

# 2004 NCAA Football Rules Editorial Changes

| Rule               | Page FR | 2004  | 2003  |
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| FR-16              | 16      | Administrative rules that may not be altered include:<br>1-1-3-a and b<br>1-2-9-a and b   | Administrative rules that may not be altered include:<br>1-1-3-a-c<br>1-2-9-b   |
| 1-2-7-a            | 26      | Any other line-to-gain indicator that accurately measures the line to gain is permitted <b>outside the sideline opposite the press box</b> when teams mutually agree. Before the game, the linesman shall test and approve all line-to-gain indicators for accuracy and security.   | Any other line-to-gain indicator that accurately measures the line to gain is permitted when teams mutually agree. Before the game, the linesman shall test and approve all line-to-gain indicators for accuracy and security.  |
| 1-2-7-b            | 26      | The down indicator shall be mounted on a rod not less than 5 feet high <b>operating approximately six feet outside the sideline opposite the press box.</b>   | The down indicator shall be mounted on a rod not less than 5 feet high.   |
| 1-2-9 Title        | 26      | <b>Field Areas</b>  | <b>The Field</b>  |
| 1-2-9-a Penalty    | 26      | PENALTY— <b>Live-ball foul. Five yards from the previous spot</b> [S27].  | PENALTY—Penalize under Rule 9-2-3-c, referee's discretion [S27].  |
| 1-3-1-i            | 27      | The ball may not be altered. This includes the use of any ball-drying substance. <b>Mechanical</b> ball-drying devices are not permitted near the sidelines or in the team area.  | The ball may not be altered. This includes the use of any ball-drying substance. Ball-drying devices are not permitted near the sidelines or in the team area.  |
| 1-4-5-p Exceptions | 34      | Uniform attachments [ <i>Exceptions:</i> (1) <b>On scrimmage plays</b> , one white <b>moisture-absorbing</b> towel without markings <b>may be</b> worn by one interior offensive lineman, one offensive backfield player and a maximum of two defensive players. The towels of the offensive backfield and defensive players must be 4-inches by 12-inches and must be worn on the front <b>or side belt</b> . <b>There are no restrictions on the size or location of the towel worn by the offensive lineman;</b> (2) <b>On free kicks</b> , one white moisture absorbing towel without markings may be worn by a maximum of two <b>Team A and two Team B players. The towels worn on free kicks must be 4-inches by 12-inches and must be worn on the front or side belt;</b> and (3) Hand warmers worn during inclement weather]. | Uniform attachments [ <i>Exceptions:</i> (1) One white towel without markings worn by one interior offensive lineman and a 4-inch-by-12-inch white towel without markings worn on the front belt of one offensive backfield player; (2) One 4-inch-by-12-inch white towel without markings worn on the front belt of a maximum of two defensive players; and (3) Hand warmers worn during inclement weather].   |
| 1-4-9-a<br>1-4-9-b | 36      | <i>1-4-9-a and 1-4-9-b paragraphs rearranged. No change to content of rules.</i>  |   |
| 2-25-9 Exception 2 | 51      | On an unsuccessful field goal attempt that has crossed the neutral zone and is untouched by Team B after crossing the neutral zone and declared dead beyond the neutral zone, the postscrimmage kick spot is the previous spot. If the previous spot is between Team B's 20-yard line and the goal line, and the unsuccessful field goal attempt that has crossed the neutral zone and is untouched by Team B <b>after crossing the neutral zone</b> , and is declared dead beyond the neutral zone, the spot where the kick ends is the 20-yard line (A.R. 10-2-2-XXV).  | On an unsuccessful field goal attempt that has crossed the neutral zone and is untouched by Team B after crossing the neutral zone and declared dead beyond the neutral zone, the postscrimmage kick spot is the previous spot. If the previous spot is between Team B's 20-yard line and the goal line, and the unsuccessful field goal attempt that has crossed the neutral zone and is untouched by Team B and is declared dead beyond the neutral zone, the spot where the kick ends is the 20-yard line (A.R. 10-2-2-XXV). |

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| 3-1-3-h   | 61 | <p><b>Timeouts:</b> Each team shall be allowed one timeout for each extra period. Timeouts not used during the regulation periods may not be carried over into the extra period(s). Unused extra-period timeouts may not be carried over to other extra periods. Timeouts between periods shall be charged to the succeeding period.</p> <p>Radio and television timeouts are permitted only between extra periods (first and second, second and third, etc.). Charged team timeouts may not be extended for radio and television purposes. The extra period(s) begins when the ball is first snapped.</p>   | <p><b>Timeouts:</b> Each team shall be allowed one timeout for each extra period. Timeouts not used during the regulation periods may not be carried over into the extra period(s). Unused extra-period timeouts may not be carried over to other extra periods. Timeouts between periods shall be charged to the succeeding period.</p> <p>Radio and television timeouts are not permitted during any extra period, and charged team timeouts may not be extended for radio and television purposes. The extra period(s) begins when the ball is first snapped.</p>   |
| 3-2-4-a   | 63 | <p>Playing time shall be kept with a game clock that may be either a stop watch operated by the line judge, back judge, field judge or side judge, or a game clock operated by an assistant under the direction of the appropriate judge. The type of game clock shall be determined by the game management.</p>   | <p>Playing time shall be kept with a game clock that may be either a stop watch operated by the line judge, back judge or field judge or a game clock operated by an assistant under the direction of the appropriate judge. The type of game clock shall be determined by the game management.</p>  |
| 3-3-4-d   | 68 | <p>A head coach who is in, or in the vicinity of, his team area or coaching box may request a timeout between the time the ball is declared dead and the next snap.</p>  | <p><i>See 3-3-4-e below</i></p>  |
| 3-3-4-e   | 68 | <p>A player, incoming substitute or head coach may request a head coach's conference with the referee, if the coach believes a rule has been enforced improperly. If the rule enforcement is not changed, the coach's team will be charged a timeout, or a delay penalty if all timeouts have been used....</p>  | <p>A player or incoming substitute may request a head coach's conference with the referee if the coach believes a rule has been enforced improperly. If the rule enforcement is not changed, the coach's team will be charged a timeout, or a delay penalty if all timeouts have been used....</p>   |
| 3-3-6     | 69 | <p>For noncompliance with Rules 1-4-4, 1-4-5 or 9-2-2-d during a down, or noncompliance with Rules 1-4-5-r, 1-4-6-b, 3-3-3-f-4-(g) or 3-3-4-e while the ball is dead, a timeout shall be charged to a team at the succeeding spot (Rule 3-4-2-b).</p>  | <p>For noncompliance with Rules 1-4-4, 1-4-5 or 9-2-2-d during a down, or noncompliance with Rules 1-4-5-r, 1-4-6-b, 3-3-3-f-4-(g) or 3-3-4-d while the ball is dead, a timeout shall be charged to a team at the succeeding spot (Rule 3-4-2-b).</p>  |
| 3-3-7-a   | 69 | <p>A charged team timeout requested by any player or head coach shall not exceed one minute, 30 seconds (<i>Exception:</i> Rule 3-3-4-e-3). Any charged team timeout shall be 30 seconds in duration upon a visual signal of the hands touching the shoulders, made by the head coach of the team requesting the timeout. The signal must be made promptly after the timeout is requested. Other timeouts shall be no longer than the referee deems necessary to fulfill the purpose for which they are declared, including a radio or TV timeout, but any timeout may be extended by the referee for the benefit of an injured player (Refer to Appendix A [page FR-140] for the guidelines for game officials to use during a serious on-field player injury).</p> | <p>A charged team timeout requested by any player shall not exceed one minute, 30 seconds (<i>Exception:</i> Rule 3-3-4-d-3). Any charged team timeout shall be 30 seconds in duration upon a visual signal of the hands touching the shoulders, made by the head coach of the team requesting the timeout. The signal must be made promptly after the timeout is requested. Other timeouts shall be no longer than the referee deems necessary to fulfill the purpose for which they are declared, including a radio or TV timeout, but any timeout may be extended by the referee for the benefit of an injured player (Refer to Appendix A [page FR-138] for the guidelines for game officials to use during a serious on-field player injury).</p> |
| 3-4-2-b-2 | 71 | <p>When a team has expended its three timeouts and commits a Rule 1-4-4, 1-4-5, 1-4-6-b, 3-3-3-f-4-(g), 3-3-4-e or 9-2-2-d infraction.</p>   | <p>When a team has expended its three timeouts and commits a Rule 1-4-4, 1-4-5, 1-4-6-b, 3-3-3-f-4-(g), 3-3-4-d or 9-2-2-d infraction.</p>   |

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| 3-5-2-e<br>Penalty   | 72 | PENALTY—Dead-ball foul. Delay of game on Team B for not completing its substitutions promptly, or delay of game on Team A for causing the 25-second clock to expire. Five yards from the previous spot [S7 and S21]. The referee will then notify the head coach that any further use of this tactic will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct foul.   | PENALTY—Dead-ball foul. An official will sound his whistle immediately. Five yards from the succeeding spot [S7 and S22]. The referee will then notify the head coach that any further use of this tactic will result in an unsportsmanlike penalty.  |
| 4-1-4<br>Penalty   | 75 | PENALTY—Dead-ball foul. Five yards from the succeeding spot [S7 and S21].  | PENALTY—Dead-ball foul. Five yards from the succeeding spot [S7 and S19].   |
| 5-2-10   | 80 | No rule decision may be changed after the ball is next legally snapped, legally free-kicked or the second or fourth periods have ended (Rules 3-2-1-a, 3-3-4-e-2 and 11-1-1).  | No rule decision may be changed after the ball is next legally snapped, legally free-kicked or the second or fourth periods have ended (Rules 3-2-1-a, 3-3-4-d-2 and 11-1-1).   |
| 6-1-2-a<br><br>6-1-2-b   | 81 | a. Each Team A player, except the holder and kicker of a place kick, must be behind the ball (A.R. 6-1-2-V and VI) [S19].<br>PENALTY—Live-ball foul. Five yards from the previous spot, five yards from the spot where the dead ball belongs to Team B after Team B’s run, or the spot where the ball is placed after a touchback [S19].<br><br>b. All players of each team must be inbounds [S18 or S19].   | b. Each Team A player, except the holder and kicker of a place kick, must be behind the ball [S19].<br><br>a. All players of each team must be inbounds [S18 or S19].   |
| 6-1-2-d  | 81 | After a safety, when a punt or drop kick is used, the ball may be kicked from behind the kicking team’s restraining line. If a yardage penalty for a live-ball foul is enforced from the previous spot, administration is from the 20-yard line, unless the kicking team’s restraining line has been relocated by a previous penalty [S19].  | After a safety, when a punt or drop kick is used, the ball may be kicked from behind the kicking team’s restraining line. If a yardage penalty for a live-ball foul is enforced, administration is from the 20-yard line, unless the kicking team’s restraining line has been relocated by a previous penalty [S19].  |
| 7-1-5-a-4  | 92 | Player(s) aligned in a stationary position within one yard of the line of scrimmage may not make quick or abrupt actions that are not part of normal defensive player movement in an obvious attempt to cause an offensive player(s) to foul (false start). An official shall sound his whistle immediately [S7 and S21].  | Player(s) aligned in a stationary position within one yard of the line of scrimmage cannot make quick or abrupt actions that are not part of normal defensive player movement in an obvious attempt to cause an offensive player(s) to foul (false start). An official shall sound his whistle immediately [S7 and S21].  |
| 7-2-2-a  | 93 | If caught, the ball continues in play (A.R. 7-2-2-I and II).   | If caught in flight, the ball continues in play (A.R. 7-2-2-I and II).  |
| 7-3-2-f<br>Exception 1<br><br>7-3-2-f<br>Exception 2<br><br>7-3-2-f<br>Penalty | 95 | <i>Exceptions:</i><br>1. It is not a foul when the passer, who is five or more yards toward a sideline from the position of the ball at the snap, throws the ball so that it lands in or out of bounds beyond the neutral zone. (A.R. 7-3-2-IX).<br><br>2. It is not a foul when the passer, who is five or more yards toward a sideline from the position of the ball at the snap, throws the ball so that it touches a player, an official, or anything beyond the neutral zone.<br><br>PENALTY—Loss of down at the spot of the foul [S36 and S9]. | <i>Exception:</i> It is not a foul when the passer, who is five or more yards toward a sideline from the position of the ball at the snap, throws the ball so that it lands beyond the neutral zone to avoid loss of yardage (A.R. 7-3-2-IX).<br><br>PENALTY—Loss of down at the spot of the foul if the illegal pass is thrown by Team A to save loss of yardage [S36 and S9]. |

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| 7-3-7-a | 96 | <p>Any forward pass is incomplete when the pass touches the ground or is out of bounds by rule. It also is incomplete when a player leaves his feet and receives the pass but first lands on or outside a boundary line, unless his progress has been stopped in the field of play <b>or end zone</b> (Rule 4-1-3-p) (A.R. 2-2-7-III and A.R. 7-3-7-I).</p>  | <p>Any forward pass is incomplete when the pass touches the ground or is out of bounds by rule. It also is incomplete when a player leaves his feet and receives the pass but first lands on or outside a boundary line, unless his progress has been stopped in the field of play (Rule 4-1-3-p) (A.R. 2-2-7-III and A.R. 7-3-7-I).</p>  |
| 7-3-8-b | 96 | <p>Offensive pass interference by a Team A player beyond the neutral zone during a legal forward pass play in which a forward pass crosses the neutral zone is contact that interferes with a Team B eligible player. It is the responsibility of the offensive player to avoid the opponents. It is not offensive pass interference (A.R. 7-3-8-VI, VII, XIII, XVIII and XIX):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When, after the snap, a Team A ineligible player immediately charges and contacts an opponent at a point not more than one yard beyond the neutral zone and does not continue the contact more than three yards beyond the neutral zone.</li> <li>2. When two or more eligible players are making a simultaneous and bona fide attempt to reach, catch or bat the pass. Eligible players of either team have equal rights to the ball (A.R. 7-3-8-XII).</li> <li>3. When the pass is in flight and two or more eligible players are in the area where they might receive or intercept the pass and an offensive player in that area impedes an opponent, and the pass is not catchable.</li> </ol>   | <p>Offensive pass interference by a Team A player beyond the neutral zone during a legal forward pass play in which a forward pass crosses the neutral zone is contact that interferes with a Team B eligible player. It is the responsibility of the offensive player to avoid the opponents. It is not offensive pass interference <b>if it is the type that occurs</b> (A.R. 7-3-8-VI, VII, XIII, XVIII and XIX):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When, after the snap, a Team A ineligible player immediately charges and contacts an opponent at a point not more than one yard beyond the neutral zone and does not continue the contact more than three yards beyond the neutral zone.</li> <li>2. When two or more eligible players are making a simultaneous and bona fide attempt to reach, catch or bat the pass. Eligible players of either team have equal rights to the ball (A.R. 7-3-8-XII).</li> <li>3. When the pass is in flight and two or more eligible players are in the area where they might receive or intercept the pass and an offensive player in that area impedes an opponent, and the pass is not catchable.</li> </ol> |
| 7-3-8-c | 97 | <p>Defensive pass interference is contact beyond the neutral zone by a Team B player whose intent to impede an eligible opponent is obvious and it could prevent the opponent the opportunity of receiving a catchable forward pass. When in question, a legal forward pass is catchable. Defensive pass interference occurs only after a legal forward pass is thrown. It is not defensive pass interference (A.R. 7-3-8-I, IV, V, IX-XI, XIV and XV):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When, after the snap, opposing players immediately charge and establish contact with opponents at a point that is within one yard beyond the neutral zone.</li> <li>2. When two or more eligible players are making a simultaneous and bona fide attempt to reach, catch or bat the pass. Eligible players of either team have equal rights to the ball (A.R. 7-3-8-XII).</li> <li>3. When a Team B player legally contacts an opponent before the pass is thrown (A.R. 7-3-8-XIII).</li> <li>4. When a Team A potential kicker, from scrimmage kick formation, simulates a scrimmage kick by throwing the ball high and deep, and contact by a Team B player occurs.</li> </ol> | <p>Defensive pass interference is contact beyond the neutral zone by a Team B player whose intent to impede an eligible opponent is obvious and it could prevent the opponent the opportunity of receiving a catchable forward pass. When in question, a legal forward pass is catchable. Defensive pass interference occurs only after a legal forward pass is thrown. It is not defensive pass interference <b>if it is the type that occurs</b> (A.R. 7-3-8-I, IV, V, IX-XI, XIV and XV):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When, after the snap, opposing players immediately charge and establish contact with opponents at a point that is within one yard beyond the neutral zone.</li> <li>2. When two or more eligible players are making a simultaneous and bona fide attempt to reach, catch or bat the pass. Eligible players of either team have equal rights to the ball (A.R. 7-3-8-XII).</li> <li>3. When a Team B player legally contacts an opponent before the pass is thrown (A.R. 7-3-8-XIII).</li> </ol>  |

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| 7-3-10                 | 99  | No originally ineligible <b>receiver</b> shall be or have been beyond the neutral zone until a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone has been thrown (A.R. 7-3-10-I and II).   | No originally ineligible player shall be or have been beyond the neutral zone until a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone has been thrown (A.R. 7-3-10-I and II).  |
| 7-3-10<br>Exception 1  | 99  | When, after the snap, a Team A ineligible <b>receiver</b> immediately charges and contacts an opponent at a point not more than one yard beyond the neutral zone and does not continue the contact more than three yards beyond the neutral zone.   | When, after the snap, a Team A ineligible player immediately charges and contacts an opponent at a point not more than one yard beyond the neutral zone and does not continue the contact more than three yards beyond the neutral zone.  |
| 8-3-3-b-2              | 102 | A replay after a penalty against Team B may be from any point on or between the inbounds lines on <b>or behind</b> the yard line where the penalty leaves the ball.   | A replay after a penalty against Team B may be from any point on or between the inbounds lines on the yard line where the penalty leaves the ball.  |
| 8-5-1-a                | 104 | It is a safety when:<br>a. The ball becomes dead out of bounds behind a goal line, except from an incompleting forward pass, or becomes dead in the possession of a player on, above or behind his own goal line ( <b>or becomes dead by rule</b> ), and the defending team is responsible for the ball being there (A.R. 6-3-1-IV and V; A.R. 7-2-4-I; A.R. 8-5-1-I-III, VIII and XI; A.R. 8-7-2-V; and A.R. 9-4-1-IX).<br>When in question, it is a touchback, not a safety.                                    | It is a safety when:<br>a. The ball becomes dead out of bounds behind a goal line, except from an incompleting forward pass, or becomes dead in the possession of a player on, above or behind his own goal line, and the defending team is responsible for the ball being there (A.R. 6-3-1-IV and V; A.R. 7-2-4-I; A.R. 8-5-1-I-III, VIII and XI; A.R. 8-7-2-V; and A.R. 9-4-1-IX).<br>When in question, it is a touchback, not a safety. |
| 8-5-1-b<br>Exception 3 | 104 | <b>When, following a change of team possession, a Team A player intercepts an illegal forward pass, or intercepts or recovers a fumble or backward pass between Team A's five-yard line and the goal line, and the runner's original momentum carries him into the end zone, where the ball is declared dead in his team's possession, the ball belongs to Team A at the spot where the illegal forward pass, fumble or backward pass was intercepted or recovered.</b>   |   |
| 8-7-2-a                | 106 | The impetus imparted by a player who kicks, passes, snaps or fumbles the ball shall be considered responsible for the ball's progress in any direction even though its course is deflected or reversed after striking the ground or after touching <b>an official</b> or a player of either team (A.R. 6-3-4-IV; A.R. 8-5-1-II, III, VIII, IX and XI; and A.R. 8-7-2-I-IX).   | The impetus imparted by a player who kicks, passes, snaps or fumbles the ball shall be considered responsible for the ball's progress in any direction even though its course is deflected or reversed after striking the ground or after touching a player of either team (A.R. 6-3-4-IV; A.R. 8-5-1-II, III, VIII, IX and XI; and A.R. 8-7-2-I-IX).   |
| 9-1-2-c-2              | 108 | Backs at the snap positioned <b>with the frame of their body</b> completely outside <b>the frame of the body of</b> the normal tackle (second player from the snapper) position in either direction toward a sideline, or in motion at the snap, are prohibited from blocking below the waist toward the original position of the ball in or behind the neutral zone and within 10 yards beyond the neutral zone. <b>The frame of the body does not include arms or legs extended sideways</b> (A.R. 9-1-2-XXVI). | Backs at the snap positioned completely outside the normal tackle (second player from the snapper) position in either direction toward a sideline, or in motion at the snap, are prohibited from blocking below the waist toward the original position of the ball in or behind the neutral zone and within 10 yards beyond the neutral zone (A.R. 9-1-2-XXVI).   |
| 9-2-1-a-1              | 113 | No player, substitute, coach or other person subject to the rules shall use <b>abusive, threatening</b> or obscene language or gestures, or engage in such acts that provoke ill will or are demeaning to an opponent, to game officials or to the image of the game, including:  | No player, substitute, coach or other person subject to the rules shall use obscene or vulgar language or gestures, or engage in acts that provoke ill will or are demeaning to an opponent, to game officials or to the image of the game, including:  |

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| 9-2-1-a-1-(a)              | 113 | Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent, <b>or imitating the slashing of the throat.</b>  | Pointing the finger(s), hand(s), arm(s) or ball at an opponent.   |
| 9-2-1-a-1-(b)              | 113 | <b>Taunting</b> , baiting or <b>ridiculing</b> an opponent verbally.   | Baiting or insulting an opponent verbally   |
| 9-2-1-a-1-(e)              | 113 | Obviously altering stride as an unopposed runner approaches the opponent's goal line, <b>or diving into the end zone when unopposed.</b>   | Obviously altering stride as an unopposed runner approaches the opponent's goal line.   |
| 9-2-1-a-2-(a)              | 113 | Kicking, throwing, <b>spinning</b> or carrying (including off of the field) the ball any distance that requires an official to retrieve it.  | Kicking, throwing or carrying (including off of the field) the ball any distance that requires an official to retrieve it.  |
| 9-2-1-a-2-(b)              | 113 | Spiking the ball to the ground [ <i>Exception: A forward pass to conserve time (Rule 7-3-2-d)</i> ].   | Spiking the ball to the ground [ <i>Exception: A forward pass to conserve time (Rule 7-3-2-e)</i> ].  |
| 9-2-2-b                    | 114 | No simulated replacements or substitutions may be used to confuse opponents. No tactic associated with substitutes or the substitution process may be used to confuse opponents (Rule 3-5-2- <b>e</b> ) (A.R. 9-2-2-IVII).   | No simulated replacements or substitutions may be used to confuse opponents. No tactic associated with substitutes or the substitution process may be used to confuse opponents ( <b>Exception</b> : Rule 3-5-2-d) (A.R. 9-2-2-I-VII).  |
| 9-3-3-d-1                  | 117 | The fist(s) and arm(s) shall not be used to deliver a blow ( <b>Rule 9-1-2-a</b> ) (A.R. 9-3-3-IV).  | The fist(s) and arm(s) shall not be used to deliver a blow (A.R. 9-3-3-IV).   |
| 10-2-2-e                   | 124 | Kick plays—The basic enforcement spot for fouls that occur during a legal free or scrimmage kick play before possession is gained or regained or the ball is declared dead by rule is the previous spot (Rules 2-25-10-e and 2-30-2 and 3) ( <b>A.R. 6-1-2-V and VI</b> , 8-7-2-VII and A.R. 10-2-2-II, III, VIII, XIII, XIV and XIX-XXI). | Kick plays—The basic enforcement spot for fouls that occur during a legal free or scrimmage kick play before possession is gained or regained or the ball is declared dead by rule is the previous spot (Rules 2-25-10-e and 2-30-2 and 3) (A.R. 8-7-2-VII and A.R. 10-2-2-II, III, VIII, XIII, XIV and XIX-XXI).       |
| 10-2-2-e<br>Exception 5    | 125 | <b>Encroachment by Team A on a free kick may be enforced from the previous spot or from the spot where the dead ball belongs to Team B after Team B's run (Rule 6-1-2-a).</b>  |   |
| 11-4-1-a                   | 129 | The linesman is responsible for the operation of the line-to-gain indicator and down indicator. He instructs a crew consisting of a minimum of two assistants and a third person who operate the line-to-gain and down indicators <b>outside</b> the sideline opposite the press box. The down indicator marks the football's position.    | The linesman is responsible for the operation of the line-to-gain indicator and down indicator. He instructs a line-to-gain crew consisting of a minimum of two assistants and a third person who operates the down indicator on the sideline opposite the press box. The down indicator marks the football's position. |
| 11-7-1-a                   | 131 | The side judge is responsible for <b>timing the game</b> and observing eligible receivers, kicks and passes on his side of the field.  | The side judge is responsible for timing the 25-second count and observing eligible receivers, kicks and passes on his side of the field.   |
| 11-8-1-a                   | 132 | The responsibilities of the back judge include counting the defensive team, <b>timing the 25-second count</b> , ruling on long passes and kicks, and the status of the ball in his area.   | The responsibilities of the back judge include counting the defensive team, timing the game, ruling on long passes and kicks, and the status of the ball in his area.   |
| Summary<br>Of<br>Penalties | 133 | <u>Added:</u><br>Loss of Five Yards – Alteration of playing surface for advantage<br><br>Loss of 15 Yards – Intentionally contacting an official<br><br><u>Deleted:</u><br>Referee's Discretion – Field improvement  |   |

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| Appendix C     | 143 | National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) staff <b>strongly recommend</b> that all individuals should have left the game site and reached a safe structure or location <b>by the time the person monitoring the weather</b> obtains a flash-to-bang (lightning-to-thunder) count of 30 seconds (equivalent to lightning being six miles away). This recommendation was developed as a practical way to make a judgment in situations where other resources such as technology and instrumentation are not available. | The current recommendation of the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) is to consider terminating play when the lightning is six miles away (flash-to-bang time of 30 seconds or less). All individuals should have left the game site and reached a safe structure or location. This recommendation was developed as a practical way to make a judgment in situations where other resources such as technology and instrumentation are not available. |
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| 3-2-3-II | 9          | Time expires during Team A's free kick. A1 encroached on the kick.<br><b>RULING:</b> Penalty—Five yards from the previous spot, <b>the end of Team B's run, or the touchback spot</b> , and the period is extended. Repeat the free kick <b>or Team B is awarded an untimed down.</b>  | Time expires during Team A's free kick. A1 encroached on the kick.<br><b>RULING:</b> Penalty—Five yards from the previous spot, the period is extended. Repeat the free kick.   |
| 3-5-2-V  | 14         | After a change of team possession or any timeout, the ball is declared ready for play. <b>When Team A has completed its offensive formation, Team B must promptly position its personnel. Team B will be allowed time to complete substitutions.</b><br><b>RULING:</b> Either team is subject to a delay-of-game foul -- Team B for not completing its substitutions promptly (Rule 3-4-2-b-3) or Team A for causing the 25-second clock to expire.<br><b>Penalty—Five yards from the succeeding spot.</b> | After a change of team possession or any timeout, Team A is in a huddle at its sideline when the ball is declared ready for play. Team B is on the defensive side of the ball with 12 or more personnel awaiting Team A's arrival on the field of play. <b>RULING:</b> When Team A lines up in its offensive formation or forms an on-the-field huddle, Team B has three seconds to establish 11 players, with excess personnel then leaving or already off the field of play. <b>Penalty—Five yards for illegal substitution or 15 yards for illegal participation (Rule 9-1-4-b).</b> |
| 6-2-1-IV | 24         | Team A encroaches or commits a substitution infraction, and the kickoff <b>from the 35-yard line</b> goes out of bounds after it has been touched by Team B. <b>RULING:</b> For the encroachment foul, Team B may snap at the inbounds spot or elect to have the kick repeated at Team A's 30-yard line. For the substitution infraction, Team B may refuse the penalty and snap at the inbounds spot or elect the five-yard penalty at the previous spot.   | Team A encroaches or commits a substitution infraction, and the kickoff goes out of bounds after it has been touched by Team B. <b>RULING:</b> For the encroachment foul, Team B may snap at the inbounds spot or elect to have the kick repeated at Team A's 30-yard line. For the substitution infraction, Team B may refuse the penalty and snap at the inbounds spot or elect the five-yard penalty at the previous spot.   |
| 6-4-1-IV | 28         | A player of Team B, attempting to catch a kick (no fair catch signal), <b>muffs</b> the ball that is then touched by an opponent who was not interfering with the opportunity of the receiver when he was in position to make the catch. <b>RULING:</b> Not interference. Protection against interference with the opportunity to catch a kick ends when any player of Team B <b>muffs</b> the ball.   | A player of Team B, attempting to catch a kick (no fair catch signal), touches the ball that is then touched by an opponent who was not interfering with the opportunity of the receiver when he was in position to make the catch. <b>RULING:</b> Not interference. Protection against interference with the opportunity to catch a kick ends when any player of Team B touches it.  |

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| 9-1-2-XXVI | 58 | <p>Team A is in an unbalanced line scrimmage formation or any other unusual alignment at the snap. Back A27 is a potential blocker. <b>RULING:</b> If the frame of A27's body is positioned completely outside the frame of the body of the second player from the snapper, he is prohibited from blocking below the waist toward the original position of the ball in or behind the neutral zone, and within 10 yards beyond the neutral zone. If there is no Team A player occupying the normal tackle position, the blocking status of A27 must be determined by approximating this distance from the snapper.</p> | <p>Team A is in an unbalanced line scrimmage formation or any other unusual alignment at the snap. Back A27 is a potential blocker. <b>RULING:</b> If A27 is positioned completely outside the second player from the snapper, he is prohibited from blocking below the waist toward the original position of the ball in or behind the neutral zone, and within 10 yards beyond the neutral zone. If there is no Team A player occupying the normal tackle position, the blocking status of A27 must be determined by approximating this distance from the snapper.</p> |
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*“Football officiating is serious business”*  
George Gardner