

# Scrimmage Kicks (SK)

## COACHES AREA

### Behind the Neutral Zone

- ✓ All players can advance a SK that fails to cross NZ.
- ✓ If blocked no more than 3 yds beyond NZ, considered within or behind NZ.
- ✓ Continuity of downs is not broken if ball fails to cross NZ and remains in bounds.

### Team A Fouls During the Kick

Team A live ball fouls may be enforced from the previous spot or from the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B. (Exception: Kick catch interference is a spot foul.)

### Beyond the Neutral Zone

- ✓ A cannot touch SK until it is touched by an inbounds B player.
- ✓ B can take the ball at spot of illegal touching (unless penalty is accepted or offsetting.)
- ✓ Forced touching is disregarded. (Blocked into ball / Touched by batted ball)
- ✓ If A catches or recovers a scrimmage kick that crosses the NZ the ball becomes dead. A cannot advance a kick.
- ✓ Return kick is illegal and causes the ball to become dead.
- ✓ SK beyond the NZ is a live ball foul that causes the ball to become dead.
- ✓ Joint possession belongs to B.
- ✓ No blocking below the waist.

### Opportunity to Catch a Kick

- ✓ R must have unimpeded opportunity to catch firmly possess) kick beyond NZ.
- ✓ Protection terminates when ball touches ground or is muffed by B beyond NZ.
- ✓ Not a foul if an A or B player is blocked by an opponent into potential receiver.
- ✓ Foul if contact is before or simultaneous to B touching the ball.
- ✓ Penalty: 15 yards from spot of the foul.

### Fair Catch

- ✓ B agrees not to advance (no more than 2 steps)
- ✓ An unimpeded opportunity to catch kick is extended to a player who muffs the kick and still has an opportunity to complete the catch. (Ball is placed where it was 1st touched if caught.)
- ✓ Must be beyond the NZ.
- ✓ B cannot block if he does not touch kick.
- ✓ Protection terminates when ball touches ground.
- ✓ Only the player making the signal has protection.

### Out of Bounds

A player out of bounds may not return. (hat) Does not apply if blocked out and attempts to return inbounds immediately A player out of bounds may not return. (hat) Does not apply if blocked out and attempts to return inbounds immediately.

Untouched by B before touching the ground on or behind B goal line is a touchback

Momentum  
5yd to GL

Team A bats SK in B's EZ untouched by R is a violation. B may elect a touchback. This is not canceled by acceptance of a penalty.

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# Free Kicks (FK)

### In the Neutral Zone

- ✓ A cannot block until ball is touched by B or crosses B's restraining line and remain beyond B's restraining.
- ✓ A can recover if touched by B.
- ✓ B can take the ball at spot of illegal touching (unless penalty is accepted or offsetting.)
- ✓ Forced touching is disregarded. (Blocked into ball / Touched by batted ball)

### Before the FK

- ✓ Ball between the hash marks w/ at least 4 players on either side of ball.
- ✓ Team A behind ball except Kicker and holder
- ✓ A must have been between the 9-yard marks after the RFP.

- ✓ B may not block the Kicker until he has gone five yards beyond his restraining line or until the kick has touched player, official, or ground.

- ✓ B must remain at least 10 yds beyond A restraining line until the ball is kicked.
- ✓ A can *recover* ball after it breaks the plane and remains beyond B restraining line OR when it touches anything beyond R restraining line.
- ✓ A can *catch* if B is not in a position to catch. But cannot advance.
- ✓ Fair catch and opportunity to catch Kick still apply.
- ✓ No blocking below the waist.
- ✓ Team A live ball fouls may be enforced from previous spot or subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B. (Exception: Kick catch interference is a spot foul.)

FK out of bounds between goal lines belongs to B at the inbounds spot.

### Penalty for FK out of bounds untouched by B

- 5yds re-kick
- 5yds from subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B or
- B take ball 30 yds from previous spot.

### Best options when FK is from the 40

- Ball OB *before* Team B's 35yd line – 5yd penalty from dead ball spot or 5yds re-kick
- Ball OB *after* Team B's 35yd line – 30yds from previous spot or 5yds re-kick

### Clock

Clock starts when the ball is legally touched in the field of play or crosses the goal line after being touched legally by team B in its end zone.

Momentum  
5yd to GL

- ✓ Untouched by B before touching the ground on or behind B goal line is a Touchback.
- ✓ FK out of bounds behind goal line belongs to B and is a Touchback.

### Out of Bounds

A player out of bounds may not return. (hat)  
Does not apply if blocked out and attempts to return inbounds immediately

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