



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

### PLAY SITUATIONS: 2014 EDITORIAL CHANGES

#### **Non-Contrasting Colors of Jersey and Numerals (Rule 1-4-8)**

1. The home team is wearing black jerseys with purple numerals outlined in orange. Before the game, the referee informs the head coach that the jerseys do not comply with the rule and asks that the team change to a jersey with contrasting numeral colors. The head coach responds that the team will wear these non-compliant jerseys.

**RULING:** The referee charges a timeout to the team at the beginning of each quarter that they are wearing these jerseys.

#### **In Position To Receive A Backward Pass: Defenseless Player (Rule 2-27-14)**

2. Quarterback A11 drops back to pass at the A-20. Unable to find a receiver, he throws a backward pass toward back A44 who has retreated to the A-16. Just before the ball arrives, end B88 launches and drives his shoulder into A44 at the side of the helmet. B88 is flagged for targeting under Rule 9-1-4—A44 is defenseless. The ball rolls loose and is recovered by B88.

**RULING:** 15 yards from the previous spot, automatic first down. B88 is disqualified.

#### **Inbounds and Out-of-Bounds Player (Rule 2-27-15)**

3. Free kick at the A-35. B17 leaps from inbounds and is the first player to touch Team A's free kick when he grasps the ball while airborne. He then lands out of bounds with the ball in his control.

**RULING:** B17 is inbounds when he touches the kick. Team B will have the ball at the yard line where B17 crossed the sideline.

4. Receiver A88 is running near the sideline. He steps out of bounds on his own, leaps to receive a forward pass, grasps the ball while airborne, and lands inbounds with the ball in his possession.

**RULING:** Incomplete forward pass. By rule A88 was still out of bounds when he touched the pass, since he had not established inbounds after having been out of bounds, so the

ball is out of bounds when he touches it. This is not a foul for illegal touching, since A88 did not touch the ball in the field of play (Rule 7-3-4).

5. Receiver A88 is running near the sideline. He is blocked out of bounds by a defender. From out of bounds he leaps to receive a forward pass, grasps the ball while airborne, and lands inbounds with the ball in his possession.

**RULING:** Incomplete forward pass. By rule A88 was still out of bounds when he touched the pass, since he had not established inbounds after having been out of bounds, so the ball is out of bounds when he touches it. The fact that he was forced out of bounds has no bearing on this ruling.

6. Receiver A88 is running near the sideline. He steps out of bounds on his own, returns and establishes inbounds, leaps to receive a forward pass, grasps the ball while airborne, and lands inbounds with the ball in his possession.

**RULING:** Foul for illegally touching a forward pass in the field of play. A88 did not regain his eligibility before touching the ball. Loss of down at the previous spot.

7. Receiver A88 is running near the sideline. He is blocked out of bounds by a defender. From out of bounds he returns and establishes inbounds, leaps to receive a forward pass, grasps the ball while airborne, and lands inbounds with the ball in his possession.

**RULING:** Complete pass. A88 did not lose his eligibility when he was blocked out of bounds, and he had established in bounds before touching the ball.

8. Quarterback A11 throws a forward pass toward eligible A44. When he touches the pass A44 is (a) touching the sideline; (b) airborne after leaping from out of bounds.

**RULING:** Incomplete pass. In both (a) and (b) A44 is by definition an out-of-bounds player.

9. Free kick at the A-35. When he touches the kick, returner B33 (a) is straddling the sideline with one foot out of bounds; (b) has one foot touching the sideline; (c) has gone out of bounds and has leaped to become airborne.

**RULING:** (a), (b), and (c) Team A foul, free kick out of bounds. In all three cases B33 is out of bounds by definition when he touches the ball, which makes the ball out of bounds. (Rules 4-2-3 and 6-2-1)

10. Defensive back B22 is near the sideline and attempts to intercept a forward pass. He inadvertently steps on the sideline as he goes airborne, grasps the ball, and returns to the ground inbounds.

**RULING:** Incomplete pass. By definition B22 is out of bounds when he touches the ball while airborne, making the ball out of bounds when he touches it.

11. Ball carrier A24 fumbles the ball near the sideline. B55 recovers the ball (a) with his foot touching the sideline; (b) after going out of bounds and diving for the ball, first touching it while still airborne.

**RULING:** Fumble out of bounds; Team A retains possession. In both cases B55 is out of bounds by definition when he touches the ball, making the ball .

**More than eleven players on defense: Live-ball foul (Rule 3-5-3)**

12. The ball has been made ready for play, and Team A is in its formation and is at the line of scrimmage. B22, a twelfth player, runs onto the field and is at about the numbers when the ball is snapped. The play results in an incomplete pass.

**RULING:** Live-ball foul, substitution infraction. Five-yard penalty, previous spot. Because B22 was not in and had not been in the information when the ball was snapped, this is a live-ball foul, and the officials should not shut down the play.

**Personal Foul by Team B on Pass Play—Penalty Enforcement (Rule 7-3-12)**

13. B77 is flagged for hand-to-the face on a pass play. The pass is (a) complete to A88 who is tackled at the B-45; (b) incomplete; (c) intercepted.

**RULING:** Personal foul by B77 (a) The penalty is enforced at the end of the run. First and 10 at the B-30. (b) and (c) The penalty is enforced at the previous spot, first and 10.

14. Same situation as in Play 13, except that A88 fumbles at the B-45. A44 recovers the ball and is tackled at the B-40.

**RULING:** Penalty enforced at the end of the last run, which is the B-40. First and 10 at the B-25.

***Rogers Redding***  
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