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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

August 10, 2010

TO: Divisions I, II and III Supervisors of Football Officials, Conference  
Commissioners and Head Football Coaches.

FROM: Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Football Bulletin No. 2.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the second set of play situations for the 2010 season. The committee hopes this information assists with the understanding of NCAA Football rules.

If you have any questions, please contact Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, via e-mail at ([footballrules@ncaa.org](mailto:footballrules@ncaa.org)).

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Enclosure

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members

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## NCAA FOOTBALL RULES

### 2010 INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 2

1. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B43, B67 and B80 drop back and form a three-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and (a) returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled. (b) stumbles and falls to the ground at the B-6.

**RULING:** Foul by Team B, illegal wedge formation. (a) The penalty is enforced at the spot of the foul, half the distance to the goal. First and 10 for Team B at the B-8. (b) The penalty is enforced at the dead-ball spot, half the distance to the goal. First and 10 for Team B at the B-3. (New rule)

2. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B43, B67 and B80 drop back and form a three-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Receiver B22 (a) catches the ball in the end zone and downs it there; (b) allows the ball to roll into the zone.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) No foul, because the play ends in a touchback. (New rule)

3. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. During the kick receiving team players B43, B67 and B80 drop back and form a three-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled. In an attempt to “break up” the wedge A44 dives and hits B67 at the knees at the B-18.

**RULING:** Foul by Team B for an illegal wedge. Foul by A44 for blocking below the waist during a kicking down. Team B fouled before gaining possession, so the “clean hands” exception to offsetting fouls does not apply. The fouls offset, and Team A re-kicks at the previous spot. (New rule; 9-1-2-e-4, 10-1-4)

4. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B67 and B80 drop back and form a two-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. Teammate B43 is at the 16-yard line four yards to the left of B67. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled. In an attempt to “break up” the wedge during the return A44 dives and hits B67 at the knees at the B-18.

**RULING:** The two-man wedge is legal, as B43 is too far away to be considered part of a three-man wedge. The 15-yard penalty for blocking below the waist by A44 is enforced at the dead-ball spot. First and 10 for Team B at the A-45. (New rule; 9-1-2-e-4)

*[Editor’s Note: If the foul by A44 occurs during the kick rather than during the return, Team B may choose to have the kickoff repeated at the A-15 or to have the penalty added at the end of the run. In the latter case Team B would have the ball, first and 10 at the A-45.]*

5. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. Receiving team players B43, B67 and B80 drop back and form a triangle to block for the return, with B67 at the A-16 and both B43 and B-80 at the A-14. Receiver B22 catches the ball at the B-6 and returns it to the B-40 where he is tackled.

**RULING:** Legal play. The formation by the three players does not fit the definition of an illegal wedge, as they are not in a straight line, shoulder-to-shoulder. Team B's ball, first and 10 at the B-40. (New rule)

6. Team A kicks off at its 30-yard line. During the kick receiving team players B43, B67 and B80 drop back and form a three-man wedge at their 16-yard line to block for the return. The untouched ball rolls out of bounds at the B-10.

**RULING:** Offsetting fouls. Team A re-kicks at the previous spot. (New rule, 6-2-1, 10-1-4)

7. Fourth and one at the B-5. Ball carrier A33 runs to the B-2 where he fumbles. The ball rolls into the end zone where it is recovered by A89.

**RULING:** There is no touchdown because A89, a non-fumbler, recovered a fumble on fourth down. The ball is returned to the spot of the fumble, the B-2, which is beyond the line to gain. Team A's ball, first and goal at the B-2. Since the fumble took place beyond the line to gain, the only reason for stopping the clock is the first down by Team A. Clock starts on the ready-for-play signal by the referee. (7-2-2-Exc. 2, 3-3-2-e-1)

8. Second and seven at the A-35. Wide receiver A21 lines up in the backfield about 10 yards outside the tight end on the right-hand side of the formation. A32 takes a handoff from the quarterback. As the play develops A21 goes downfield, and at the A-44 he blocks below the waist against safety B29. The block by A21 is directed slightly to the inside (i.e., angled slightly toward the line through the original position of the ball perpendicular to the end line). Thus the direction of the block makes a very small angle with a line parallel to the sideline. Ball carrier A32 is tackled at the A-48.

**RULING:** Foul by A21, blocking below the waist (crackback block). By interpretation A21's block is "toward the original position of the ball" since it is slightly toward the inside of the "north-south" direction. The 15-yard penalty is enforced at the spot of the foul. Second and 13 at the A-29. (9-1-2-e-1, 10-2-2-c, Redding Interpretation of 7-19-2010)

9. During the game the umpire notices that under each eye A34 has eye shade with visible letters, numbers or logos on a black background.

**RULING:** Illegal equipment. Team A is charged with a team timeout. A34 must leave the game and may not return until the eye shade is removed or is made solid black. (1-4-5-i as amended)

10. Third and seven at the A-35. A12 throws a pass toward eligible A88 but cornerback B43 intercepts. B43 then runs for a few yards and fumbles the ball, which is recovered by A34 who is tackled at the A-30.

**RULING:** First and 10 for Team A at the A-30. The play clock begins to count down from 40 seconds when the ball becomes dead. The game clock stops only because of the first down for Team A and thus it starts on the ready-for-play signal. (3-2-4, 3-3-2-e-1)

11. At the end of a play, the line judge signals to stop the game clock because A25 is slow to stand up and appears to be injured. Team A requests and is granted a charged timeout.

**RULING:** A25 must leave the game for at least one play. He may not return until his team's professional medical personnel clear him to play. The charged timeout does not gain Team A the allowance for A25 to return before the next play. (3-3-5 as amended)

12. Second and 20 at the A-45. Quarterback A12 completes a pass across the middle toward eligible A88 at B-45. With A88 trying to gain his balance, immediately after the catch defender B55 launches to tackle him high, initiating hard contact with his forearm to A88's head/neck area. B55's helmet does not contact A88 in the head/neck area. A88 comes to the ground with the ball and is downed at the B-45.

**RULING:** Personal foul by B55 for targeting and initiating contact in the head or neck area against a defenseless player, in this case with the forearm. Fifteen-yard penalty enforced at the B-45, automatic first down. (New language in 9-1-3-b) *Note:* Officials are reminded to follow reporting procedures prescribed by the assigning conference or proper disciplinary authority to process the mandatory review of this play.

13. Early in the first quarter defensive back B37 intercepts a pass and returns it for a touchdown. The field judge trailing the play drops his flag at the A-20 because he has to avoid Team B personnel who have come onto the field from the coaching box.

**RULING:** This is an infraction of Illegal Interference (Rule 9-1-5-a) rather than Game Administration Interference (Rule 9-1-6). The touchdown counts. The 15-yard penalty is enforced on the try or the succeeding kickoff, at the option of Team A. (9-1-5-a)

[*Editor's Note:* This is a re-interpretation of Play 8 on 2008 Play Situations Bulletin No. 3.]