



## **COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC**

### **2016 NEW APPROVED RULINGS**

The following are the new Approved Rulings that will appear in the 2016-2017 rule book.

#### **Illegal Equipment—ARTICLE 7**

##### **Approved Ruling 1-4-7**

V. Each member of the offensive line is wearing a towel, all of which are white, 4" by 12", with a small team logo. The snapper's towel also has a large skull-and-cross-bones symbol.

**RULING:** It is legal for any player to wear a towel. The towels are all legal except the snapper's. He must leave the game for at least one down and may not return until the towel is removed or replaced with one that is legal. Team A may keep him in the game by using a charged timeout, but he may not wear the illegal towel. (Rules 1-4-6-a and 1-4-8)

#### **Scrimmage Kick Formation—ARTICLE 10**

##### **Approved Ruling 2-16-10**

I. 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:** Illegal formation. Team A is not in a scrimmage kick formation and does not have the required number of linemen with proper jersey numbers.

#### **Suspending the Game—ARTICLE 3**

##### **Approved Ruling 3-3-3**

I. A game between teams from different conferences has been suspended in the middle of the third quarter very late at night due to weather. It is clear that the game cannot be resumed. The directors of athletics for the participating teams are unable to arrive at an agreement on which option should be in effect.

**RULING:** The outcome of the game is determined by the conference policy of the home team.

### **Unfair Clock Tactics—ARTICLE 3**

#### **Approved Ruling 3-4-3**

VI. 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 (a) three yards; (b) nine yards.

**RULING:** After enforcement of the penalty, the game clock starts (a) on the snap or on the referee's signal, at the option of Team B, because the clock stops only to administer the penalty; (b) on the referee's signal, because both administering the penalty and the first down caused the game clock to stop.

### **10-Second Runoff From Game Clock--Foul—ARTICLE 4**

#### **Approved Ruling 3-4-4**

VI. Second quarter. At the snap the game clock reads 0:45. During the play, A55 loses his helmet. Right tackle A77 is flagged for holding. The ball carrier is tackled inbounds short of the line to gain. **RULING:** A55 must leave the game for one play. There is no option for a 10-second runoff, because at the end of the play the clock is stopped both for the helmet off and to administer the holding penalty. The play clock is set to 25 seconds and the game clock starts on the Referee's signal. (Rule 3-3-9)

VII. Second quarter. Second and 10 at the B-30 with the game clock running. Guard A66 in a three-point stance misses the snap count and lurches forward, committing a false start. B77 then commits a dead-ball personal foul or a dead-ball foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. The game clock is stopped with 8 seconds remaining.

**RULING:** Because of the 10-second subtraction associated with the false start, the half is over. The penalty for the Team B dead-ball foul would carry over to the second half. Due to the 10-second subtraction, by interpretation the Team B dead-ball foul effectively occurs after the half has ended and the penalty is thus carried over. Team A may avoid the 10-second runoff by using an available charged timeout. In this case the penalty for the foul by B77 would be enforced, giving Team A first and 10 at the B-20 after enforcement of both penalties.

### **Ball Declared Dead—ARTICLE 3**

#### **Approved Ruling 4-1-3**

II. Team A is in formation to attempt a field goal. At the snap A22 is in position to execute a right-footed place kick and A33 is in position as the holder. The snap goes to A33 who has a knee on the ground. Just after the snap A22 breaks to his left and toward the neutral zone, and A33, while still on his knee, flips a forward pass to A22 who carries the ball beyond the line to gain before he is tackled. **RULING:** Legal play, because at the snap A22 was in position to attempt a place kick. First and 10 for Team A.

## **Offensive Team Requirements—At the Snap—ARTICLE 4**

### **Approved Ruling 7-1-4**

VII. 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. This happens on (a) first or second down; (b) third or fourth down.

**RULING:** Because there are only four offensive linemen numbered in the 50-79 range, the legality of the play depends on whether Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation. One of the requirements for such a formation is that “it is obvious that a kick will be attempted.” (a) Illegal formation: on first or second down, a team is very unlikely to punt, so it is not obvious that a kick will be attempted. (b) Legal play: touchdown. On third or fourth down a team may be likely to kick. (Rule 2-16-10)

## **Illegal Forward Pass—ARTICLE 2**

### **Approved Ruling 7-3-2**

XI. Second and 10 at the A-40. In a shotgun formation A11 takes the backward pass from the snapper and hands the ball off to back A44. A44 takes a few steps toward the line of scrimmage and then throws a backward pass to A11, who is still inside the tackle box. Avoiding tacklers, A11 scrambles outside the tackle box, and unable to find an open receiver, at the A-35 he throws the ball toward an area where there are no eligible receivers, and it lands out of bounds beyond the neutral zone.

**RULING:** Illegal forward pass. Loss of down at the A-35; third and 15. A11 loses the right to throw the ball away legally because he does not retain possession before passing it.

XII. Third and 10 at the A-30. Quarterback A11 drops back to pass. About to be tackled at the A-20, he throws the ball forward to an area where there are no eligible receivers. Tackle A77 catches the pass at the A-28 and is tackled at the A-32.

**RULING:** Illegal forward pass; loss of down at the spot of the pass. Fourth and 20 at the A-20. This is “intentional grounding” since A11 throws the ball into an area where there are no eligible Team A receivers. Note that this is not illegal touching by A77, because the rule for illegal touching applies only to a legal forward pass. (Rule 7-3-11)

## **Illegal Contact and Pass Interference—ARTICLE 8**

### **Approved Ruling 7-3-8**

I. B33, defending against a legal forward pass beyond the neutral zone, has his back to the ball and is waving his arms in the face of eligible A88, but does not make contact.

**RULING:** No foul. There is no foul for defensive pass interference if there is no contact.

## **Striking Fouls and Tripping—ARTICLE 2**

### **Approved Ruling 9-1-2**

I. A player on defense sticks out his foot and trips an opponent. (a) The opponent is a wide receiver running a passing route. (b) The opponent is the ball carrier.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) Personal foul, Tripping. Penalty—15 yards, automatic first down.

## **Targeting and Making Forcible Contact to Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player—ARTICLE 4**

### **Approved Ruling 9-1-4**

X. On a punt return, B44 launches at A66 from the blind side and drives his shoulder into him. The force of the contact is at A66's side below the shoulder.

**RULING:** Legal block. A66 is a defenseless player because B44 executes a blind-side block. However, this is not a targeting foul because the forcible contact is not to the head/neck area.

## **Blocking Below the Waist—ARTICLE 6**

### **Approved Ruling 9-1-6**

IV. At the snap A82 is positioned on the line of scrimmage to the right side of the formation, 10 yards from the snapper. Back A31, a flanker positioned to the left side of the formation, runs a deep reverse to the right side after receiving the ball from a teammate. 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 (a) before ball carrier A31 has reached the line of scrimmage; (b) after ball carrier A31 is clearly beyond the neutral zone.

**RULING:** (a) Illegal crackback block. The block below the waist is directed toward the line through the original position of the ball before it has crossed the neutral zone. 15-yard penalty. (b) Legal play. The crackback block is allowed once the ball carrier is beyond the neutral zone.

VII. 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 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.

X. 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:** Illegal block below the waist. A85 is outside the tackle box at the snap, so he may block below the waist only within the 10-2 regime. 15-yard penalty.

## **Contact Against the Snapper—ARTICLE 14**

### **Approved Ruling 9-1-14**

I. A10 is in a shotgun-type formation 7-1/2 yards behind the snapper, who has his head down and is looking backward through his legs. Immediately after the snap, nose guard B55 charges directly at the snapper and contacts him by pushing him backward.

**RULING:** Legal. The snapper is not afforded any special protection because Team A is not in a scrimmage kick formation, as A10 is not at least 10 yards deep (Rule 2-16-10). The snapper does have the usual protection against any personal foul for unnecessary roughness.

## **Unsportsmanlike Acts—ARTICLE 1**

### **Approved Ruling 9-2-1**

XII. 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.

**RULING:** The officials charge either the head coach or the assistant coach with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. The referee announces that this is either the first or second unsportsmanlike conduct foul against the coach in question. If it is the second, the coach in question is disqualified from the game.

## **Unfair Tactics—ARTICLE 2**

### **Approved Ruling 9-2-2**

VI. After the down is over, Team A sends in three substitutes, and three players begin to leave the field. A88, who participated in the previous play, trails the three replaced players toward the Team A sideline. The three replaced players continue into the team area, but A88 stops and sets up on the line of scrimmage very close to the sideline. After the ball is snapped A88 runs down the sideline and catches a forward pass.

**RULING:** Team A at the snap, unsportsmanlike conduct for unfair tactics: using the substitution process to deceive the opponents. Live-ball foul. Penalty: 15 yards at the previous spot.

## **Illegally Kicking Ball—ARTICLE 4**

### **Approved Ruling 9-4-4**

I. Fourth and eight at the A-48. From a scrimmage kick formation, A32 punts the ball to the B-7 where it hits B25 on the leg. As the ball rolls along the ground, B25 then kicks it at the B-4 to prevent Team A from recovering. The ball bounces into Team B's end zone and over the end line.

**RULING:** The result of the play is a safety, as B25's kicking the ball provides new impetus. Foul by B25 for illegally kicking the ball. Team A may decline the penalty and take the two points, or accept the penalty. The foul by B25 is governed by postscrimmage kick rules, so the accepted penalty would give Team B the ball at the B-

2, first down and 10. (Rules 8-5-1-a and 8-7-2-b).

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***May 3, 2016***