

2015

Southern California Collegiate Football Officials Association Summer Study Guide

1. Fourth and eight at the A-45. After the punt is away, defensive lineman B66 holds A88 behind the neutral zone at the A-40. B44 catches the kick at the B-23 and returns to the B-40 where he is tackled. Ruling: Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-13
2. Running back A28, who at the snap is stationary and partially inside both the tackle box and the frame of the body of the second lineman from the snapper may only block below the waist along a north-south line or toward his adjacent sideline.
3. Quarterback A11 drops back in the pocket and sets up to pass. Just as he releases the ball he is hit by end B88 who drives his shoulder into A11's knee. RULING: Legal Play
4. Team A snaps the ball at the B-15 to attempt a field goal. The kick is blocked, crosses the neutral zone and lands at the B-12. Before any player touches it beyond the neutral zone, the ball rebounds behind the neutral zone and goes out of bounds at the B-17. RULING: Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-20.
5. It is a foul to grab the quarterback by the back of jersey and immediately pull him to the ground while he is still in the tackle box.
6. In the event of an injured player(s) an official will declare a timeout and the player(s) must leave the game. He must remain out of the game for at least one down.
7. Fourth and three at the Team A 40 yard line. B intercepts A's legal forward pass and advances across A's goal line. B was offside. A accepts the penalty. The clock will start on the ready as Team A is awarded a first down after enforcement of the penalty.
8. An out-of-bounds player who becomes airborne remains out of bounds until he touches the ground in bounds with any body part without simultaneously being out of bounds.
9. During the 3rd quarter the Center's helmet comes off during the play. No foul was called causing the helmet to come off the Center's head. The Center may remain in the game if his team is granted a charged timeout.
10. Team A ball 2nd and eight and the B-38 yard line. During the play, the ball carrier fumbles at the B-35 and several players dive for the ball. B55 grabs A33 and slings him off the pile. **RULING:** B55 is charged with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. 15 yards and automatic first down.
11. B16 muffs the opening kick-off in flight in his end-zone. To prevent Team A from recovering the ball for a TD, B16 bats the rolling ball out the back of the end-zone. Ruling: Safety
12. At the end of a down, B55's shoulder pad has become exposed and is not covered by the jersey. RULING: Illegal equipment, B33 is required to leave the game.
13. The penalty for roughing the kicker is enforced at the previous spot and carries an automatic first down, even though the foul takes place during the kick.
14. Beyond the neutral zone, receiver A36 is about to receive a legal forward pass. B18 drives into his helmet into A36 prior to the pass arriving. Ruling: A foul for Defensive Pass Interference is the only option.

15. When it is obvious that a scrimmage kick will be made, no opponent shall run into or rough the kicker even if the kicker has carried the ball outside the tackle box before kicking.
16. If the game clock is stopped and will start on the referee's signal with two seconds or one second on the game clock there is enough time for only one play.
17. A lineman positioned more than seven yards from the middle lineman of the formation is restricted in regards to blocking below the waist.
18. The definition of a defenseless play now includes "A receiver attempting to catch a forward pass or in position to receive a backward pass..."
19. The receiving team on all kicks (except field-goal attempts) will have the option of enforcing the penalty for all kicking team fouls either at the previous spot or at the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to the receiving team.
20. "Targeting" means that a player takes aim at an opponent and makes forcible contact either with the crown (top) of his helmet; or to the head or neck area of a defenseless opponent".
21. It is illegal for a player to go out of bounds to block an opponent who is out of bounds. This is a personal foul and the 15-yard penalty is enforced from the spot of the block.
22. The penalty for targeting fouls in the first half now includes disqualification for the remainder of the game. For targeting fouls in the second half the penalty includes disqualification for the remainder of the game and the first half of the next game.
23. To legally "Ground" the ball the passer, while still in the tackle box, needs only have an eligible receiver in the area where he throws the ball. The receiver no longer needs to have an opportunity to catch the pass.
24. When the ball is dead after a running play that ends in the side zone, the officials have difficulty getting the ball in to the hash mark. By the time the officials are ready, the play clock is below 25 when the Umpire steps away. RULING: The Referee should declare a timeout, signal for the play clock to be set at 25, and then signal to start both the play and game clocks.
25. When the ball is dead after scrimmage down, the Umpire notices that linebacker B55 has an exposed back pad at waist level, which apparently became exposed during the previous down. RULING: B55 is not required to leave the game, but he must cover the exposed pad with his jersey before the next down.
26. Dead-ball contact fouls such as pushing, shoving, striking, etc. that occur clearly after the ball is dead and that are not part of the game action are now unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.
27. Team A back A22 is in motion directly behind the snapper when the ball is snapped. While the ball is still inside the low-blocking zone, he blocks below the waist against linebacker B55, the block being at B55's side (i.e., at "3 o'clock). The block is made inside the low-blocking zone behind the neutral zone. RULING: Illegal Block
28. No defensive player who is in or outside the tackle box may try to block a punt by leaving his feet in an attempt to leap directly over an opponent.
29. After the ball is ready for play, Team A comes to the line and fails to get all eleven players set for a full second before snapping the ball. Let the play continue, this is a live-ball foul resulting in a 5-yard penalty.
30. When the ball is dead after a running play that ends out of bounds, the 40-second play clock is started. RULING: If the play clock reads 25 or less before the ball is in from the sideline and ready for play, the Referee declares a timeout and signals to reset the play clock to 25 seconds. When the correct ball is ready for play he signals to start the play clock and the game clock.

31. Formation of a wedge on free kicks is not a foul when the kick results in a touchback or from an obvious on-side kick.
32. Team B players may not block below the waist against an opponent who is in position to receive a backward pass; or, against an eligible Team A pass receiver beyond the neutral zone unless attempting to get to the ball or ball carrier until a legal forward pass is no longer possible by rule.
33. Team A kicks off at its 35-yard line and A66 is clearly offside when the ball is kicked. A22 is the first to touch the ball, which he recovers at the A-42. RULING: Illegal touching by A22. Due to the offside foul, Team B may have Team A rekick the ball at the A-30 following a five-yard penalty at the previous spot, or it may elect to have the five-yard penalty enforced at the spot of A22's recovery.
34. Team A completes a pass to the tight end who runs for a touchdown. The left tackle is called for holding. Following the 10-yard previous spot penalty the game clock will start on the ready for play.
35. It is possible to have a foul for roughing the passer even if the passer throws an illegal forward pass.
36. During a down in which there is a free kick, scrimmage kick, or after any changes of possession, blocking below the waist by any player is illegal except against the ball carrier.
37. Third and 10 at the B-20. Team A QB throws a touchdown pass on the last timed down of the fourth quarter, trailing 21-20. The LJ correctly rules the QB/passer over the line of scrimmage when the pass was thrown from the B-18. RULING: Fourth and 13 at the B-23. Untimed down; previous spot foul and loss of down.
38. Penalties for all personal fouls by Team B during a completed legal forward pass play are enforced at the end of the last run when it ends beyond the neutral zone. If the pass is incomplete or intercepted, or if there is a change of possession during the down, the penalty is enforced at the previous spot.
39. During a play running play that ends in bounds, a linebacker's helmet comes off. When the ball becomes dead the game clock is stopped and reads 0:45 in the second quarter. RULING: The play clock is set at 40 seconds. Team A has the option for a possible 10-second runoff.
40. An airborne player is a player not in contact with the ground because he leaps, jumps, dives, launches, etc., in other than normal running action.
41. When in question it is a foul for situations involving targeting an opponent or initiating contact with the crown of the helmet.
42. When a player enters the game after changing his jersey number, he must report to the referee, who then informs the opposing head coach and announces the change. A player who enters the game after changing his number and does not report commits a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.
43. If a player goes to the ground in the act of catching a pass (with or without contact by an opponent) he must maintain complete and continuous control of the ball throughout the process of contacting the ground, whether in the field of play or in the end zone.
44. As Team A is about to break its huddle, the Referee notices that A35 is wearing an overbuilt facemask. RULING: A35 must leave the game for one down to get a legal facemask.
45. On tries for point and in extra periods, fouls by the scoring team after a change of team possession cancel the score and the down is not replayed.
46. It is a foul for roughing or running into the kicker if the defender is blocked (illegally or legally) into the kicker.
47. Free kick at the A-35. B17 leaps from inbounds and is the first player to touch Team A's free kick when he grasps the ball while airborne. He then lands out of bounds with the ball in his control. RULING: B17 is inbounds when he touches the kick. Team B will have the ball at the yard line where B17 crossed the sideline.

48. Team A snaps the ball at the A-35 on fourth and seven. Just after the snap lineman B77 grabs guard A66 and pulls him to one side, allowing linebacker B63 to shoot the gap to try to block the kick. B44 catches the kick at the B-25 and returns to the B-40 where he is tackled. Ruling: The 10-yard penalty is enforced at the post scrimmage kick spot. Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-15.
49. On the opening kickoff, B22 catches the kick at his goal line and returns the ball down the sideline on Team B's side of the field. As he moves down the sideline officiating the play, the side judge must run around a Team B coach or squad member in the restricted area ("the white"). B22 is driven out of bounds at the A-20. RULING: First infraction: Warning for sideline interference. No yardage penalty.
50. Team B player catches a long punt at the B-10 and is tackled at the B-22. During the runback, a Team B player holds on the B-24. Team A was in illegal formation at the snap. RULING: Fouls offset and Team A repeats fourth down, no option.