

RULES AND EDITORIAL CHANGES FOR 2008
Rogers Redding

(R) = Rule Change
(E) = Editorial Change

RULE 1

1-4-9-d (FR-38) (E)

Microphones, provided by home management, are strongly recommended on referees.

[**Note: Microphones for referees will be mandatory in 2010.**] They may be used only on referees for penalty or other game announcements. **It is strongly recommended that they be lapel-type microphones. They must be controlled by the referee, and may not be open at other times. Microphones on other officials are prohibited.**

1-4-9-g (FR-38) (NEW) (R)

Any attempt to record, either through audio or video means, any signals given by an opposing player, coach, or other team personnel is prohibited.

RULE 2

2-3-3 (FR-42, 43) (R)

A chop block is a high-low or low-high combination block by any two players against an opponent (not the runner) anywhere on the field, with or without a delay between contacts; **the “low” component is at the opponent’s thigh or below. (A. R. 2-3-3-III and IV)**

Delete rest of definition.

2-6-1 (FR-44) (E)

Add [**Exception: The try is a scrimmage down that begins when the referee declares the ball ready for play. (Rule 8-3-2-b)**]

2-8-2 (FR-45) (E)

Forward progress is a term indicating the end of advancement by the **ball carrier** or airborne pass receiver of either team and applies to the position of the ball when it became dead by rule (Rules 4-1-3-a, b and p; Rules 4-2-1 and 4; and Rule 5-1-3-a Exception) (A.R. 5-1-3-I-VI and A.R.8-2-1-I-IV). (**Exception: 8-5-1-a, A.R. 8-5-1-I**)

2-9-1 (FR-45) (E)

b. A violation is a rule infraction for which no penalty is prescribed; it does not offset a foul.

2-15-5 (FR-48) (NEW) (E)

b. A free kick following a safety may be a punt, drop kick or place kick.

2-15-9 (FR-49) (E)

A field goal attempt is a **scrimmage** kick. **It may be a place kick or drop kick. (Delete “from scrimmage”)**

2-15-10 (FR-49) (NEW) (E)

b. If Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation at the snap, any action by Team A during the down is deemed to be from a scrimmage kick formation.

2-19-2 (FR-50) (E)

b. When a Team A player is holding the ball to pass it forward toward the neutral zone, any intentional forward movement of his **hand or** arm starts the forward pass.

2-19-3 (FR-51) (E)

b. A **player** has crossed the neutral zone **if his entire body has been** beyond the neutral zone.

2-27-6-c (FR-57) (NEW) (E)

c. A departing player is a player leaving the field, having been replaced by a substitute.

2-27-7 (FR-57) (E)

Delete second sentence, beginning “Rules 4-1-3-a, b, o and q...”

2-30-3 (FR-59) Scrimmage Kick Play (Delete “and Field Goal Play”) (E)

A scrimmage kick play is the interval between the snap and when a scrimmage kick comes into player possession or the ball is declared dead by rule. **(Delete “or field goal play”)**

2-30-4 (FR-59) Running Play and Run (E)

a. A running play is any live-ball action other than during a free kick play, a scrimmage kick play or a legal forward pass play. **(Delete “that which occurs before player possession is reestablished”)**

b. A run is the segment of a running play **during which a ball carrier has possession.**

c. If a ball carrier loses possession by a fumble, backward pass, or illegal forward pass, the running play includes the spot where the run ends and the loose-ball interval before possession is regained or the ball is declared dead (AR 2-30-4-I and II).

(New) d. A new running play begins when a player gains or regains possession. (Delete a-1 and a-2)

RULE 3

3-1-3-g-1 (FR-65) (E)

Distance penalties by either team are declined by rule in extra periods (Exceptions: **Penalties for flagrant personal fouls, dead-ball fouls and live-ball fouls treated as dead-ball fouls are enforced on the succeeding play.**)

3-1-3-g-3 (FR-65) (E)

If both teams foul during the down and Team B had not fouled prior to the change of possession, the fouls offset and the down is not replayed.

3-2-1 (FR-66) (E)

Replace paragraphs **b** and **c**:

b. The intermission between halves shall be 20 minutes, unless altered before the game by mutual agreement of the administrations of both schools. Immediately after the second period ends, the referee should begin the intermission by signaling to start the game clock.

3-2-2-h (FR-65) (R)

Delete paragraph (15-second clock)

3-2-2-i (FR-67) (R)

Delete paragraph (Clock adjustment following inadvertent whistle)

3-2-4 (FR-76) (R)

Play clock set to 40/25 seconds depending on circumstances

40 Seconds

Dead ball in bounds

Dead ball out of bounds

Incomplete Pass

25 Seconds

Penalty administration

Charged Team Timeout

Media Timeout

Measurement

Change of Possession

Try for Extra Point

Start of each period

Start of possession series in Extra Period

Instant Replay Review

Other administrative stoppage

3-2-5-a-1 (FR-68) (E)

a. When the clock has been stopped for any of the following incidents, it will start on the signal by the referee [S2] (A.R. 7-3-2-I and A.R. 7-3-7-II):

1. When Team A is awarded a first down, either by penalty or as the result of the play (Exception: After a legal kick down).

3-2-5-a-12 (FR-68) (NEW) (R)

12. When a ball carrier, a fumble or a backward pass goes out of bounds.
(Exception: Within the last two minutes of each half the clock starts on the snap.)

3-2-5-b (FR-69) (E)

If the clock was stopped for incidents **other than those in 1 through 12 above**, it shall be started on the **snap**.

3-2-5-e (FR-69) (E)

When Team B is awarded a first down **and will next snap the ball**, the clock will be stopped and will start on the snap.

3-3-3-c (FR-71) (E)

(Second sentence) If no conference policy is applicable to both teams, the directors of athletics at the participating institutions or **their designees**, in consultation with the coaches, shall determine whether the game will be resumed at a later date, terminated or forfeited (and the final score, **if the game is terminated**) (Rule 8-1-2).

3-4-2-Penalty (FR-75) (E)

PENALTY—**Dead-ball Foul**. Five yards from the succeeding spot [S7 and S21]

3-4-3 (FR-75) (E)

(Last sentence) The clock will start on the ready-for-play signal after **Team A throws** an illegal forward or backward pass **to conserve time** (A.R. 3-4-3-I-IV) (Rule 3-2-5-a-8).

RULE 4

4-1-3 (FR-79) (E)

a. When it goes out of bounds other than a kick that scores a field goal after touching the uprights or crossbar, when a **ball carrier** is out of bounds, or when a **ball carrier** is so held that his forward progress is stopped. When in question, the ball is dead (A.R. 4-2-1-II).

b. When any part of the **ball carrier's** body, except his hand or foot, touches the ground or when the **ball carrier** is tackled or otherwise falls and loses possession of the ball as he contacts the ground with any part of his body, except his hand or foot. (Exception: The ball remains alive when an offensive player has simulated a kick or is in position to kick the ball held for a place kick by a teammate. The ball may be kicked, passed or advanced by rule) (A.R. 4-1-3-I).

o. When a **ball carrier** simulates placing his knee on the ground.

q. When a **ball carrier's** helmet comes completely off. The ball belongs to the **ball carrier's** team at that spot.

4-2-4-a (FR-81) (E)

If a live ball is declared out of bounds and the ball does not cross a boundary line, it is out of bounds at the ball's most forward point when it was declared dead (A.R. 4-2-4-I).
(Exception: Rule 8-5-1-a, A.R. 8-5-1-I)

RULE 5

5-2-3 (FR-84) (E)

Add "**8-3-3-b-1**" to the list of exceptions.

RULE 6

6-1-3 (FR-87) (E)

Free Kick **Touching and Recovery**

a. No Team A player may touch a free-kicked ball **until after**:

1. It touches a Team B player (Exception: Rules 6-1-4 **and 6-5-1-b**); **or**
2. It breaks the plane of and remains beyond Team B's restraining line (Exception: Rule 6-4-1) (A.R. 2-11-2-I); **or**
3. It touches any player, the ground, an official or anything beyond Team B's restraining line.

Thereafter, all players of Team A become eligible to touch, recover or catch the kick.

b. Any other touching by Team A is **illegal touching**, a violation that, when the ball becomes dead, gives the receiving team the privilege of taking the ball at the spot of the violation.

c. If a penalty incurred by either team before the ball becomes dead is enforced or if there are offsetting fouls, the **illegal-touching** privilege is canceled (A.R. 6-1-3-I).

(NEW) **d. Illegal touching in Team A's end zone is ignored.**

6-1-8 (FR-88) (NEW) (E)

Fouls By Kicking Team

Penalties for all fouls by the kicking team other than kick-catch interference (Rule 6-4) during a free kick play may be enforced at the previous spot or at the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B.

6-2-1-Penalty (FR-88) (R)

PENALTY—"..... ball in play **30 yards...**"

6-3-13 (FR-91) (NEW) (E)

Fouls By Kicking Team

Penalties for all fouls by the kicking team other than kick-catch interference (Rule 6-4) during a scrimmage kick play (except field goal attempts) may be enforced at the previous spot or at the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B.

6-4-1-a (FR-91) (E)

This protection terminates when a kick touches the ground, **when any player of Team B muffs a scrimmage kick beyond the neutral zone, or when any player of Team B muffs a free kick in the field of play or in the end zone** (Rule 6-5-1-a, A.R. 6-4-1-IV).

6-5-1 (FR-92) (E)

a. When a Team B player makes a fair catch, the ball becomes dead where caught and belongs to Team B at that spot. (A.R. 6-5-1-I-III)

b. (formerly “Exception”)

Re-label subsequent paragraphs

6-5-6 (FR-93) (NEW) (R)

Catch or Recovery of a Scrimmage kick

a. **During a scrimmage kick beyond the neutral zone, a player of Team B who gives a valid fair catch signal before the ball hits the ground must be given an unimpeded opportunity to catch or recover the kick.**

b. **This protection is extended to a player who muffs the kick and still has a reasonable opportunity to complete the catch or the recovery. The protection ends when the ball hits the ground after a Team B player touches it.**

c. **If a kicking team member contacts the receiver as the result of being blocked by a teammate of the receiver, there is no foul for interference.**

PENALTY—For a foul in the field of play: Team B’s ball, 15 yards from the spot of the foul. For a foul in Team B’s end zone: Touchback plus 15 yards from the succeeding spot. [S33] Flagrant offenders shall be disqualified. [S47]

RULE 7

7-1-3 Second Penalty (FR-97) (E)

PENALTY—For live-ball fouls occurring when or after the snap starts during scrimmage kick plays: Five yards from the previous spot or five yards from the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B (Field Goal Plays Exempted.) (S18, S19, S22). (Delete “or when or after the ball is free kicked”)

7-1-4 Second Penalty (FR-98) (E)

PENALTY—For live-ball fouls occurring when the snap starts during scrimmage kick plays: Five yards from the previous spot or five yards from the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B (Field Goal Plays Exempted.) (S20). (Delete “or when or after the ball is free kicked”)

7-2-4-b (FR-100) (E)

b. Add “**(Rule 3-2-5-a-11)**” after the first sentence.

7-3-2-a (FR-101) (E)

A forward pass is illegal:

a. If thrown by a Team A player **whose entire body** is beyond the neutral zone **when he releases the ball** [S35 and S9].

7-3-2-f Penalty (FR-102) (E)

Exception: It is not a foul when the passer, who is or has been outside the frame of the body of the normal tackle position toward a sideline, throws the ball so that it **crosses the neutral zone extended. (Rule 2-19-3) (A.R. 7-3-2-IX). (Exceptions 1 and 2 are collapsed into a single statement.)**

RULE 8

8-3-3-a (FR-110) (E)

Offsetting fouls: **If both teams foul during the down and Team B fouls before the change of possession, the fouls offset and the down is replayed, even if additional fouls occur after the change of possession.** Any replay after offsetting penalties must be from the previous spot (A.R. 8-3-3-II and A.R. 10-1-7-XVI).

8-3-3-b-1 (FR-110) (E)

(Second sentence) Team A may accept the score with **penalties for personal fouls** enforced on the succeeding kickoff or from the succeeding spot in extra periods. (A.R. 3-2-3-VII; A.R. 8-3-2-II; A.R. 8-3-3-I; and A.R. 10-1-7-XIV, XV and XVII).

8-3-3-c-3 (FR-110) (E)

If a Team A player **commits a foul that is not offset, and during the down** there is **neither another** change of possession **nor a score**, the penalty is declined **by rule**.

8-3-3-d-1 (FR-110) (E)

Penalties for fouls occurring after the ready-for-play signal and before the snap are **enforced** before the next snap.

8-3-3-d-2 (FR-111) (E)

Penalties for live-ball fouls **treated** as dead-ball fouls occurring during the try down are **enforced** on the succeeding kickoff or from the succeeding spot in extra periods. (A.R. 3-2-3-VIII).

8-3-4-c (FR-111) (E)

If both teams foul during the down and Team B had not fouled prior to the change of possession, the fouls offset, the down is not replayed, and the try is over.

8-3-5 (FR-111) (E)

Penalties for fouls **occurring** after a try are enforced on the succeeding kickoff or from the succeeding spot in extra periods. (Exception: Rule 10-1-6) (A.R. 10-1-7-XIX and X).

8-5-1-a (FR-112) (E)

Remove parentheses around **“or becomes dead by rule.”**

8-5-1-b (FR-112) (E)

Add 3-1-3-g-3 and 8-3-4-a to the exceptions.

RULE 9

9-1-2-l, m, n (FR-118) Delete these three items

(Re-label succeeding lettered entries)

(FR-119) [Move Penalty that follows present paragraph (r) so that it follows paragraph (q)]

9-1-2-p (FR-119) (NEW) (R)

All players are prohibited from grabbing the inside back collar of the shoulder pads or jersey, or the inside collar of the side of the shoulder pads or jersey, and immediately pulling the runner down. This does not apply to a runner who is inside the tackle box or to a quarterback who is in the pocket.

9-1-2-q (formerly s) (FR-119) (R)

No player shall **twist, turn or pull** the face mask or any helmet opening of an opponent. **It is not a foul if the face mask or helmet opening is not twisted, turned or pulled** (A.R. 9-1-2-XV).

PENALTY (a-q)—15 yards basic spot, or 15 yards from the succeeding spot for dead-ball fouls. Also, automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules. (Exception: Penalties for offensive team personal fouls behind the neutral zone are enforced from the previous spot. Safety if the foul occurs behind Team A's goal line) [S7, S24, S34, S38, S39, S40, S41, S45 or S46]. Flagrant offenders shall be disqualified [S47].

For Team A 15-yard penalty fouls during free or scrimmage kick plays: Enforcement may be at the previous spot or the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B (field goal plays exempted) (**Rules 6-1-8, 6-3-13**).

9-1-3 (FR-120) (NEW) (R)

Initiating Contact/Targeting an Opponent

a. No player shall initiate contact and target an opponent with the crown of his helmet.

b. No player shall initiate contact and target a defenseless opponent above the shoulders.

PENALTY (a-b)—15 yards basic spot, or 15 yards from the succeeding spot for dead-ball fouls. Also, automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules. (Exception: Penalties for offensive team personal fouls behind the neutral zone are enforced from the previous spot. Safety if the foul occurs behind Team A's goal line) [S7, S24, S34, S38, S39, S40, S41, S45 or S46]. Flagrant offenders shall be disqualified [S47].

For Team A foul during free or scrimmage kick plays: Enforcement may be at the previous spot or the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B (field goal plays exempted) (Rules 6-1-8, 6-3-13).

Re-number subsequent paragraphs

9-1-6-b (FR-122) (R)

ARTICLE 6. While the ball is in play, coaches, substitutes and authorized attendants may not be in the restricted area between the sideline and the coaching box or on the field of play.

PENALTY—Enforce as a dead-ball foul.

First and second infractions: Delay of game for sideline interference, Five yards from the succeeding spot. [S21 and S29]

Third and subsequent infractions: Unsportsmanlike conduct for sideline interference, 15 yards from the succeeding spot. [S27 and S29]

9-2-1 (FR-123) [Insert immediately following 1-(h)] (New) (E)

If committed while the ball is alive, these fouls are treated as dead-ball fouls.

9-2-1-a Penalty (FR-123) (E)

In the Penalty—add “**or live-ball foul treated as a dead-ball foul**” after “Dead-ball foul” at the beginning of the penalty.

9-3-4-e (FR-129) (E)

e. When a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone during a forward pass play and a contact foul that is not pass interference is committed **beyond the neutral zone**, the enforcement spot is the previous spot. This includes Rule 9-3-4-c (A.R. 7-3-9-II and A.R. 9-3-4-I and II).

PENALTY—Ten or 15 yards from the **previous** spot, plus first down if the foul occurred against an eligible receiver before the pass being touched [S38, S42, S43 or S45].

(Delete “other than the passer”) (Delete “Five yards”)

RULE 10

10-1-5 (FR-134) (E)

Delete “or the order of occurrence cannot be determined” in the Exception.

10-1-6 (FR-134) (E)

When a live-ball foul by one team is followed by one or more dead-ball fouls (including live-ball fouls **treated** as dead-ball fouls) by an opponent or by the same team, the penalties are administered separately and in the order of occurrence (A.R. 10-1-6-I-VII).

10-2-2-e Exceptions (FR-137) (NEW) (E)

Replace 5, 6, and 7 by the following:

5. Penalties for all fouls by the kicking team other than kick-catch interference (Rule 6-4) during a free kick play or a scrimmage kick play (except field goal attempts) may be enforced at the previous spot or at the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B. (Rules 6-1-8 and 6-3-13)

10-2-2-g Fouls during or after a touchdown, field goal or try (FR-137) (E)

1. Fouls by the non-scoring team during a down that ends in a touchdown.

a. Penalties for personal fouls are enforced on the try or the succeeding kickoff, at the option of the scoring team. If there is no kickoff the accepted penalty is enforced on the try. (AR 10-2-2-XLIII)

b. Penalties for all other fouls are declined by rule, unless such foul(s) occur while the fouling team is in possession after a change of team possession, in which case Rule 5-2-4 applies. (A.R. 6-3-2-V)

10-2-2-h (FR-138) (E)

Distance for fouls by either team during a free kick may not extend a team's restraining line behind its five-yard line. Penalties that would otherwise place the restraining line behind a team's five-yard line are enforced from the next succeeding spot.

RULE 12

12-3-1-a-1 (FR-145) (NEW) (R)

(add) This includes field goal attempts only if the ball is ruled (a) below or above the crossbar or (b) inside or outside the uprights when it is lower than the top of the uprights. If the ball is higher than the top of the uprights, the ruling may not be reviewed.

12-3-3-a (FR-146) (R)

a. A runner judged to have been not down by rule. Delete "Note"

12-3-3-c (FR-146) (NEW) (R)

A ball carrier judged to have been down by rule when the recovery of a fumble by an opponent or teammate occurs in the immediate action following the fumble and is prior to any official signaling that the ball is dead.

Note 1: If the ball carrier is judged down by rule and the Instant Replay Official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which player recovers the fumble, the ruling of down-by-rule stands.

Note 2: If the ruling of down-by-rule is reversed, the ball belongs to the recovering player at the spot of the recovery and any advance is nullified.

12-3-3-d (FR-146) (NEW) (R)

A ball carrier judged to have been out of bounds when his immediate action takes him into the opponent's end zone and is prior to any official signaling that the ball is dead.

Re-label subsequent items (e, f, g...)

12-3-3-g (formerly f) (FR-146) (R)

Add: **The Instant Replay Official may correct an egregious game-clock error.**

12-5-1-b-1 (FR-148) (R)

(Replace second sentence with the following)

If a head coach's challenge is successful he retains the challenge, which he may use only once more during the game. Thus a coach may have a total of two challenges if and only if his initial challenge is successful.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES CHANGES

- 1-4-9-d** Microphones on referee mandatory in 2010
- 1-4-9-g** Obtaining opponents' signals prohibited.
- 2-3-3** Chop block redefined.
- 3-2-2-h** Delete: 15-second play clock
- 3-2-2-i** Delete: clock adjustment following inadvertent whistle.
- 3-2-4** 40-second play clock
- 3-2-5** Clock stops when ball carrier goes out of bounds and starts on the referee's signal, except that in the last two minutes of each half, the clock starts on the snap.
- 6-2-1** Free kick out of bounds: Option to put ball in play 30 yards downfield
- 6-5-6** Fair catch protection for a player who catches or recovers a scrimmage kick
- 9-1-2-p** "Horse-collar" tackle introduced as a personal foul
- 9-1-2-q** Five-yard face mask/helmet opening foul eliminated. Foul is only for twisting, turning or pulling.
- 9-1-3** Initiating Contact/Crown of Helmet/Targeting an opponent
- 9-1-6** Sideline infractions (formerly warnings): First two—fouls for delay of game (5-yard penalty). Third and subsequent—foul for sideline interference (15-yard penalty)
- 12-3-1** Reviewable play: Field goal attempt above or below crossbar and lower than top of uprights.
- 12-3-3** Reviewable play: Ball carrier ruled down and fumble immediately recovered prior to dead-ball signal being given.
- 12-3-3** Reviewable play: Ball carrier ruled out of bounds and immediately carries ball into opponent's end zone prior to dead-ball signal being given.
- 12-3-3** Egregious game-clock error may be corrected by IRO.

12-5-1 Coach may retain successful challenge only once