

Interference with the opportunity; Forced Touching Etc

- Consider Blocking to be Dancing: Know who is leading and who is following:
 - When opponents are blocking each other
 - No one is leading the dance
 - K and R are tied up and no one has the advantage over the other opponent
 - K is leading the dance and R is the follower
 - K has control of the block and is moving R in a direction of K's choice
 - R is leading the dance and K is the follower
 - R has control of the block and is moving K in a direction of R's Choice>

Simple Touching of a Punt

- If a punt touches either of the two dancers and no one is leading:
 - The ball has been deemed to touch either one or both players and it is a live ball with first touching if it touches K or R.

Examples of Forced Touching

- R1 is blocking K1 and R1 is leading
 - Ball touches R1
 - This is touching and a live ball
 - Ball touches K1
 - This is not touching as it is considered forced touching because K1 is considered to be blocked into the ball

Examples of Forced Touching

- K1 is blocking R1 and K1 is leading
 - Ball touches K1
 - Ball is considered to have touched K1
 - Ball touches R1
 - Ball is not considered to have touched R1

Interference with the opportunity to catch a kick

- R must be given an unimpeded opportunity to catch a kick that has crossed the line of scrimmage
- R must be given an unimpeded path to the ball if it has crossed the line of scrimmage
- There does not need to be contact by K1 or R1 for there to be interference. If K1 forces R1 to change his path to the ball, it is a foul by K1
- If K is positioned anywhere on the field he must give R an unimpeded path to the ball even if K is stationary. K is responsible for knowing where the ball is on a punt that crosses the line of scrimmage.

Interference with the opportunity to catch a kick when Dancing opponents are involved:

- R2 and K1 are blocking each other and K1 is leading the dance
 - R1 moves forward to get into position to catch a kick on its downward flight and
 - Contacts: R2: no foul
 - Contacts K1: Foul for interference with the opportunity because K1 is leading

Interference with the Opportunity to Catch a Kick when Dancing Opponents are involved

- R2 and K1 are blocking each other and now R2 is leading the dance.
 - R1 moves forward to get into position to catch a kick on its downward flight.
 - R1 contacts K1 while attempting to get into position to catch the kick.
 - No foul as K1 is considered to be blocked into the receiver by R2 because R2 is leading the dance.

The Fair Catch and its Keys

- When R signals for a fair catch; he communicates to everyone (Important Keys)
 - He will not run with the ball after the kick ends
 - No one else on R will run with the ball after the kick ends.
 - The kick ends where possessed or declared dead by rule.
 - He will not block if he does not touch the ball
 - No player that gives a fair catch signal may block until he touches the ball prior to the kick ending.
 - In short: he is telling everyone to LEAVE ME ALONE
- After a Fair Catch Signal: is there any way that either team can advance the ball after it is possessed?
 - NO: THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS AND EVERY OFFICIAL CAN FOCUS ON GETTING THE KICK TO END.
 - Every official knows after seeing a fair catch signal that neither team can advance the kick no matter what happens on the plan. All officials can move down field more freely because there will be no runback of the kick.
 - HL is responsible for picking up any blocking by a player who signals but does not touch the ball.
 - If for some reason R1 does not touch the kick and he blocks while in the End Zone: This is a safety
 - R1 signals at the 5 does not touch the kick: He then blocks an opponent while in the EZ to prevent him from keeping the ball out of the EZ:
 - Result: SAFETY.
- Because of the Fair Catch signal: R1 is protected to complete the catch even if he muffs the attempt.
 - This protection ends when the ball touches the ground or the ball has been moved to a point where R1 can no longer catch the kick. (The muff was of such force that the ball bounced behind the receiver or away from the receiver.

The Fair Catch Continued:

- R1 signals for a fair catch.
 - R1 muffs the catch attempt
 - K1 bats the muff.
 - Foul by K1 for interference with the opportunity
 - Foul can also be for illegally batting the ball if K1 bats it forward.
 - » This is important because the enforcement spot for the illegal bat is the previous spot and the enforcement spot for the interference is a spot foul
 - R1 does not signal for a fair catch and muffs the ball:
 - K1 may legally bat the ball back toward his own EZ
 - Protection for R1 ended when he muffs the Kick.
 - K1 may not tackle the receiver:
 - This is a holding foul and is penalized from the Previous spot.

The Fair Catch: continued

- Fair Catch rules only apply when the ball crosses the neutral zone.
 - R1 signals for a fair catch from beyond the neutral zone
 - Ball does not cross the neutral zone and R2 recovers and advances: This is legal.
 - Line Judge and HL are responsible for this call.
 - R1 signals for a fair catch from behind the neutral zone; catches the kick and advances:
 - Legal play
 - R1 signals for a fair catch from behind the neutral zone and is contacted by K1 behind the neutral zone:
 - This is not a foul.
 - Both teams may advance the kick because it has not crossed the neutral zone.
- Whistle management:
 - If there is a fair catch signal: there is no real need for a whistle. The only thing that can go wrong is R does not catch the kick and We blow the whistle in anticipation of him catching the kick correctly: This play has to be replayed: Anticipate the negative on this play and be ready for R to muff the kick instead of catching it cleanly: If he does catch it; the play is over and both teams already know about it because of the Fair Catch Signal

Interference with the opportunity to catch the kick:

THE OREO COOKIE KEY

- You must know who is leading the blocking and who is following: (Blocking is dancing)
 - A player blocked into the ball or the receiver by an opponent is not deemed to have touched either the ball or the receiver
 - If R1 signals for a fair catch, the only thing that K can do to legally disrupt the catch is to block an opponent into the receiver:
 - K1 Blocks R2 into R1 and R2 touches and disrupts R1
 - Ball touches K1: Ball has touched K1. First touching
 - Ball touches R2: ball has not touched R2 because he was blocked into the ball: He was the follower in the dance
 - Ball touches R1: Ball has touched R1 because the force of the contact was made by R2 a teammate.

The Oreo Cookie Continued

- R2 and K1 are blocking each other
- R2 blocks K1 into R1.
 - K1 contacts R1: not interference because R2 was leading the dance and by rule K1 has been blocked into the receiver by a teammate of R.
 - Ball contacts K1: no touching on K1
 - Ball contacts R2: This is touching because R2 was not blocked into the ball: He was leading the dance.
 - Ball contacts R1: This is touching because K1 was forced into R1 and that contact is ignored. Since it is ignored, R1 is not protected.
- **REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR THE MIDDLE PLAYER:**
Middle of the Oreo Cookie: That is the player that is not deemed to interfere or touch the ball. Everyone else is responsible for their action.