



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2016: RULES INTERPRETATIONS

SLIDING BALL CARRIER

Interpretation:

When a ball carrier gives himself up and goes into a feet-first slide, the ball is declared dead at its forward-most point when he obviously begins his slide.

Comment:

Rule 2-27-14-j (duplicated in *Note 2* of Rule 9-1-4) adds a new category of defenseless player: a ball carrier who has given himself up and is sliding feet first. Although the defenseless-player designation applies only to applications of the targeting rule in 9-1-4, the question arises as to where the ball is declared dead after a player starts his slide. The interpretation is intended to clarify this point.

INELIGIBLE RECEIVER DOWNFIELD

Interpretation:

In Rule 7-3-10, the phrase “more than three yards beyond the neutral zone...” is interpreted to mean “*any part of the player’s body* more than three yards beyond the neutral zone.”

Comment:

The recent rules committee discussions of ineligible receivers have led to the determination that Rule 7-3-10 should be enforced with the narrowest possible interpretation.

INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

Interpretation:

The editorial change to Rule 7-3-2-h-*Exception* is interpreted to mean “and does not relinquish possession to another player before throwing the forward pass.”

Comment:

The Exception to Rule 7-3-2-h allows legally grounding the ball only by “the player who controls the snap or the resulting backward pass.” An editorial change for 2016 adds the phrase “and retains possession before throwing the forward pass.” The spirit and

intent of the editorial change is that the player who originally possesses the ball may not legally ground it if he *relinquishes possession to another player* before throwing the pass. It is *not* intended to deprive him of the right to legally ground the ball if he fumbles and then recovers it. See Approved Rulings 7-3-2-X and -XI.

Rogers Redding
Secretary-Rules Editor
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