



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

### ADDITIONAL PLAY SITUATIONS BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST

1. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. As the play develops guard A66 blocks below the waist against linebacker B55 at the A-37 yard line. The block is directed generally toward a sideline and at a slight angle back toward Team A's goal line. **RULING:** Illegal block. While A66 is unrestricted for blocking below the waist, no player of Team A may block toward his own goal line when beyond the neutral zone. Fifteen yards at the spot of the foul. (9-1-6-a-1)
2. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. A88 is lined up at the left end position at the snap. As the play develops he blocks below the waist against an opponent at the A-37. This block is directed toward the sideline to Team A's right. At the snap A88 is (a) five yards from the snapper; (b) more than seven yards from the snapper. **RULING:** (a) Legal block. A88 is unrestricted with regard to blocking below the waist. (b) Illegal block. A88 is restricted and thus may block below the waist only north-south or toward his adjacent sideline. This block is toward the non-adjacent sideline. (9-1-6-a-2-a)
3. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. Team A is in a tight balanced-line formation. Back A22 is stationary at the snap directly behind the left tight end—that is, completely outside the left tackle. **RULING:** A22 is restricted with regard to blocking below the waist. He may not block below the waist in any direction inside the area defined in the rule, and outside this area he may block below the waist only north-south or toward his left (adjacent) sideline. (9-1-6-a-2-b)
4. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. Back A22 initially sets up outside the tackle box to the left after the ball has been made ready for play. He then moves inside the tackle box, stops and resets behind the left tackle. He goes in motion to his right, and at the snap he is directly behind the left guard. **RULING:** Although A22

started his motion inside the tackle box and remained within the tackle box before the snap, he was outside the tackle box after the ball was made ready for play; thus A22 is restricted with regard to blocking below the waist. He may not block below the waist in any direction inside the area defined in the rule, and outside this area he may block below the waist only north-south or toward his left (adjacent) sideline. (9-1-6-a-2-c)

5. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. Back A22 initially sets up directly behind the left guard. He goes in motion to his right and at the snap he is directly behind the right guard. **RULING:** A22 is unrestricted regarding blocking below the waist; although he is in motion at the snap he has not been outside the defined area any time after the ball became ready for play. (9-1-6-a-4)

6. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. Linebacker B55 blocks below the waist against guard A68 at (a) the A-37; (b) the A-41; (c) the A-33; (d) the A-29. **RULING:** B55 may legally block below the waist inside the area between the A-40 and the A-30—i.e., five yards on either side of the line of scrimmage. (a) and (c) legal; (b) and (d) illegal. (9-1-6-a-5)

7. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. QB A12 rolls to his left, reverses field, and runs to his right. Back A44 is at the A-33 in position to receive a backward pass from A12 when the defensive end B99 blocks A44 at the thigh. **RULING:** Illegal block below the waist by B99. Although B99 is within the area where players of Team B may legally block below the waist, they may not block low on a player in position to receive a backward pass. (9-1-6-a-6)

8. Second and 5 at the A-35. The ball is at the left hash mark. Tight end A88 runs a route across the middle as Team A executes a draw play to the fullback A47. Linebacker B54 blocks below the waist against A88 at the A-40. When this block takes place ball carrier A47 is (a) at the A-33; (b) at the A-37. **RULING:** Team B may not block below the waist against an eligible receiver beyond the neutral zone as long as a legal forward pass is possible. (a) Illegal block. (b) Legal block since it is within the five-yard belt; the ball is beyond the neutral zone and thus a legal forward pass is not possible by rule. (9-1-6-a-7)

9. Team A punts on fourth down at the A-25. Back A40 is positioned as a personal protector about six yards in front of the punter. As defensive end B82 rushes to try to block the kick A40 blocks him below the waist at the A-15. **RULING:** Illegal block. Neither team may block below the waist during a kicking down. The penalty may be enforced either at the previous spot with a repeat of fourth down or at the spot where the dead ball belongs to Team B. (9-1-6-b)

10. Second and 5 at the A-35. B44 intercepts a pass at the B-40 and on the return teammate B21 blocks below the waist at the B-45. This block is directed along the

north-south line. B44 is tackled at the A-45. **RULING:** Foul by B21. Following a change of possession no player is allowed to block below the waist in any direction anywhere on the field. 15 yards from the spot of the foul. First and 10 for Team B at the B-30. (9-1-6-c)

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