



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2016 CFO BI-WEEKLY RULES QUIZ 2--SOLUTIONS

For each of the following select the correct answer. There is only ONE correct choice for each question. For any fouls that are not offset, unless you are otherwise instructed, assume that the penalty is accepted unless it is declined by rule.

1. First and 10 at the B-35. Team A has seven players on the line of scrimmage, only four of whom are wearing uniform numbers in the 50-79 range. A89 is on the end of the line. A11 is lined up in the backfield 11 yards from the line of scrimmage and the other three backs are arrayed in front of him in a shield-protection alignment. A11 receives the ball from the snapper and completes a forward pass to A89 who is tackled at the B-20.

- a. Foul for an illegal formation.
- b. Legal play.

REFERENCES: 2-15-10, 7-1-4

COMMENTS: While this is a formation from which a team might punt, it is not obvious that a kick will be attempted, since it is first down. Thus Team A is not in a scrimmage kick formation, which means that the numbering of the linemen is illegal.

2. Player John Doe was disqualified for a second-half targeting foul in his team's most recent game. At the next game, when the Referee and Umpire meet with the head coach before the game, the head coach requests permission to allow Doe to participate in the team's pregame warm-ups. The Referee correctly informs the head coach that....

a. this is not allowed by rule, but that Doe may be on the sideline during the first half.

- b. this is allowed by rule.

c. this is not allowed by rule, and that Doe may not be on the field or the sideline until the second-half kickoff.

REFERENCES: 2-27-12, 9-2-6-c

COMMENTS: An editorial change this year makes clear that this is allowed.

3. Fourth and 10 at the A-5. Punter A44 is standing very close to his end line. He receives the ball from the snapper and punts the ball. B22 catches the kick at the A-45 and is tackled at the A-40. Personal protector A83 is flagged for holding in Team A's end zone.

a. If Team B accepts the penalty, it must be enforced at the A-45—no option.

b. Team B may accept the penalty for a safety.

c. If Team B accepts the penalty, it must be enforced at the A-40—no option.

REFERENCES: 6-3-13

COMMENTS: Penalties for Team A fouls during a punt may be enforced at the previous spot or tacked on after the kick. The exception added in 2016 allows for a safety by penalty for fouls committed in Team A's end zone.

4. Quarterback A11 drops back to pass. Under a heavy rush, he scrambles outside the tackle box to avoid the defensive pressure. He drops the ball, which hits the ground and bounces back into his hands. He then throws the ball away, into an area devoid of any eligible receivers, and the pass hits the ground beyond the neutral zone.

a. Foul for intentional grounding.

b. Legal play---incomplete pass and no foul.

REFERENCES: 7-3-2-h-Exception, Play Interpretation posted June 14, 2016

COMMENTS: This action is legal since A11 did not relinquish possession to a teammate before passing the ball.

5. Back A33 is lined up in the backfield directly behind the right guard and is stationary at the snap. After the ball is snapped, he runs to his right, loops around the end and behind the defensive line, and blocks linebacker B55 below the waist. His block is directly at the front, within the 10-2 region, and is directed toward the line through the original position of the ball at the snap. At the time of the block, the ball carrier is behind the neutral zone.

a. Foul for blocking below the waist: illegal crackback block.

b. Legal play since A33 is an unrestricted player.

REFERENCES: 9-1-6-a

COMMENTS: A33 is unrestricted at the snap, but once he leaves the tackle box, he no longer has the benefits of being unrestricted.

6. Receiver B35 is near the left sideline to receive a kickoff. With his left foot on the sideline and his right foot in the field of play, B35 reaches out with his right hand and touches the kick at the B-10. The ball does not cross the sideline.

a. Foul by B35 for going out of bounds during the kick.

b. Foul against Team A for a free kick out of bounds.

c. If Team B accepts the penalty, the ball must be re-kicked—no option.

REFERENCES: 2-27-15, 4-2-1 and -3

COMMENTS: The kick is out of bounds by definition when B35 touches it.

7. At the B-25, punt receiver B44 makes a valid fair catch signal. The ball hits his shoulder pad and bounces slightly into the air at about his eye level and well within his reach. Before B44 can get control of the ball, A86 tackles him with a wrap-up tackle at the waist. A33 recovers the loose ball at the B-30.
- a. Legal play. Team A's ball at the B-30.
 - b. Legal play. Team A's ball at the B-25.
 - c. **Foul by A86, kick-catch interference.**

REFERENCES: 6-5-1

COMMENTS: The fair catch protection extends after B44 muffs the ball since he still has a reasonable opportunity to complete the catch.

8. B25 intercepts a legal forward pass at his three-yard line. His momentum carries him into his end zone. Believing that he must get the ball out of the end zone, B25 desperately tries to do so, but cannot. He fumbles, and the ball rolls forward into the field of play and out of bounds at the B-2.
- a. Safety
 - b. Touchback
 - c. **Team B's ball at the B-3.**
 - d. Team B's ball at the B-2.

REFERENCES: 8-5-1, 7-2-4-b

COMMENTS: Because of the rule for a forward fumble going out of bounds, the play is ruled as if the ball had never left the end zone.

9. On a free kick, B34 is the first to touch the ball when he muffs it at the B-8. The ball rolls into Team B's end zone. B34 recovers the ball in the end zone and carries it over the end line.
- a. The ball is dead when it touches the ground in the end zone.
 - b. The ball is dead when B34 recovers it.
 - c. Safety.
 - d. **None of the above.**

REFERENCES: 6-1-7, 8-5 and 8-6

COMMENTS: The ball remains alive until B34 carries it over the end line. The result of the play is a touchback since the impetus remains from the kick.

10. 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 runs into a Team B coach or squad member in the restricted area ("the white"). B22 is driven out of bounds at the A-20.
- a. Team B is issued an official Sideline Warning.
 - b. Team B is penalized five yards for the first offense of game administration interference.
 - c. **Team B is penalized 15 yards from the succeeding spot for unsportsmanlike conduct.**
 - d. The foul for this action is treated as a live-ball foul.

REFERENCES: 9-2-5-b

COMMENTS: This play illustrates the rule for sideline interference, which is different from the game administration rule for keeping the sidelines clear.

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