



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

CLARIFICATIONS: BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST

Please note the following modifications to the new rules for blocking below the waist:

1. Restrictions on a back in motion

A back who starts in motion from outside the specified area and then re-sets inside the area is unrestricted if he subsequently goes in motion and does not leave the area. This interpretation is clarified below by changes to Rule 9-1-6-a-2-c.

Rule 9-1-2-a-2-c

Original language

c. A back who is in motion at the snap and was outside the area in *b* (above) any time after the ball was ready for play and before the snap.

New language

c. A back who is in motion at the snap and **during this continuous motion** was outside the area in *b* (above) any time after the ball was ready for play and before the snap. **NOTE: A back is not restricted if he starts from a set position inside the area and during that continuous motion does not leave the area.**

This also leads to a change in #4 in the “Additional Play Situations: Blocking Below the Waist,” dated April 3, 2012. Play number 4 now reads:

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 then goes in motion to his right, and at the snap he is directly behind the left guard. **RULING:** A22 re-

sets inside the tackle box after initially being outside the tackle box. Because he remains inside the tackle box after starting his new motion, he is unrestricted.

2. Blocking by a restricted player

Rule 9-1-6-a-3 (first sentence) reads in the original language:

A restricted player may not block below the waist against any opponent who is inside the area in paragraph 2-b.

This statement is somewhat ambiguous in that the area of restriction may possibly change depending on the formation. The intent of the rule is that a restricted player should not be able to block low inside the tackle box. While the difference between the two is small in practice, specifying the tackle box will make the rule easier to coach and to officiate.

Rule 9-1-6-a-3 now reads:

A restricted player may not block below the waist against any opponent who is inside the tackle box.

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