A-45. During a punt, B66 is flagged for holding at the B-48. Receiver B22 catches the kick at the B-26 and returns the ball to the A-3 where he fumbles. A15 recovers the fumble while grounded at the A-10.

RULING: Post-scrimmage kick rules do not apply because Team B would not next snap the ball. If accepted, the penalty is enforced at the previous spot, giving Team A fourth and two at the B-45. If Team A declines the penalty, it will have first and 10 at the A-10. [10-2-3]

Starting The Clock

5. Third and four at the B-40 late in the second quarter. At the snap B77 is in the neutral zone. B22 intercepts a legal forward pass and runs out of bounds at the B-25. When the ball is declared dead the game clock reads 1:46.

RULING: Team A will accept the five-yard penalty to retain the ball, first and 10 at the B-35. The game clock starts on the Referee's signal. Because Team B will not next snap the ball, the only reasons for stopping the game clock are to award Team A a first down (by penalty) and to complete the penalty. (3-3-2-d-2, 3-3-2-e-1 and 4)

Fair Catch

6. Fourth and 10 at the A-40. Team A punts and B33 signals for a fair catch. He muffs the kick at the B-25 and completes the catch at the B-30. During the kick B65 blocks in the back against an opponent at the B-45.

RULING: The result of the play will give Team B the ball at the B-25, i.e., the spot where B33 muffed the ball following the fair catch signal. Because this is effectively the end of the kick, by interpretation it serves as the postscrimmage spot for enforcement of the penalty for B65's foul. Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-15. (2-25-11-a, 6-5-1-b, 9-3-3-c, 10-2-3)

Fouls By Both Teams—End of Half

7. Team A punts on fourth and 10 at the A-40 late in the second quarter. Team A has five players in the backfield at the snap. Receiver B22 catches the kick at the B-30 and is tackled at the B-45. During the return B55 clips at the B-40. Time in the first half expires during the down.

RULING: The option resides with Team B; they may allow offsetting fouls and have the down repeated, or they may decline offsetting fouls leading to completion of the penalty for the clip. However, if Team A declines the clipping penalty, the half ends and Team B will not snap the ball. In that case, only by Team B accepting offsetting fouls is the period extended for the repeat of the down, fourth and 10 at the A-40. (3-2-3, 7-1-4-a, 10-1-1-b, 10-1-4-Exc. 1)

Extension of Period

8. Second at 10 at the A-40 late in the second quarter. At the snap B79 is lined up in the neutral zone. Quarterback A12 runs to the A-42 and completes a forward pass to A80 who is tackled at the B-45. Time in the first half expires during the down.

RULING: Offsetting fouls. The period is extended to repeat the down, second and 10 at the A-40. While the penalty for A12's foul alone would include loss of down, there is no penalty because the fouls offset. (3-2-3-a-2)

Pylon Play

9. Ball carrier A22 strikes the pylon at the right intersection of the sideline and Team B's goal line. He carries the ball in his right arm so that the ball is extended over the sideline. (a) The ball crosses outside the pylon before A22 touches the pylon. (b) A22 touches the pylon before the ball crosses the extension of the goal line outside the pylon.

RULING: (a) Touchdown. The ball is still alive when it breaks the goal-line plane, which is extended for this ball carrier since he touches the pylon. (b) Not a touchdown. The ball becomes dead when A22 touches the pylon. It belongs to Team A at the forward-progress point. (2-12-2, 4-2-1-b, 8-2-1-a, AR 8-2-1-II and VI)

Pylon Play

10. Ball carrier A22 is running near the sideline in an attempt to score. At the B-1 he is hit, the contact causing him to leave the ground such that the ball crosses the extension of the goal line outside the pylon. A22 lands out of bounds beyond the end zone sideline.

RULING: Not a touchdown. The goal-line plane is not extended for this player since he does not touch the pylon or the ground in the end zone (2-12-2, 4-2-4-d, 8-2-1-a, AR 8-2-1-VI)

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