

2016

Southern California Collegiate Football Officials Association Summer Study Guide

1. A scrimmage kick formation is a formation with no player in position to receive a hand to-hand snap from between the snapper's legs, and with either (1) at least one player 10 or more yards behind the neutral zone; or (2) a potential holder and potential kicker seven or more yards behind the neutral zone in position for a place kick. For either (1) or (2) to qualify as a scrimmage kick formation, it must be obvious that a kick will be attempted.
2. Beginning in 2016, the "low-blocking zone" is no longer defined, and everything covered in Rule 9-1-6 (Blocking Below the Waist) is now determined in reference to the tackle box. The tackle box is the rectangular area enclosed by the neutral zone, the two lines parallel to the sidelines five yards from the snapper, and Team A's end line. The tackle box disintegrates when the ball leaves it.
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. A sliding ball carrier, who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet-first, is now protected under the defenseless-player portion of the targeting rules.
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. Beginning in 2016, tripping is defined as intentionally using the lower leg or foot to obstruct any opponent below the knees.
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. At the snap A82 is positioned on the line of scrimmage to the right side of the formation, 10 yards from the snapper. As the play develops A82 blocks linebacker B62 toward the line through the original position of the ball. The block by A82 is below the waist and directly at the front, clearly inside the “10 o’clock to 2 o’clock” width. The block occurs after ball carrier is clearly beyond the neutral zone. RULING: Illegal crackback block. 15yard penalty.
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. Second and 6 at the B-45, Team A is in an alignment in which the snapper A88 is on the right end of the line. The linemen on his left are numbered 56, 63, 72, 22, 79, and 25. There are four players in the backfield. A44 is ten yards directly behind the snapper, and the other backs are to his left a few yards behind the line of scrimmage. No player is in position to hold for a place kick. After the snap, A44 completes a pass to snapper A88 for a touchdown. RULING: Legal Play: touchdown.
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. Second and seven at the A-25. Team A is ahead in the score late in the second quarter. When ball carrier A22 is tackled in the field of play, the game clock reads 1:47. The umpire reports to the referee that he has a flag for holding by snapper A55. On the play, A22 gained three yards; RULING: After enforcement of the penalty, the game clock starts on the snap or on the referee’s signal, at the option of Team B, because the clock stops only to administer the penalty.
24. At the snap tight end A85 is aligned six yards from the snapper. Before the ball has left the tackle box A85 blocks tackle B77 below the waist at the side. RULING: Legal Block.
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. Third and six at the A-35. Back A22 is stationary inside the tackle box at the snap. After the snap he shoots between the tackle and the guard on his side and blocks low on linebacker B55 at the A-38 before the ball has left the tackle box. The contact is at B55’s thigh from the side and is directed straight ahead of A22. RULING: Illegal block below the waist. Since A22 leaves the tackle box before making the block, he is restricted from blocking other than with a “10-2” block. 15-yard penalty.
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. A player on defense sticks out his foot and trips the ball carrier. RULING: Legal play.
32. Any shading under a player's eyes must be solid black with no words, numbers, logos or other symbol.
33. A personal foul is a foul involving illegal physical contact that endangers the safety of another player. A flagrant personal foul is illegal physical contact so extreme or deliberate that it places an opponent in danger of catastrophic injury.
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 dead-ball time, a head coach or an assistant coach is flagged for coming out to the numbers and cursing the officials in a loud and abusive manner. This is the coach's second unsportsmanlike foul. RULING: The officials charge either the head coach or the assistant coach with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. The referee announces that this is the second unsportsmanlike conduct foul against the coach in question and that the coach in question is disqualified from the game.
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/passers 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 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. When an offensive player is in a passing posture with one or both feet on the ground, no defensive player rushing unabated shall hit him forcibly at the knee area or below. However, it is not a foul if the defender grabs or wraps this opponent in an attempt to make a conventional tackle without making forcible contact with the head or shoulder.
41. When in question it is a foul for situations involving targeting an opponent or initiating contact with the crown of the helmet.
42. Second and seven at the A-25. Team A is ahead in the score late in the second quarter. When ball carrier A22 is tackled in the field of play, the game clock reads 1:47. The umpire reports to the referee that he has a flag for holding by snapper A55. On the play, A22 gained nine yards. RULING: After enforcement of the penalty, the game clock starts on the snap or on the referee's signal, at the option of Team B.
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. An airborne ball carrier, who dives head first in an effort to gain yardage, is now protected under the defenseless-player portion of the targeting rules.
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. At the snap Team A has four linemen numbered between 50-79 and three linemen numbered outside this range. A potential kicker is eight yards deep but there is no potential holder. RULING: Legal formation.
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.