FOOTBALL

2015 INSTANT REPLAY CASE BOOK
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SECTION 1. Purpose and Philosophy

Purpose
ARTICLE 1. Instant replay is a process whereby video review is used to confirm, reverse or let stand certain on-field decisions (Rule 12-3) made by game officials.

Philosophy
ARTICLE 2. The instant replay process operates under the fundamental assumption that the ruling on the field is correct. The replay official may reverse a ruling if and only if the video evidence convinces him beyond all doubt that the ruling was incorrect. Without such indisputable video evidence, the replay official must allow the ruling to stand.

SECTION 2. Eligibility for Instant Replay

Participation
ARTICLE 1. a. Any member institution may use instant replay, but there is no requirement to do so. If instant replay is used, it must be used in full compliance with this rule.

b. For any nonconference game, if the home team is using instant replay, the visiting team does not have the option of declining its use for that game. If the home team is not using instant replay, it is not required to honor a request by the visiting team that it be used.

SECTION 3. Reviewable Plays

Scoring Plays
ARTICLE 1. Reviewable plays involving a potential score include:

a. A potential touchdown or safety. [Exception: Safety by penalty for fouls that are not specifically reviewable.]

b. Field goal attempts if and 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 as it crosses the end line, the play may not be reviewed.

Passes
ARTICLE 2. Reviewable plays involving passes include:

a. Pass ruled complete, incomplete or intercepted anywhere in the field of play or an end zone.

b. Forward pass touched by a player (eligible or ineligible) or an official.
c. Forward pass or forward handing when a ball carrier is or has been beyond the neutral zone.
d. A forward pass or forward handing after a change of team possession.
e. Pass ruled forward or backward when thrown from behind the neutral zone.
   1. If the pass is ruled forward and is incomplete, the play is reviewable only if the ball goes out of bounds or if there is clear recovery of a loose ball in the immediate continuing action after the loose ball. If the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the ruling of incomplete pass stands.
   2. If the replay official reverses an incomplete forward pass ruling and the ball is recovered, it belongs to the recovering team at the spot of the recovery and any advance is nullified.
f. Location of the passer when he is obviously in the field of play and a ruling of intentional grounding would result in a safety by penalty.

**Dead Ball and Loose Ball**

**ARTICLE 3.** Reviewable plays involving potential dead balls and loose balls include:

a. Loose ball by a potential passer ruled a fumble.
b. Loose ball by a passer ruled incomplete forward pass when there is clear recovery in the immediate continuing action after the loose ball.
   1. If the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the ruling of incomplete pass stands.
   2. If the replay official rules fumble, the ball belongs to the recovering team at the spot of the recovery and any advance is nullified.
c. Live ball not ruled dead in possession of a ball carrier.
d. Loose ball ruled dead, or live ball ruled dead in possession of a ball carrier when the clear recovery of a loose ball occurs in the immediate continuing action.
   1. If the ball is ruled dead and the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the dead-ball ruling stands.
   2. If the replay official rules that the ball was not dead, it belongs to the recovering team at the spot of the recovery and any advance is nullified.
e. Ball carrier’s forward progress, spot of fumble, or spot of out-of-bounds backward pass, with respect to a first down.
f. Catch or recovery of a fumble by a Team A player other than the fumbler before any change of possession during fourth down or a try.
g. Ball carrier in or out of bounds. If a ball carrier is ruled out of bounds, the play is not reviewable, except as in Rules 12-3-1-a and 12-3-3-d.
h. Catch, recovery or touching of a loose ball by a player inbounds or out of bounds.
i. A loose ball touching on or beyond a sideline, goal line, or end line, touching a pylon, or breaking the plane of a goal line.
j. Catch or recovery of a loose ball in the field of play or an end zone.
k. Forward fumble that goes out of bounds with respect to a first down.
Kicks
ARTICLE 4. Reviewable plays involving kicks include:

a. Touching of a kick.
b. Player beyond the neutral zone when kicking the ball.
c. Kicking team player advancing a ball after a potential muffed kick/fumble by the receiving team.
d. Scrimmage kick crossing the neutral zone.
e. Blocking by Team A players before they are eligible to touch the ball on an on-side kick.

Miscellaneous
ARTICLE 5. Situations that may be addressed by the replay official:

a. The number of players on the field for either team during a live ball.
b. Clock adjustment and status when a ruling is reviewed.
c. Clock adjustment at the end of any quarter. (Exception: Rule 3-2-5-b)

   If at the end of any quarter the game clock expires, either during a down in which it should be stopped by rule when the ball becomes dead or following the down upon a request for an available team timeout, the replay official may restore time only under these conditions:

   1. The replay official has indisputable video evidence that time should have remained on the game clock when the ball became dead or when the team timeout was granted;
   2. In the second and fourth quarters only the team in possession when the ball became dead would next put the ball in play from scrimmage;
   3. In the fourth quarter only, either the score is tied or the team that will next snap the ball is behind by eight points or fewer; and
   4. The replay official’s video evidence includes the timeout signal by an official in the case where the game clock should have stopped for a requested team timeout.
d. Correcting the number of a down.

   1. This includes the result of a penalty enforcement that includes an automatic first down or loss of down.
   2. The correction may be made at any time within that series of downs or before the ball is legally put in play after that series.
e. Any person who is not a player interfering with live-ball action occurring in the field of play (Rule 9-2-3).
f. The player-disqualification portion of the penalty for targeting fouls under 9-1-3 and 9-1-4. The point of forcible contact and use of the crown of the helmet are reviewable; however, the targeting action itself is not reviewable. Note that if the disqualification is reversed the 15-yard penalty remains only if there is another personal foul in conjunction with the targeting. See the Penalty at Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-4.
Limitations on Reviewable Plays
ARTICLE 6. No other plays or officiating decisions are reviewable. However, the replay official may correct egregious errors, including those involving the game clock, whether or not a play is reviewable. This excludes fouls that are not specifically reviewable (Reviewable fouls: Rules 12-3-2-c and d, 12-3-4-b and 12-3-5-a).

SECTION 4. Instant Replay Personnel, Equipment and Location

Personnel
ARTICLE 1. Instant replay personnel shall consist of the number of persons needed to operate the replay equipment within the necessary time constraints. There shall be a minimum of three persons to ensure that all plays are reviewed in an efficient and timely manner. Such persons are normally referred to as replay official, communicator and technician. Additional personnel may be used as needed.

Equipment
ARTICLE 2. The type of equipment used to carry out necessary instant replay duties shall be determined by each conference or member institution using instant replay.

Location
ARTICLE 3. a. All equipment used reviewing a play during the replay process and the personnel using that equipment shall be located in a separate, secure location in the press box. This room shall not be available or accessible to any person not directly involved in instant replay.

b. Additional telephonic equipment needed to allow instant replay personnel to communicate with the game referee when a game has been stopped for a play review shall be located on a sideline near the field of play and preferably outside a team area. Such equipment shall provide the game referee and the replay official a secure and private means of communication.

SECTION 5. Initiating the Replay Process

Game Stop
ARTICLE 1. There are two methods to stop a game to review a ruling on the field.

a. The replay official and his crew shall review every play of a game. He may stop a game at any time before the ball is next legally put in play (Exception: Rule 12-3-5-c) whenever he believes that:
   1. There is reasonable evidence to believe an error was made in the initial on-field ruling.
   2. The play is reviewable.
   3. The outcome of a review would have a direct, competitive impact on the game.
b. The head coach of either team may request that the game be stopped and a play be reviewed by challenging the on-field ruling.

1. A head coach initiates this challenge by taking a team timeout before the ball is next legally put in play (Exception: Rule 12-3-5-c) and informing the referee that he is challenging the ruling of the previous play. 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.

2. After a review has been completed, if the on-field ruling is reversed, that team’s timeout will not be charged.

3. After a review has been completed, and the on-field ruling is not reversed, the charged team timeout counts as one of the three permitted that team for that half or the one permitted in that extra period.

4. A head coach may not challenge a ruling in which the game was stopped and a decision has already been made by the replay official.

5. If a head coach requests a team timeout to challenge an on-field ruling and the play being challenged is not reviewable, the timeout shall count as one of the three permitted his team during that half of the game or the one permitted in that extra period.

6. A head coach may not challenge an on-field ruling if all the team’s timeouts have been used for that half or in that extra period.

**When To Stop a Game**

ARTICLE 2. a. A game may be stopped, either by the replay official or by a head coach’s challenge, at any time before the ball is next legally put in play (Exception: Rule 12-3-5-c).

b. No game official may request that a game be stopped for a play to be reviewed.

**SECTION 6. Reviewing an On-field Ruling**

**Procedures**

ARTICLE 1. a. When a game is to be stopped either by the replay official or by a head coach’s challenge, the designated officials on the field will be notified by a buzzer system or other appropriate means.

b. If the review is initiated by the replay official, the referee shall announce:

“The ruling on the previous play is ... (brief description of ruling). The play is under further review.”

If the game has been stopped due to a head coach’s challenge, the referee shall announce:

“The (name of institution) head coach has challenged the ruling of (state the ruling). The play is under further review.”

c. All reviews shall be based upon video evidence provided by and coming directly from the televised production of the game or from other video means available to the replay official.

d. After the referee has conferred with the replay official and the review process has been completed, he shall make one of the following announcements:
1. If the video evidence confirms the on-field ruling:
   “After further review, the ruling on the field is confirmed.”

2. If there is no indisputable (conclusive) evidence to reverse the on-field ruling:
   “After further review, the ruling on the field stands.”

3. If the on-field ruling is reversed (Rule 12-7):
   “After further review, the ruling is [followed by a brief description of the video evidence]. Therefore, [followed by a brief description of the impact of the ruling].”

   e. If a ruling is reversed, the replay official shall supply the referee with all pertinent data as needed (next down, distance, yard line, position of the ball, clock status/adjustment) in order to resume play under the correct game conditions.

**Restrictions**

ARTICLE 2. a. There is no restriction on the number of times the replay official may stop a game for reviews.

b. The replay official is under no time limit for a review.

**SECTION 7. Reversing an On-Field Ruling**

**Criterion for Reversal**

ARTICLE 1. To reverse an on-field ruling, the replay official must be convinced beyond all doubt by indisputable video evidence through one or more video replays provided to the monitor.
On free kicks, until the ball is legally possessed, the reviewable situations are the touching of the kick, the ball hitting a boundary line (including the pylon), and recovery at the sideline or in the end zone. Once the kick is possessed it becomes a running play and the guidelines for runs apply. Also reviewable are blocks by the kicking team before they are eligible to touch the ball.

In each of the following free-kick plays the kickoff is at the A-35.

1. **Touching of a free kick**
   On a kickoff, Team A tries an onside kick. A80 has his feet at the A-44 when he recovers the ball at the A-46. Officials rule illegal touching. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball had gone 10 yards before touched by A80. Reverse to no illegal touching. A 1-10 on A-46 (Rule 12-3-4-a).

2. **Touching of a free kick**
   With 3 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter on an onside kick attempt, the ball is first touched by A20 at the A-41 and then is recovered by A80 at the A-45. Officials award the ball to Team A at the A-45. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A20 touched the ball. Reverse to illegal touching. B 1-10 on A-41 (Rule 12-3-4-a).

3. **Touching of a free kick**
   On the kickoff to start the second half officials rule that the ball is touched by B45 before going out of bounds at the B-20 and give Team B the ball at that spot. Replays show that B45 did not touch the ball. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B45 touched the ball. Reverse to free kick out of bounds. Team B 1-10 on B-35, or re-kick at the A-30 (Rule 12-3-4-a).
4. **Free Kick out of bounds**

On a kickoff, the ball is rolling at the Team B 12-yard line. The ball rolls out of bounds at the B-10 after touching B15’s foot. Officials rule foul for kickoff out of bounds untouched by Team B. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B15 touched the ball. Reverse to no foul. Team B 1-10 on B-10 (Rule 12-3-4-a).

5. **Touching of a Free Kick**

With the score tied and 5 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Team A kicks off and the ball goes between the legs of kick returner B15 without touching him and out of bounds at the B-5. Officials rule the ball touched B15 and wind the clock. The game clock runs down to 0:00 during the play. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B15 touched the ball. Reverse to foul. Team B 1-10 on B-35, free kick out of bounds. The game clock is re-set to 0:05 (Rule 12-3-4-a).

6. **Early blocking on an on-side kick**

On a kickoff at the A-35, Team A executes an on-side kick. A50 blocks B85 before Team B touches the ball or before the ball travels ten yards. No flag is thrown. A80 recovers at the A-46 where the officials award Team A the ball for a first down. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Instant Replay rules a foul by Team A for blocking before they are eligible to touch the ball on an on-side kick. Re-kick at the A-30 after the five-yard penalty.

7. **Early blocking on an on-side kick**

On a kickoff at the A-35, Team A executes an on-side kick. A50 blocks B85 and officials throw a flag for the block occurring before Team B touches the ball or before the ball travels ten yards. Replay shows that the ball had gone 10 yards before the A50 blocks B85. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to no foul.

8. **Early blocking on an on-side kick: challenge**

On a kickoff at the A-35, Team A tries an onside kick. A50 blocks B85 before Team B touches the ball or before the ball travels ten yards. No flag is thrown. B88 recovers at the A-46 where the officials award Team B the ball for a first down. **RULING:** Because the play results in possession for Team B, Instant Replay will not stop the game and review this play to rule an illegal block by A50. Team B’s ball, first and 10 at the A-46. Because the play is reviewable, the Team B coach may challenge, and the Replay official must honor the challenge with a review. If the Replay official determines that there was an illegal block, the challenge
is successful, Team A is charged with the foul, and Team B has the usual penalty options (Rule 6-1-12)---i.e., re-kick after the five-yard penalty or have the penalty tacked on at the dead-ball spot.

9. Free Kick Out of Bounds
On a kickoff the ball hits the sideline at the B-15, and then bounces back toward the middle of the field where A20 falls on it. Officials rule that the ball did not hit the sideline and award possession to Team A. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball touched the sideline. Reverse to foul for free kick out of bounds. B 1-10 on B-35 (Rule 12-3-3-i).

10. Free Kick Out of Bounds
Team A kicks off and the ball lands near the sideline at the B-15, and then bounces back towards the middle of the field where A20 falls on it. Officials rule that the ball hit the sideline at the B-15, making it an untouched free kick out of bounds. RULING: Reviewable play, reverse to no foul. A 1-10 on B-15. (Rule 12-3-3-i).

11. Possession of a kick near the sideline
On an onside kick attempt, A20 leaps in the air near the sideline and possesses the ball at the A-48 inbounds but then loses the ball when he hits the ground out of bounds. Officials rule that A20 recovered the ball inbounds. RULING: Reviewable play. Foul, free kick out of bounds B 1-10 on A-43 (Rule 12-3-3-h). The recovery is reviewable. We treat this play just like possession of a pass. Since he did not maintain control when he landed he did not complete the recovery.

12. Possession of a kick in the field of play
On an onside kick attempt, A20 attempts to recover the ball at the A-45. He lands on the ball but then it slides underneath him and B39 recovers it at the A-43. Officials rule that A20 recovered the ball. Video replays show that A20 never had possession of the ball. RULING: Reviewable. B 1-10 at A-43. Recovery of a loose ball is reviewable. (12-3-3-j)

Non-Reviewable Play Situations on Free Kicks

13. Free Kick Out of Bounds
Team A kicks off and the airborne ball goes out of bounds untouched at the Team B 1-yard line. Officials rule touchback. RULING: Not reviewable. B 1-10 on B-25. Where an airborne kick goes out of bounds is not reviewable. The play would be reviewable if the issue was whether the ball touched the pylon or sideline.
14. Fair catch interference
On a kickoff, A12 tries an onside kick. The ball hits the ground as soon as it leaves the tee and bounds high in the air to the Team A 45-yard line, where B25 signals for a fair catch. Officials rule fair catch interference when A20 appears to contact B25 before the ball arrives, and A30 recovers the ball at the A47. Replays show that A20 did not contact B25. **RULING:** Fair catch interference is not reviewable. B 1-10 on A-30.

15. Kick-catch interference
On a kickoff to start the game, A12 attempts an onside kick. The ball hits the ground and then bounces high into the air to the A-45 where B25 attempts to field it. A20 contacts B25 before the ball arrives and A30 recovers it. The officials rule kick-catch interference. **RULING:** Not reviewable. B 1-10 on A-30.
Running Plays

On running plays, there are several situations where replay can get involved.

- The first situation is whether a player made the line to gain or not, either for a first down or the goal line. If the runner is ruled down or his forward progress is stopped we can review that spot in relation to the line to gain. If the line to gain is not involved then that spot is not reviewable.

- The second situation involves a player not ruled down or not ruled out of bounds and is given an advance by the officials. We can always look at whether the player should have been down by rule or out of bounds prior to the advance. If the officials rule the player down or out of bounds we can only look at the position of the ball at that point in relation to the line to gain or the goal line. The one exception is if the runner is ruled out of bounds but crosses the opponent's goal line in the immediate continuing action after the ruling.

- For a description of plays at the goal line see Scoring Plays.

16. Runner down with respect to a first down
Third and 10 on the A-20. A22 is downed, with his knee landing at the A-29. Officials spot the ball at the A-29, although A22 had extended the ball to the Team A 31-yard line prior to his knee hitting the ground. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 had made the line to gain. Reverse to A 1-10 on A-31, reset clock and start on the Referee's signal (Rule 12-3-3-e).

17. Forward progress with respect to a first down
Third and 10 on the B-20. A22 runs to the B-9, where he is pushed back to the Team B 15-yard line and is never downed. Officials rule forward progress was stopped at the Team B 11-yard line. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 had made the line to gain. Reverse to A 1-Goal on B-9, reset clock and start on Referee's signal (Rule 12-3-3-e).

18. Player stepping out of bounds with respect to a first down
Third and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs near the sideline and steps out of bounds at the A-29. Officials spot the ball there and make it 4th down. Replays show that when A22 stepped out the ball was at the A-31. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 had made the line to gain. Reverse to A 1-10 on A-31, adjust clock if necessary and start on Referee's signal (Rule 12-3-3-e).
19. **Runner not ruled down**  
Second and 8 on the A-20. A22 is hit at the A-27 and stumbles but regains his balance and runs to the 50 where is tackled and ruled down. Replays show that A22’s right knee touched the ground at the A-27. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 was down at the A-27. Reverse to A 3-1 on A-27, wind clock (Rule 12-3-3-c).

20. **Ball carrier stepping out of bounds**  
First and 10 on the A-30. A22 runs near the sideline to the Team B 24-yard line, where he is ruled out of bounds. Replays show he stepped out at the 50-yard line. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 had stepped out of bounds prior to being ruled out of bounds. Reverse to A 1-10 on 50, reset game clock and start on Referee’s signal or snap depending on time remaining in the half (Rule 12-3-3-g).

21. **Legal handoff**  
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the 50. As he is being tackled, he hands the ball to A30 who is running parallel with him. A30 initially touches the ball at the 50, but doesn’t control it until the Team B 48-yard line. A30 runs for a touchdown, but the officials flag A22 for an illegal forward hand-off. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the handoff is forward or backward. Reverse to no foul. Touchdown counts (Rule 12-3-2-c).

**Non-Reviewable Play Situations on Runs**

22. **Runner stepping out of bounds**  
Second and 10 at the A-10. During A22’s run near the sideline, the HL rules that he stepped out of bounds at the A-16, but A22 continues to run and is knocked out of bounds at the 50. Replays show that A22 did not step out at the A-16. **RULING:** Not reviewable, as the play is dead when the runner is ruled out of bounds. A 3-4 on A-16 (Rule 12-3-3-g).

23. **Spot of ball not involved with a first down or goal line**  
Second and 10 on the B-29. Runner A22 is tackled in bounds at the Team B 20-yard line. The Line Judge spots the ball at the Team B 21-yard line. **RULING:** Not reviewable, as the spot does not involve a first down or the goal line. A 3-2 on B-21 (Rule 12-3-3-e).
Passing Plays

There are several situations where a pass play can be reviewed.

- Whether a pass is complete or incomplete is reviewable anywhere on the field.
- Also reviewable is whether a pass is forward or backward.
- We can also review whether a forward pass occurs behind or beyond the neutral zone. The passer’s entire body and the ball must be beyond the line of scrimmage when the ball is released in order for it to be an illegal forward pass.

24. Pass complete or incomplete
Third and 5 on the A-30. In attempting to catch a low pass the receiver at the B-45 gets his hands under the ball and controls it. The pass is ruled incomplete. **Ruling:** Reviewable play. Reverse to completed pass, A 1-10 on B-45, start clock on the Referee’s signal (Rule 12-3-2-a).

25. Pass complete or incomplete
Second and 10 on the 50. A pass thrown to A80 at the B-35 is ruled complete. The receiver bobbled the ball while in the air after being contacted, then gained possession before hitting the ground in bounds and maintained that possession after hitting the ground. **Ruling:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was caught. Confirm call on the field. Completed pass, A 1-10 on B-35. Start clock on the Referee’s signal for play (Rule 12-3-2-a).

26. Forward pass complete despite whistle
Third and 10 on the 50. A low pass to the B-30 is close to the ground as defender B45 attempts to intercept it, and the ball is batted upward. A80 catches the ball and carries it across Team B’s goal line. The Back Judge rules the pass incomplete, but replays show the ball did not touch the ground. **Ruling:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass is complete or incomplete. Reverse to A 1-10 on B-30. Team A is awarded the catch but no advance (Rule 12-3-2-a).

27. Pass ruled complete, then ball fumbled
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a forward pass to A80 at the A-35. A80 controls the ball, takes two steps and then is hit by a defender causing him to lose the ball which B45 falls on at that spot. Officials rule
the pass complete and a fumble. **RULE**: Reviewable play regarding whether the ball was caught. Confirm the call on the field. B 1-10 on A-35 (Rule 12-3-2-a).

### 28. Pass ruled complete
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a forward pass to A80 at the A-35. A80 controls the ball, and is hit by a defender causing him to lose the ball just as his first foot hits the ground. B45 falls on the loose ball at the A-37. Officials rule the pass complete and a fumble. **RULE**: Reviewable play regarding whether the ball was caught. Reverse to incomplete pass. A 2-10 on A-20, reset the game clock to the time when the ball hit the ground (Rule 12-3-2-a).

### 29. Pass ruled incomplete
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a forward pass to A80 at the A-35. A80 controls the ball, takes three steps and turns upfield before he is hit by a defender causing him to lose the ball which B45 falls on at the A-37. Officials rule the pass incomplete. **RULE**: Reviewable play regarding whether the ball was caught. Reverse to B 1-10 on A-37. There must be a clear recovery in the immediate continuing action in order to give the ball to the recovering team. If there is no clear recovery the ruling of incomplete stands (Rule 12-3-2-a).

### 30. Process of the catch
First and 10 at the A-30. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-38. A80 secures the ball, gets a foot down on the ground, maintains control of the ball, plants his right foot, turns upfield and lunges for the first down marker at the A-40. A80’s knee hits the ground when the ball is at the A-41 and the ball comes out. Officials rule incomplete pass when A80 lost the ball on contact to the ground. **RULE**: Reviewable play. Reverse to a catch, because A80 secured control of the ball, got a body part down on the ground and maintained control of the ball long enough to perform an act common to the game. In this case the receiver performed a second act that was visually and distinctly not part of the catch when he changed direction and lunged for the first down marker. This would also be the ruling for a similar play at the goal line. First and 10 for Team A at the A-41.

### 31. Pass in the end zone
First and goal on the B-5. A80 leaps and clearly controls a pass while airborne in the end zone. He is going to the ground and loses the ball as his body hits in the end zone. Officials rule TD.
RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether pass was complete. Reverse to incomplete pass, A 2-Goal on B-5 (Rule 12-3-2-a).

32. Pass in the end zone
First and goal on the B-5. A80 controls a pass in the air in Team B’s end zone, gets both feet down and is then hit by a defender causing him to go to the ground where he loses possession of the ball. The pass is ruled complete. RULING: Reviewable play. Confirm ruling on the field. Completed pass. Touchdown.

Note: If the receiver has completed the catch, remains upright with the ball firmly in his control, the ball is dead in Team B’s end zone and is a touchdown. If he then goes to the ground as the result of a second occurrence, it remains a touchdown. However, if there is any question of whether the catch has been completed, if he goes to the ground during the process of the catch and loses the ball, whether on his own or due to contact by an opponent, then the pass is incomplete (Rule 12-3-2-a).

33. Pass in the end zone
First and goal on the B-5. A80 controls a pass while in the air in Team B’s end zone, then loses the ball as his first foot hits the ground. Officials rule the pass incomplete. RULING: Reviewable play regarding whether the pass was complete. Confirm the ruling on the field. Incomplete pass, A 2-Goal on B-5 (Rule 12-3-2-a).

34. Pass at the sideline
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a forward pass to A80 who controls the ball and gets his left foot down in bounds at the A-35 near the sideline and maintains control of the ball as he goes to the ground out of bounds. The pass is ruled incomplete. RULING: Reviewable play regarding whether the pass was complete or incomplete. Reverse to completed pass. A 1-10 on A-35, start clock on the Referee’s signal or snap depending on time remaining in the half (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-3-3-h).

35. Pass at a sideline
Third and 10 on the A-30. A80 controls a pass at the 50 and as his right foot comes down, the heel hits in bounds and in the normal motion of taking a step, his toes hit out of bounds. Officials rule the pass complete. RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to incomplete pass, A 4-10 on A-30, reset clock if wound before review (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-3-3-h).
36. Pass at a sideline
Third and 10 on the A-30. A80 controls a pass at the 50 with his back to the sideline. His right foot comes down first and his toes hit in bounds, then in the normal motion of taking a step, his heel hits out of bounds. Officials rule the pass complete. Ruling: Reviewable play. Reverse to incomplete pass, A 4-10 on A-30, reset clock if wound before review (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-3-3-h). If there was a drag or a delay before the heel hit out of bounds, the pass would be complete.

37. Pass at a sideline
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-35 near the sideline. A80 gets one foot down in bounds. His other foot touches out of bounds, and then he is contacted by a defender causing him to go to the ground and he loses possession of the ball. The pass is ruled complete. Ruling: Reviewable play, regarding whether pass was complete. Confirm call on the field. Completed pass, A 1-10 on A-35. Start clock on snap or Referee’s signal depending on time remaining in the game (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-3-3-h).

38. Pass at a sideline
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-35 near the sideline. A80 gains possession of the pass and runs for a touchdown. Officials rule that A80 was touching the sideline when he gained possession and rule the pass incomplete. Replays show that A80 was not touching the sideline. Ruling: Reviewable play, regarding whether A80 was touching the sideline when he gained possession. Reverse to completed pass. A 1-10 on A-35, start on the Referee’s signal. Team A is awarded the catch but no advance since the incomplete pass ruling on the field ended the down (Rule 12-3-2-a and 12-3-3-h).

39. Pass at pylon
First and 10 on the B-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the B-2 near the sideline. A80 gains control of the ball while airborne and his right foot hits the pylon before his left foot lands inbounds in the end zone. Officials ruled touchdown. Ruling: Reviewable play. Reverse to incomplete pass. The pylon is out of bounds, and a player who touches it with any part of his body is also out of bounds. A 2-10 on B-20 (Rule 12-3-2-a and 12-2-3-3-h).

40. Pass at pylon
First and 10 on the B-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the B-2 near the sideline. A80 gains control of the ball while airborne and his right foot
hits the pylon at the same time his left foot lands inbounds in the EZ. Officials ruled TD. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to incomplete pass. If a body part hits out of bounds simultaneously with a body part hitting in bounds, then the player is out of bounds. A 2-10 on B-20 (Rule 12-3-2-a and 12-2-3-3-h).

41. **Receiver stepping out of bounds**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-40 near the sideline. A80 catches the ball and runs to the 50 where he is tackled. There are no flags on the play. Replays show that A-80 stepped out of bounds on his own at the A35, before coming back inbounds to catch the pass. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to illegal touching of a pass. A 2-10 on A-20, adjust game clock if necessary (Rules 12-3-2-b and 12-3-3-h).

42. **Receiver stepping out of bounds**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-40 near the sideline. A80 catches the ball and runs to the 50 where he is tackled, but the Side Judge rules that A80 stepped on the sideline at the A30 and came back inbounds to catch the pass. Replays show that A-80 did not step on the sideline. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to no foul. A 1-10 on 50, start clock on the Referee’s signal (Rules 12-3-2-b and 12-3-3-h).

43. **Receiver forced out of bounds**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-40 near the sideline. A80 catches the ball and runs to the 50 where he is tackled. The Side Judge throws his flag for illegal touching as A80 stepped out of bounds at the A-35 before coming back inbounds to catch the pass. Replays show that B37 clearly shoved A80 out of bounds at the A-35. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to no foul, completed pass. A 1-10 on 50, start clock on the Referee’s signal (Rules 12-3-2-b and 12-3-3-h).

44. **Receiver forced out of bounds**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-40 near the sideline. A80 comes from out of bounds, reestablishes inbounds, catches the ball, then runs to the 50 where he is tackled. The Side Judge rules that A80 was blocked out of bounds by B37 and legally touched the ball. Replays show there clearly was no contact between A80 and B37. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to foul for illegal touching. A 2-10 on A-20 (Rules 12-3-2-b and 12-3-3-h). In this situation the replay official cannot rule on the severity of the contact, but if there is indisputable video evidence that there was no contact then the play is reviewable.
45. Receiver forced out of bounds
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-40 near the sideline. A80, running near the sideline, steps on the sideline as he leaps to get the ball. He grasps the ball while in the air, lands inbounds, and continues to the end zone. The Side Judge rules touchdown.

RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to incomplete pass. A 2-10 on A-20, reset game clock (Rules 2-27-15-a-2, 12-3-2-b and 12-3-3-h).

46. Pass going forward or backward
First and 10 on the A-20. At the A-17, A10 throws a backward pass that is ruled forward and incomplete. After the ball hit the ground at the A-16, it was recovered by B77. RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to B 1-10 on A-16. No advance is allowed (Rule 12-3-2-e). If the pass is ruled forward and is incomplete, the play is reviewable only if the ball goes out of bounds or if there is clear recovery of a loose ball in the immediate continuing action after the loose ball. If the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the ruling of incomplete pass stands.

47. Passer beyond the neutral zone
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 scrambles to the A-19 ½ and throws a pass that is completed for a touchdown. The Line Judge flags the passer for being beyond the neutral zone when the pass is thrown. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether A10 was beyond the neutral zone when he released the ball. Reverse to no foul. Touchdown counts. Passer’s whole body and the ball must be beyond the neutral zone for the pass to be illegal (Rule 12-3-2-c).

48. Illegal forward pass
First and 10 on the A-20. B45 intercepts a forward pass at the 50 and returns it to the A-25, where he throws the ball to B33. B33 catches the ball at the A-23 and carries it across Team A’s goal line. Officials rule TD. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding B45’s pass being backward or forward. Reverse to illegal forward pass, B 1-10 on A-30 (Rule 12-3-2-d).

49. Illegal forward pass
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a backward pass from the A-18 to back A22 at the A-16. A22 immediately throws a pass down field to A80, who catches it and runs for a touchdown. The Line Judge throws his flag for an illegal forward pass, ruling that A10’s pass was forward. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding A10’s pass being forward or backward. Reverse to legal play. Touchdown counts (Rule 12-3-2-e).
50. **Illegal forward pass**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a forward pass from the A-18 to back A22 at the A-19. A22 immediately throws a pass down field to A80, who catches it and runs for a touchdown. There are no flags on the play and the TD is allowed. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding A10’s pass being forward or backward. Reverse to illegal forward pass A 2-16 on A14 (Rule 12-3-2-e).

51. **Forward or backward pass after a kick**
Team A kicks off with 30 seconds left in the game. The kickoff goes to B15 who returns the ball to the B-25 where he throws a backward pass to B45 at the B-23, B45 who catches the ball and runs for a touchdown. The Line Judge throws a flag for an illegal forward pass by B15. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was forward or backward. Reverse to no foul. Touchdown counts (Rule 12-3-2-d).

52. **Pass touched by a defensive player**
Third and 10 at the A-30. A1’s pass to A80 is ruled incomplete, but B45 is flagged for defensive pass interference at the A-45. The pass was tipped at the line of scrimmage by B77 prior to the interference. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether and when B77 touched the ball. Reverse to no foul, A 4-10 on A-30. (Rule 12-3-2-b).

53. **Pass touched by a defensive player**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-35. The Back Judge rules defensive pass interference, but the flag is picked up because the officials rule the ball was touched by B77 at the A-22 before the foul. Replays showed the ball was not touched prior to the interference. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether and when B77 touched the ball. Reverse to a foul for pass interference. A 1-10 on A-35 (Rule 12-3-2-b).

54. **Pass touched by a defensive player—Referee announcement**
Third and 10 at the 50. A10 throws a pass to A85 at the B-25. The umpire rules the ball was tipped at the line of scrimmage and gives the tip signal. Defender B24 plays through the back of A85 but no flag is thrown. The back judge reports to the referee that he did not have a flag for defensive pass interference because he saw the tip signal by the umpire. The referee announces, “There is no foul for pass interference because the ball was tipped.” **RULING:** The referee’s announcement allows the Instant Replay official to stop the game for a review to determine if the ball was or was not tipped. Replay then can communicate to
the referee that the ball was not tipped, overturn the ruling on the field and create a foul for defensive pass interference if there is indisputable video evidence that there was no tip of the ball. First and 10 for Team A at the B-35.

55. Pass touched by a defensive player
First and 10 on the B-30. A10 throws a pass to A80 that is deflected in the air and caught by Tackle A77 who runs to the B-15 where he is tackled. Officials penalize A77 for illegal touching. Replays show that B99 touched the pass before A77 caught it. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether B99 touched the ball. Reverse to no foul, A 1-10 on B-15 (Rule 12-3-2-b).

56. Pass touched by ineligible player
First and 10 on the A-30. Tackle A77 is penalized for intentionally touching a legal forward pass. Replays show that the ball hit A77 in the shoulder. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether A77 touched the ball. Cannot review the intentional aspect of the play. Confirm ruling on the field, A 1-15 on A-25 (Rule 12-3-2-b).

57. Challenge of a completed pass
Third and nine at the A-30. End A80 runs a deep curl pattern very near the sideline. He then turns and makes an attempt to catch the forward pass but the officials rule that it is incomplete. The Team A head coach challenges the ruling of an incomplete pass, his first challenge of the game. RULING: The instant replay official determines that A80 stepped out of bounds on his own, reestablished inbounds, and then made a clean catch. Fourth and nine at the A-30. Because the coach’s challenge regarding the catch was successful, even though A80 fouled by touching the pass after having returned from out of bounds, the coach still has one challenge remaining and Team A is not charged with a timeout.

58. Forward or backward pass
First and 10 on the A-20. At the A-18, A10 throws a backward pass that is ruled forward and incomplete. The ball bounces out of bounds at the A-15. RULING: Reviewable if deemed to have a competitive impact. A 2-15 at A-15. If the pass is ruled forward and is incomplete, the play is reviewable only if the ball goes out of bounds or if there is clear recovery of a loose ball in the immediate continuing action after the loose ball. A 2-10 on A-20.
Non-Reviewable Play Situations on Passes

59. Receiver forced out of bounds
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a pass to A80 at the A-40 near the sideline. A80 catches the ball and runs to the 50 where he is tackled. The Side Judge rules that B22 shoved A80 out of bounds and that A80 caught the pass inbounds. Replays show that B22 did contact A80 and then A80 went out of bounds. **RULING:** Not reviewable as to whether A80 was forced out of bounds. If there was no contact then the play is reviewable. A 1-10 on 50. **NOTE:** A80 must reestablish himself as an inbounds player for the catch to be legal.

60. Ineligible receiver downfield
First and 10 on the B-20. A22 catches a screen pass at the B-18 and runs for a touchdown. A70 was downfield at the B-15 when the pass was thrown, but there are no flags on the play. **RULING:** Not reviewable. Touchdown counts.

61. Ineligible receiver downfield
First and 10 on the B-20. Flanker A88 moves up onto the line of scrimmage and “covers up” tight end A80 making him ineligible. A80 goes downfield and catches a pass at the B-8 where he is tackled. **RULING:** Not reviewable. A 1-Goal on B-8.

62. Legality of Pass
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 is under pressure at the A-15 and throws a pass which lands incomplete behind the line of scrimmage. The Referee flags A10 for intentional grounding. Eligible receiver A22 was within two yards of the ball when it hit the ground. **RULING:** Not reviewable. Intentional grounding, A 2-15 on A-15.

63. Penalty enforcement: incorrect yardage
First and 10 on the Team B-20. Under pressure, A10 at the B-25 throws an incomplete pass. The Referee rules intentional grounding. The Umpire marks off a 5-yard penalty from the spot of the pass, making it second and 20 from the B-30. **RULING:** Foul or penalty-yardage error is not reviewable. Only incorrect down may be corrected (Rule 12-3-5-c).
QB Pass or Fumble

The Instant Replay Official may always review whether a passer threw a forward pass or fumbled. If the passer’s hand comes forward in an obvious forward passing motion with control of the ball it is considered a forward pass. If the ruling on the field is an incomplete pass but it is actually a fumble the IRO may review and award the ball at the spot of recovery. In this situation there must be a clear recovery in the immediate continuing action after the fumble in order for the recovering team to get possession at that spot. No advance will be given. If there is no clear recovery then the ruling on the field stands.

64. **Forward pass or fumble**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 is contacted while in the act of passing and loses the ball, which is ruled a fumble. His hand just came forward with control of the ball before he lost it. B77 recovers the ball and returns it for a touchdown. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the result is a fumble or incomplete forward pass. Reverse to incomplete pass, A 2-10 on A-20, reset clock (Rule 12-3-3-a).

65. **Forward pass or fumble**
Second and 10 on the A-25. A10 is contacted while attempting to throw a forward pass and the ball comes loose before his hand starts forward. The ball hits the ground at the A-20 and B77 recovers and carries it across A’s goal line. The Referee rules incomplete pass. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to fumble, Team B 1-10 on A-20. If the ruling is reversed, Team B will get possession but no advance is allowed (Rule 12-3-3-b).

66. **Forward pass or fumble**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 is contacted while in the act of passing and before his hand comes forward he loses the ball. Referee rules a fumble. B77 recovers and returns the ball across Team A’s goal line. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether a fumble or forward pass. Confirm ruling on the field. Fumble. Touchdown counts.

67. **Forward pass or fumble**
First and 10 on the B-45. A10 is contacted while in the act of passing and before his hand comes forward he loses the ball. The Referee rules
incomplete pass. The ball goes into a pile with no clear recovery. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether a fumble or forward pass. Ruling of incomplete pass stands since there was no clear recovery in the immediate continuing action after the play. A 2-10 on B-45 (Rule 12-3-3-b).

68. **Forward pass or fumble**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 wants to throw a forward pass to receiver A80, but after realizing A80 is covered, he attempts to bring the ball back towards his body. Before the ball reaches its most forward point away from his body, he loses it and B77 recovers at the A-24. The Referee rules fumble. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the result is a fumble or incomplete forward pass. Reverse to incomplete pass, A 2-10 on A-20, reset game clock. It is a pass if the ball comes loose at any point after the hand starts forward until the passer starts to bring the ball back towards his body. (Rule 12-3-3-a).

69. **Forward pass or fumble**
Fourth and 10 on the B-20. A10 drops back to pass at the B-25, is hit and loses possession of the ball before his hand starts forward. A22 catches the ball in mid-air at the B-22 and runs to the B-5. Referee rules forward pass. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the passer’s hand had started forward. Reverse to fumble, Team B 1-10 on B-25, reset clock and start on snap. Reversal creates a fourth-down fumble which gives Team B the ball (Rules 12-3-3-b and 12-3-3-f).

70. **Forward pass or fumble—Referee announcement**
Third and 10 at the B-20. Shotgun QB A10 is in the pocket and under a heavy rush. A10 loses the ball at the B-35 just before defender B90 hits him from behind. Referee rules fumble, and B70 recovers at the B-25. The Instant Replay official stops the game to review for pass or fumble. The referee announces, “There is no foul for intentional grounding. The ruling on the field is a fumble, recovered by the defense.” **RULING:** This announcement allows Replay to create an intentional grounding foul if the ruling on the field is overturned to an incomplete pass, based on indisputable video evidence that the ball was not fumbled. Fourth and 25 at the B-35.

71. **QB spike to stop clock**
First and 10 on the B-20. With time running out in the second quarter, A10 receives the snap and immediately attempts to spike the ball. Before his arm starts forward, the ball pops out and lands at the B-23 where
B77 recovers. The Referee rules incomplete pass. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to fumble, Team B 1-10 on B-23 (Rule 12-3-3-b).

**Non-Reviewable Play Situation on QB Pass/Fumble**

**72. Intentional grounding**

Second and 8 on the A-40. As A10 is being tackled by B59 he throws the ball to the ground at the A-35 with no eligible receiver in the area. The Referee rules fumble and the ball is recovered by B77. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the result is a fumble or incomplete forward pass, but cannot rule on potential grounding. A 3-8 on A-40, reset clock.
Fumbles

The Instant Replay Official may always review whether a runner was down prior to fumbling the ball. If the officials rule the runner down or out of bounds we can look to see if the runner fumbled but we must have a clear recovery in the immediate continuing action after the fumble to reverse the call on the field. Also reviewable is the recovery of a fumble in the field of play or the end zone.

If the officials on the field rule that a fumble did not touch the sideline or end line we can review whether or not it did. If the officials rule the ball touched the sideline or end line we can review whether it did, and if there is a clear recovery in the immediate continuing action we can award the ball to that team.

73. Fumble/down by rule
First and 10 on the Team A 20-yard line. A40 runs to the Team A 25-yard line where he loses the ball. B15 recovers. Officials rule fumble and give possession to Team B. A40’s left knee hit the ground before he lost the ball. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether A40 was down before the ball came loose. Reverse to down by rule. A 2-5 on A-25. No adjustment to the game clock which starts on Referee’s signal (Rule 12-3-3-c).

74. Fumble/down by rule
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-25, where he fumbles. B25 recovers at the A-27 just as the Line Judge rules the runner down. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether there was a fumble or the runner was down. Reverse to fumble, Team B’s ball, 1-10 on A-27. Adjust the clock which starts on snap (Rule 12-3-3-d).

75. Fumble/down by rule
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-25, where he fumbles. The LINE JUDGE rules A22 down and the ball goes into a pile of players with no recovery visible. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether there was a fumble or the runner was down, but without a clear recovery the ruling on the field stands. A 2-5 on A-25 (12-3-3-d).
76. **Fumble/Out of bounds**
First and 10 on the A-20. A2 runs to the A-30 where he is hit and loses the ball. B40 falls on the loose ball at the A-32. The Line Judge ruled that A2 stepped out of bounds at the 30 before he lost the ball. Replays show he did not step out prior to losing the ball. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to fumble with a clear recovery. B 1-10 on A-32 (Rule 12-3-3-d).

77. **Fumble touching a sideline**
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-28 and fumbles. The ball hits the sideline at the A-30 and bounces back toward the middle of the field, where B45 recovers at the A 32. Officials give the ball to Team B. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball touched the sideline. Reverse to A 2-2 on A-28, fumble forward out of bounds, start clock on Referee’s signal. (Rule 12-3-3-i). If a reversal creates a forward fumble situation, then the relevant rule can be applied.

78. **Fumble touching a sideline**
First and 10 on the Team A-20. A22 runs to the A-28 and fumbles. The ball hits near the sideline at the A-30 and bounces back toward the middle of the field, where B45 recovers at the A-32. Officials rule the ball hit the sideline at the A-30. Replays showed that it did not touch the sideline. **RULING:** Reviewable play, reverse to B 1-10 on A-32 (Rule 12-3-3-d).

79. **Recovery of a fumble in relation to a sideline**
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-28 and fumbles. B77 recovers at the A-30 with one foot on the sideline. Officials award the ball to Team B. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B77 was in or out of bounds when recovering the ball. Reverse to no recovery. A 2-2 on A-28, forward fumble out of bounds, no clock adjustment and start on the Referee’s signal (Rule 12-3-3-h).

80. **Recovery of a fumble in relation to a sideline**
First and 10 at the A-20. A22 runs to the A-35 and fumbles the ball into the air. Airborne B45 possesses the ball at the A-38, and as he is going to the ground he gets one foot down in bounds, then loses possession as he hits the ground out of bounds. Officials award the ball to Team B. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B45 had completed the recovery in bounds. Reverse to no recovery, A1-10 on A-35, forward fumble out of bounds, start clock on the Referee’s signal. Recovery of a fumble in this situation is governed by the same criteria as a receiver going to the ground to make a catch (Rule 12-3-3-h).
81. **Player out of bounds coming back in to recover a loose ball**
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-25 and fumbles. B45 leaps from out of bounds and recovers the ball inbounds at that spot. Officials rule that B45 recovered the ball out of bounds. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding B45 being inbounds or out of bounds when touching ball. If B45 had reestablished as an inbounds player, reverse to B 1-10 on A-25, reset game clock and start on snap. If B45 touches the ball while in the air, he is touching it while out of bounds. A 2-5 on A-25 (Rule 12-3-3-h).

82. **Recovery of a fumble in relation to a goal line**
First and 10 on the A-4. A22 fumbles and B45 recovers the ball on Team A's goal line. Officials give the ball to Team B at the A-1. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B45 recovered in the end zone for a touchdown. Reverse to touchdown for Team B (Rule 12-3-1-a).

83. **Recovery of a fumble in the end zone**
First and 10 on the A-2. Runner A22 fumbles when hit. B45 jumps on the loose ball in the end zone and possesses it on the ground, but A22 knocks the ball out of B45’s hands and A10 recovers the loose ball in the end zone. Officials rule Team A recovered for a safety. **RULING:** Reviewable play regarding whether B45 was down after he possessed the ball. Reverse to touchdown for Team B. (Rule 12-3-1-a).

84. **Fourth down fumble**
Fourth and 5 on the B-37. A22 fumbles at the B-33 and A88 recovers the ball on the B-30. Officials give the ball to Team A at the B-30. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the fumble was recovered by another player other than the fumbler. Reverse to B 1-10 on B-33 (Rule 12-3-3-f).

85. **Fourth down fumble**
Fourth and goal on the B-7. A10 drops back to the B-10 and fumbles. A22 picks up the ball at the Team B 8-yard line and runs for a touchdown. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding recovery of a fourth-down fumble. Also reviewable regarding whether A10 fumbled or threw an incomplete pass. Reverse to Team B 1-10 on B-10, reset game clock (Rules 12-3-3-a and 12-3-3-f).

86. **Fourth down/Try fumble**
On a try from the B-3 QBA1 and back A3 muff the exchange. A3 recovers the ball at the B-2 and runs into the end zone. Officials rule the try is good. **RULING:** Reviewable play regarding whether the fumble was
recovered by another player other than the fumbler. Reverse to try no good (Rule 12-3-3-f).

87. Spot of fumble
Fourth and 10 on the B-20. Ball carrier A22 runs to the B-11 and fumbles. A30 recovers at the B-5. The Head Linesman rules fumble and brings the ball back to the B-9. **RULING:** Reviewable play regarding the spot of the fumble. This is reviewable because it involves the line to gain and would be the same ruling had it been a forward fumble out of bounds (Rules 12-3-3-e and 12-3-3-f).

88. Fumble or backward pass out of bounds at goal line
Second and Goal on the B-7. Ball carrier A22 runs to the B-3 and fumbles. The airborne ball goes out of bounds inside the pylon and through the end zone, but the officials rule that it went out of bounds in the field of play and bring the ball back to the B-3. **RULING:** Reviewable play regarding where the ball went out of bounds in relation to the goal line. Reverse to touchback. Team B 1-10 on B-20. (Rule 12-3-3-i).

89. Runner’s helmet coming off
Second and 10 on the A-40. A2 carries to the B-43 where he is hit and while he is still upright the ball comes loose. B77 recovers the loose ball at the B-40 inbounds. Officials award B possession. Replays show that A2’s helmet came completely off before he lost control of the ball. **RULING:** Reviewable play regarding whether the ball came loose before the helmet came off. Reverse to no fumble, A 1-10 on B-43. The helmet coming off is treated just like a player being down. The helmet must completely separate from the player’s head to end the down (Rule 12-3-3-c).

90. Fumble through end zone
The ball carrier advances to the B-2 where he is hit. The ball comes out, goes into the end zone and over the end line. The head linesman blows his whistle when he rules the ball carrier’s knee touching the ground. **RULING:** This type of play is reviewable only if there is clear recovery in the immediate continuing action. It is reviewable here because of the potential touchback. The touchback becomes equivalent to the “clear recovery” because it establishes who will have the ball—in this case, Team B.

91. Recovery of a fumble in the field of play
First and 10 on the A-20. Runner A22 fumbles when hit. B45 jumps on the loose ball at the A-25 and possesses it on the ground, but A22 knocks the ball out of B45’s hands and A10 recovers at the A-25.
Officials rule Team A recovered. **RULING:** Reviewable. B 1-10 at the A-25.

### 92. Recovery of a fumble in the field of play
Third and 5 on the B-45. Shotgun QBA1 and back A2 muff the exchange and A1 dives on the ball at the 50. The ball rolls underneath A1 as he slides on the ground and the Referee blows the play dead, ruling an A1 recovery at the 50. Replays show that A1 never controlled the ball and B2 recovered it in the immediate continuing action at the A-48. **RULING:** Reviewable. B 1-10 on the A-48.

### 93. Simultaneous recovery of a loose ball
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-25 and fumbles. A80 and B45 recover the ball simultaneously in the middle of the field at the A-25. Officials gave the ball to Team B. **RULING:** Reviewable. A 2-5 on A-25.

### 94. Fumble forward out of bounds
Third and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-28 and fumbles. The ball rolls out of bounds at the Team A 33-yard line, and the officials award the ball to the offense at that spot. **RULING:** Reviewable play because it involves the line to gain or goal line. A 4-2 at A-28.

### 95. Spot where fumble or backward pass crosses sideline
Third and 10 on the A-20. A22 runs to the A-33 and fumbles. The ball rolls out of bounds untouched at the Team A 29-yard line, but the officials award the ball to the offense at the A-31. **RULING:** Reviewable. A 4-1 on A-29.

### Non-Reviewable Play Situation on Fumbles

#### 96. Fumble forward out of bounds
First and 10 on the A-20. A22 carries to the A-25 and fumbles. The ball rolls out of bounds at the Team A 27-yard line, and the officials award the ball to the offense at that spot. **RULING:** Not reviewable. A 2-3 on A-27. A play involving a forward fumble out of bounds is only reviewable if the officials bring the ball back to the spot of the fumble and it involves the line to gain or the goal line.
Scrimmage Kicks

On scrimmage kicks until the ball is legally possessed the IRO may re-
view the touching of a kick, the ball hitting a boundary line (including
the pylon) or recovery at the sideline or in the end zone. Once the kick
is possessed it becomes a running play and the guidelines for runs apply.

97. Touching of a kick
Fourth and 10 on the Team A-40. A80 recovers the rolling punt at the
B-9. The officials rule illegal touching by A80 and award the ball to
Team B. The ball grazed off the fingertips of B45 at the B-13 prior to
A80 recovering it. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether B45
touched the ball. Reverse to no illegal touching. The ball belongs to
Team A 1-G on B-9 (Rule 12-3-4-a).

98. Touching of a kick
Fourth and 10 on the Team A-40. A80 recovers the rolling punt at the
B-9. The ball grazed off the fingertips of B45 at the B-13 prior to A80
recovering it and the officials award possession to Team A. Replays show
that A30 touched the punt at the B-15 before it touched B45. **RUL-
ING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A30 touched the ball. Reverse
to B 1-10 on B-15 (Rule 12-3-4-a).

99. Touching of a kick
Fourth and 10 on the Team A-40. Team A’s punt is blocked by B77 at
the A-42 and the ball bounces to the 50 where it is recovered by A19.
The officials rule the ball was touched by the receiving team beyond
the neutral zone and award possession to Team A at the 50. **RULING:**
Reviewable play, regarding whether B77 touched the ball beyond the
neutral zone. Reverse to B 1-10 on 50 (Rule 12-3-4-a). A player who
blocks a scrimmage kick within three yards of the line of scrimmage is
not considered to have touched the ball beyond the neutral zone. This
only applies to a player who blocks the kick. Any other first touch by
the receiving team beyond the line of scrimmage will make the kickers
eligible to recover the ball.

100. Roughing/Running into—Referee announcement
Fourth and 10 at the A-40. Punter A10 takes the snap and under heavy
rush gets the punt off. B85 catches the ball after a fair catch signal at
the B-20. A10 is hit by B90 and is knocked to the ground. The referee signals the ball was tipped and does not throw a flag. After the ball is dead the referee announces, “There is no foul for roughing (or running into) the kicker because the ball was tipped.” Ruling: The referee’s announcement allows the Instant Replay official to stop the game for a review to see if the ball was or was not tipped. Replay then can communicate to the referee that the ball was not tipped, overturn the ruling on the field, and create a roughing (or running into) foul if there is indisputable evidence that the ball was not tipped. First and 10 for Team A at the B-45.

101. Touching a kick near a goal line
Fourth and 7 on the B-42. Team A’s punt hits on the B-1 and bounces into the air toward Team B’s end zone. A80 leaps from the field of play and bats the ball from the 1-yard line back to A22 at the 2-yard line. Officials rule a touchback. Ruling: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball broke the plane of the goal line. Reverse to B 1-10 on B-2 (Rules 12-3-3-i and 12-3-4-a).

102. Ball hitting a sideline
Fourth and 9 on the A-25. The punted ball hits the sideline at the B-27. It bounces back into the field of play where B25 picks it up and returns it across Team A’s goal line. The officials rule touchdown. Ruling: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball hit the sideline. Reverse to B 1-10 on B-27, reset game clock (Rule 12-3-3-i).

103. Recovery of a muffed punt at sideline
Fourth and 5 on the A-20. B45 muffs a punt at the 50. A80 recovers the ball close to the sideline at the B-45. Officials rule that A80 recovered the ball in bounds. Replays show that A80’s right foot was touching the sideline as he made the recovery. Ruling: Reviewable play, regarding whether A80 was touching the sideline when he made the recovery. Reverse to B 1-10 on B-45 (Rule 12-3-3-h).

104. Kick hitting in an end zone
Fourth and 10 on the 50. Team A’s punt hits in Team B’s end zone untouched, then bounces back into the field of play. B45 recovers and returns the ball to the A-40, where officials award the ball to Team B. Ruling: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball hit in the end zone. Reverse to touchback, B 1-10 on B-20, reset game clock (Rule 12-3-3-i).
105. Ball crossing neutral zone
Fourth and 10 on the A-35. Team A’s punt is blocked at the A-35 by B40. The ball lands at the A-38 and then bounces back to the A-34 where A2 recovers and advances to the 50-yard line. The officials spot the ball there, First down for Team A. RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to B 1-10 on A-34, reset game clock. The IRO may review whether the ball crossed the neutral zone (12-3-4-d).

106. Muffed kick
Fourth and 10 on the A-35. Team A’s punt is muffed by B21 at the B-30. A34 recovers the loose ball at the B-28 and advances it across B’s goal line. The ruling on the field is that B21 possessed and then fumbled the ball, and then a touchdown for Team A. RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to A 1-10 on B-28. Adjust game clock. The IRO may review whether a kick was muffed or fumbled (12-3-4-c).

107. Possession of a kick in the field of play
Fourth and 5 at the A-20. B45 muffs a punted ball in the middle of the field at the 50. A80 and B45 gain simultaneous possession there, and the officials award possession to A80. RULING: Reviewable. B 1-10 on 50.

108. Possession of a kick in the field of play
During a free kick, B22 leaps high into the air to catch a pooch kick in the middle of the field. He possesses the ball while airborne, lands at the B-40, and the ball comes loose after he has gone to the ground and is down. At the B-42, A30 clearly recovers the loose ball immediately. Officials incorrectly award possession to Team A. RULING: Reviewable. B 1-10 at B-40.

109. Advance of fair catch–ball declared dead
During a kick, B33 gives a fair catch signal and catches the ball at the B-20. The ball is not declared dead. B33 carries to the 50-yard line where he is pushed out of bounds. RULING: Reviewable play under Rule 12-3-3-c. Team B’s ball at the B-20. The game clock is reset to the time B33 caught the ball.

110. Advance of fair catch–Ball declared dead
During a kick, B33 gives a fair catch signal, catches the ball at the B-25, and starts to run. The ball is not declared dead. B33 retreats, is unable to turn the corner, and is tackled at the B-15. RULING: Reviewable play under Rule 12-3-3-c. Team B’s ball at the B-25. The game clock is reset to the time B33 caught the ball.
111. **Advance of fair catch–Ball declared dead**

Fourth and 7 on the A-35. B45 signals for a fair catch while the punt is in the air. B27, unaware of the signal by B45, catches the punt at the B-25 and returns it for a touchdown. No official signals the ball dead when caught.

**Ruling:** Reviewable play under Rule 12-3-3-c. Team B’s ball at the B-25. The game clock is reset to the time B33 caught the ball.

**Non-Reviewable Play Situations on Scrimmage Kicks**

112. **Spot of untouched out of bounds kick**

Fourth and 5 on the A-45. The punt goes out of bounds untouched at the B-12. The officials mark the ball at the B-7. **Ruling:** Not reviewable, since the ruling did not involve the ball hitting the sideline or pylon, or the kick being touched. B 1-10 on B-7.

113. **Kick-catch interference**

Fourth and 18 on the A-40. A80 contacts punt receiver B45 before B45 touches the ball. The ball bounces off B45 and rolls to the B-35, where A88 recovers. Team A is awarded possession. **Ruling:** Whether B45 touched the ball is reviewable, but kick-catch interference is not reviewable. A 1-10 on B-35.

114. **Forced Touching**

Fourth and 7 on the A-23. During a punt, A80 blocks B45 into the loose ball at the B-35, where A88 recovers. Team A is awarded possession. **Ruling:** Not reviewable regarding whether B45 was blocked into the ball. The replay official can only review whether the ball was touched. A 1-10 on B-35 (Rule 12-3-4-a).
Scoring Plays

The IRO may always review the position of the ball in relation to the goal line, whether it is going in or coming out. Most plays are reviewable in the end zone but there are exceptions. We cannot review whether a foul took place in the field of play or the end zone, even though the penalty might result in a score.

One area requiring particular attention is plays involving the pylon. There is no difference between a player that leaves his feet voluntarily or leaves his feet due to contact by an opponent. They are considered airborne players and the same rules regarding the pylon apply to both. An airborne player that lands out of bounds must get the ball inside or over the pylon before he touches out of bounds to be awarded a score. If the player touches inbounds in the end zone or touches the pylon before he hits the ground out of bounds then he gets the goal line extended. (Rule 8-2-1-a).

115. Goal Line
First and goal on the B-1. Ball carrier A22 dives over the goal line, but the officials rule that the ball did not break the plane of the goal line before A22 was down. Replays showed that it did. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball broke the plane of the goal line. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary (Rule 12-3-1-a).

116. Pylon
First and goal on the B-5. Ball carrier A22 runs to the one-yard line and dives for the goal line. The officials rule A22 out of bounds at the B-1. Replays show that A22 had extended the ball over the goal line inside the pylon before he landed out of bounds. RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary (Rule 12-3-1-a).

117. Pylon
First and goal on the B-5. Ball carrier A22 runs to the 3-yard line and is hit by a defender causing him to go airborne. The officials rule A22 out of bounds at the B-1. Replays show that A22 had extended the ball over the goal line inside the pylon before he landed out of bounds. RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary (Rule 12-3-1-a).
118. **Pylon**
First and goal on the B-5. Ball carrier A22 runs to the one-yard line and dives for the goal line. The officials rule A22 out of bounds at the B-1. Replays show that the ball crossed the plane of the goal line outside the pylon and then A22 landed in the end zone. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary. If any part of the player lands in the end zone before he touches out of bounds, he gets the goal line extended (Rule 12-3-1-a).

119. **Pylon**
First and goal on the B-5. Ball carrier A22 runs and dives for the goal line pylon. The officials rule A22 out of bounds at the B-1. Replays show A22’s left leg touching the pylon and the ball across the goal line outside the pylon at that point. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary. A player touching the pylon with any part of his body is treated the same as a player with a body part down in the end zone. They both get the goal line extended (Rule 12-3-1-a).

120. **Pylon**
First and goal on the B-5. Ball carrier A22 runs to the B1 and extends the ball over the goal line outside the pylon. He is then driven back and out of bounds at the B2. The officials rule TD. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to out of bounds short of the goal line. A player who does not get a body part down in the end zone or touch the pylon does not get the goal line extended (Rule 12-3-1-a).

121. **Out of Bounds**
First and goal on the B-10. Ball carrier A22 runs down the sideline and dives for the end zone pylon. The Line Judge rules that he stepped out at the 2-yard line before he left his feet. Replays show that A22 did not step out of bounds and that the ball while in his possession broke the plane of the goal line inside the pylon before he landed out of bounds. **RULING:** Reviewable play. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary (Rule 12-3-1-a).

122. **Out of Bounds**
Third and 1 on the B-35. Ball carrier A22 runs down the sideline and the Line Judge rules that he stepped out of bounds at the B-4 with his left foot. A22 then takes one more step and dives for the goal line and the ball breaks the plane within his possession before he lands in the end zone. Replays show that A22 did not step out of bounds during his run.
RULING: Reviewable play. Reverse to touchdown. Adjust clock as necessary (Rule 12-3-1-a).

123. Pass in the end zone
First and goal on the B-5. A80 controls a pass while in the air in Team B’s end zone and is hit by a defender causing him to land on his back at the 1-yard line where he maintains control of the ball. Officials rule TD. RULING: Reviewable play regarding whether the pass was complete and whether it should be a TD. Ruling on the field is confirmed. Completed pass for touchdown. This is treated just like forward progress in the field of play (Rule 12-3-1-a and 12-3-2-a).

124. Fumble at a goal line
First and goal on the B-5. A22 runs to B’s goal line, loses the ball prior to it breaking the plane of the goal line, and the officials rule touchdown. The ball rolls over the end line. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 scored a touchdown before he lost the ball. Reverse to touchback, B 1-10 B-20. If the ball becomes dead in the end zone either in Team B’s possession or out of bounds in the immediate continuing action after the play, it is a touchback (Rule 12-3-1-a and 12-3-3-d).

125. Fumble at a goal line
First and goal on the B-5. A22 runs to B’s goal line, loses the ball prior to it breaking the plane of the goal line, and the officials rule touchdown. The ball comes to rest in the end zone with no player attempting to recover it. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 scored a touchdown before he lost the ball. Reverse to no score, A 2-Goal on B-1. If the ball becomes dead in the end zone with no team possessing it, the ball is placed at the spot of the fumble. If the ball is dead in the field of play, the ball is placed at that spot (Rule 12-3-1-a and 12-3-3-d).

126. Safety
First and 10 on the A-2. A22 takes a handoff and gets hit near the goal line and driven back into the end zone where he is tackled. The officials rule that A22’s forward progress was stopped at the A-1 yard line and put the ball there. Replays show that when A22’s progress was stopped the ball was still in the end zone. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding where the ball was in relation to the goal line when progress was ruled. Reverse to safety, safety kick A-20. Reset game clock to where it was when progress was stopped. Entire ball must be in the field of play when progress is stopped or runner is down in order for it not to be a safety (Rule 12-3-1-a)
127. Field goal attempt
Fourth and 10 on the B-35. The field goal attempt just clears the crossbar but is ruled no good. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball went over the crossbar. Reverse to field goal attempt good (Rule 12-3-1-b).

128. Field goal attempt
Fourth and 10 on the B-35. The field goal attempt is ruled good. Replays showed that the ball passed outside and below the top of the left upright. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the ball was inside or outside the uprights. Not reviewable if the ball crossed above the top of the uprights. Reverse to field goal attempt no good. B 1-10 on B-35 (Rule 12-3-1-b).

129. Backward pass—potential safety
Team A snaps the ball at its 5-yard line. A12 throws a quick pass to the flat toward receiver A44. The head linesman signals incomplete pass as the ball hits the ground, takes a backward bounce and rolls into the end zone and out of bounds. RULING: Reviewable. Safety. If the pass is ruled forward and incomplete, the play is reviewable only if the ball goes out of bounds or if there is clear recovery of a loose ball in the immediate continuing action after the loose ball. If the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the ruling of incomplete pass stands. (Rule 12-3-2-3).

130. Safety involving a penalty
Third and 12 on the A-5. QBA1 is called for intentional grounding in his own end zone for a safety. Replays show that the foul occurred clearly in the field of play at the A-3. RULING: Reviewable play since a safety resulted from the ruling of intentional grounding. A 4-14 on A3. (12-3-2-3)

131. Intentional grounding near the goal line
A 1-10 at A-10. A8 drops back into the pocket and under extreme defensive pressure at the A-3 throws the ball into an area where there are no eligible receivers. The Referee rules that the pass was thrown from the end zone and awards a safety by penalty. RULING: Reviewable play regarding the position of the passer when he is clearly in the field of play and a ruling of intentional grounding results in a safety. Reverse to A 2-17 at A3.
Non-Reviewable Play Situations on Scores:

132. Out of Bounds
Third and 1 on the B-35. Ball carrier A22 runs down the sideline and the Line Judge rules that he stepped out of bounds at the B-15. A22 continues to run and crosses the goal line. Replays show that A22 did not step out of bounds. RULING: Not reviewable. A 1-10 on B-15.

133. Down by rule
Third and 1 on the B-35. Ball carrier A22 takes a hand off and runs to the B-25 where he stumbles. He regains his balance and crosses Team B’s goal line in possession of the ball. The Head Linesman rules that he was down at the B-25. Replays show that A22 was not down. RULING: Not reviewable. A 1-10 on B-25.

134. Safety involving a penalty
Third and 12 on the A-5. A50 is flagged for holding in Team A’s end zone, and B is awarded a safety. The holding actually took place at the A-2. RULING: Not reviewable. Safety by penalty.

135. Safety involving a penalty
Third and 12 on the A-5. QBA1 is straddling the goal line as he passes the ball forward. A1 is charged with intentional grounding and a safety by penalty. Replays do not show clearly where the pass was released from and it is not obvious whether he was in or out of the end zone. RULING: Not reviewable.
Timing

The most frequent situation to adjust the game clock is when the ruling on the field is overturned and the change creates a stopped clock and time was lost on the field. If we reset the game clock after a reversal it will be to whenever the play should have ended; e.g. ball hit the ground, runner stepped out of bounds, etc. It is permissible to adjust the game clock after stoppages in which the ruling on the field was not overturned, but only if there is an obvious and significant clock error.

There is one situation where the game clock is reset after a reversal that creates a running clock. If a half expires during a play and we reverse to a player down with time remaining on the clock, we can reset the clock to when he was down if the runner made the line to gain or the offense had a timeout remaining.

The Instant Replay Official may restore time to the game clock at the end of any quarter if time expired during the play and there should have been time remaining. In order to put time back on the clock the next play must be from scrimmage. At the expiration of the fourth quarter only, time may be restored only if the score is tied or the team that will next put the ball in play is behind by eight points or fewer. (Rule 12-3-5-c)

136. Pass complete or incomplete
First and 15 on the B-28. Receiver A86 tries to make a catch of a forward pass at the B-15 in the center of the field with 10:00 showing on the game clock. The pass is ruled complete and the game clock continues to run. Replays show that the ball hit the ground before A86 got control of it. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was complete. Reverse to incomplete pass, A 2-15 on B-28, reset game clock to 10:00 and start on the snap (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-3-5-b).

137. Runner out of bounds
First and 10 on the A-20. Ball carrier A22 is ruled down at the 50 with 9:50 on the game clock. A22 stepped out of bounds at the A-25 when there was 10:00 on the game clock. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 stepped out of bounds. Reverse to player out of bounds, A 2-5 on A-25. The game clock should be adjusted to 10:00 and started on the Referee’s signal or the snap depending on the time remaining in the game (Rules 12-3-3-g and 12-3-5-b).
138. Line to gain
Third and 2 on the A-45. Ball carrier A22 is ruled down at the A-46 with 9:50 on the game clock. Replays show that the ball was at the A-47 when he was down. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 made the line to gain. Reverse to first down, A 1-10 on A-47. The game clock should be adjusted to 9:50 and started on the Referee’s signal (Rules 12-3-3-e and 12-3-5-b).

139. Change of possession
First and 10 on the A-20. Ball carrier A22 is ruled down at the A-25 but the ball came loose and was recovered by B77 at the A-28 with 9:50 on the game clock. Replays show that A22 lost the ball before he was down. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A22 fumbled or was down. Reverse to fumble, B 1-10 on A-28. The game clock should be adjusted to 9:50 and will start on the snap (Rules 12-3-3-d and 12-3-5-b).

140. Game clock at end of half
Second and 10 on the B-38. With 10 seconds remaining in the second quarter, QBA1 throws a pass to receiver A86 at the B-27 near the sideline. The officials rule complete and time expires on the play. Replays show that after completing the catch A86 stepped out of bounds with 2 seconds remaining on the game clock. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was complete and whether there should be time remaining on the game clock at the end of the play. A 1-10 on B-27, reset game clock to 0:02 and start on the snap (Rule 12-3-5-c).

141. Game clock at end of half
Second and 12 at the B-25. There are 15 seconds remaining. Ball carrier A22 is hit at the B-15, and as he is going down the ball comes out. The officials rule a fumble and allow the play to continue. B37 recovers at the B-21 and returns for a long gain before being tackled or scoring an apparent touchdown. After review, the replay official rules that A22’s knee touched the ground before the ball was loose. (1) There are 3 seconds remaining; (2) There is no time remaining. **RULING:**

(1) If time remains on the game clock:
There is no timing adjustment and the game clock is started on the referee’s signal.

(2) If time on the game clock expires during the play:
*In the first or third quarter: The game moves to the second or fourth quarter. The game clock starts on the snap.
*In the second or fourth quarter:
(a) If Team A has no timeouts available, the half (game) is over.
(b) If Team A has a timeout available, it may elect to use one and the
clock will be adjusted to its reading at the time the runner should have
been ruled down. If Team A elects not to use a timeout, the half (game)
is over.

142. Game clock at end of half
Third and 10 on the A-45. With 12 seconds remaining in the second
quarter, QBA1 throws a long pass to receiver A86 at the B-15 where he
is tackled in bounds. The officials rule complete and time expires on the
play. Replays show that after completing the catch A86 was down with
2 seconds remaining on the game clock. RULING: Reviewable play, re-
garding whether the pass was complete and whether there should be time
remaining on the game clock at the end of the play. A 1-10 on B-15, reset
game clock to 0:02 and start on the Referee’s signal (Rule 12-3-5-c).

143. Game clock at end of game
Third and Goal on the B-7. Team A is trailing by 4 points with 7 seconds
remaining in the fourth quarter. QBA1 throws an incomplete pass into
the end zone and time expires on the play. Replays show that when the
ball hit the ground there was 1 second remaining on the game clock.
RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was incomplete
and whether there should be time remaining on the game clock at the end
of the play. A 4-G on B-7, reset game clock to 0:01 and start on the snap
(Rule 12-3-5-c).

144. Game clock at the end of game
Second and 10 on B-37. Team A has one time-out left and is trailing by 3
points with 8 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. QBA1 completes
a pass to eligible receiver A81 at the B-28 who is tackled and immediately
signals for a time-out but time expires on the play. Replays show that the
Line Judge had signaled for the clock to stop with one second remaining.
RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was complete and
whether there should be time remaining on the game clock at the end of
the play. A 3-1 on B-28, reset game clock to 0:01 and start on the snap.
There must be video evidence of the official’s signal in order to put time
back on the clock in this situation (Rule 12-3-5-c).

145. Game clock at the end of game
Fourth and 10 on B-34. With the score tied, Team A’s field goal attempt
lands short in the end zone untouched as time expires. Replays show that
when the ball touched the ground there was 1 second remaining on the
game clock. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether the field goal attempt was no good and whether there should be time remaining on the game clock at the end of the play. B 1-10 on B-34, reset game clock to 0:01 and start on the snap. Since B will next put the ball in play from scrimmage we can reset the game clock in this situation (12-3-5-c).

146. **Game clock at end of game**
Second and 10 on the B-30. With 15 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, Team A is behind by three points and has one timeout remaining. Receiver A80 catches a pass and runs to the B-23 where he is hit and loses the ball with 7 seconds left on the clock. B34 picks up the loose ball and returns it to the 50 as time expires. Replays show that A80’s left knee was down before he lost control of the ball. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A80 fumbled or was down. Reverse to A 3-3 on B-23, reset game clock to 0:07 and charge Team A their final timeout. Game clock will start on the snap (Rules 12-3-3-c and 12-3-5-b). If A is out of timeouts the game is over.

147. **Game clock at end of game**
Second and 20 on the B-40. With 12 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, Team A is behind by four points and has one timeout remaining. Receiver A80 catches a pass at the B28 and runs out of bounds at the B15 as time expires. Replays show that A80’s left knee was down when he caught the pass, and there were 5 seconds remaining on the game clock at that point. **RULING:** Reviewable play, regarding whether A80 was down after he caught the pass. Reverse to A 3-8 on B-28, reset game clock to 0:05 and charge Team A their final timeout. Game clock will start on the snap (Rules 12-3-3-c and 12-3-5-b). If A is out of timeouts the game is over.

148. **Game clock at end of quarter**
Third and 10 at the B-25, very near the end of the first quarter. Team A’s forward pass falls incomplete and the game clock shows 0:00. Instant replay sees that one second remained on the game clock when the pass hit the ground. **RULING:** The instant replay official must determine competitive effect, in this case based on weather conditions. If it is raining or there is a strong wind, then restoring the one second to the game clock, which would force Team A to snap the ball on fourth down, might have an impact on the game. In such a case the instant replay official will stop the game and restore the time. If, however, there is no weather issue, the instant replay official should not stop the game for a meaningless review.
149. Game clock at end of game
Third and goal at B-12 with seconds left in the fourth quarter. Team A trails by four points. A22 is hit at the B-5, stumbles but regains his balance at the B-3 and dives into end zone as time expires. The Side Judge rules touchdown. Replay shows that A22’s right knee touched the ground at B-4 with 2 seconds remaining on the game clock. RULING: There is no score. If Team A has no timeouts the game is over. If Team A has a timeout they are charged with the timeout and will snap the ball at the B-4 with two seconds on the game clock. The game clock starts on the snap following the charged timeout.

150. Egregious Clock Error
Team A’s punt bounces untouched into Team B’s end zone for a touchback when the game clock reads 7:35 in the first quarter. After the ball is dead, the officials on the field do not notice that the game clock continues to run. When the Referee declares the ball Referee’s signal for play the game clock reads 6:22. RULING: Although there is no play to review, the replay official may interrupt the game before the ball is snapped and correct the clock error. The game clock should be reset to 7:35, B 1-10 on B-20 (Rule 12-3-6).

Non-Reviewable situations regarding the game clock

151. Game clock at end of half
Fourth and 10 on the B-27. With 6 seconds remaining in the 2nd Qtr, Team A’s field goal attempt is ruled good and time expires on the play. Replays show that the ball cleared the cross bar by several yards but when it hit the ground behind the goal post there was 1 second remaining on clock. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the field goal attempt was good, but not whether there should be time remaining on the game clock at the end of the play. The next play would be a kickoff so we cannot put time back on the clock. Half over (Rule 12-3-5-c).

152. Game clock at end of game
Second and Goal on the B-10. Team A is trailing by 14 points with 8 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. QBA1 throws an incomplete pass near the sideline and time expires on the play. Replays show that when the ball hit the ground there was 1 second remaining on the game clock. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was incomplete, but not whether there should be time remaining on the game clock at the end of the play. Since A was behind by more than 8 points, we do not put time back on the clock in this situation. Game over (Rule 12-3-5-c).
Penalty Enforcement

153. Replay review – proper down
First and 10 on the A-20. A77 is flagged for holding, and the penalty is accepted. After the penalty enforcement, the officials mistakenly indicate second down. RULING: The foul is not reviewable, but the number of the next down may be corrected. A down can be corrected at any point in that series of downs either by replay official review or coach's challenge. Correct down to A 1-20 on A-10 (Rule 12-3-5-d).

154. Replay review – proper down
Second and 15 on the A-20. The quarterback runs to the A22 and throws an incomplete forward pass. In enforcing the penalty the Referee announces that second down will be replayed. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the passer crossed the neutral zone before the pass was thrown and also the replay official can correct the number of the down. A 3-18 on A-17 (Rules 12-3-2-c and 12-3-5-d).

155. Personal Foul and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls—penalty enforcement after a reversal
First and 10 on the A-30. A10 throws a low pass that is controlled by B45 at the 50-yard line. Officials rule that the ball was intercepted. B45 returns the ball to the A-10 where he is tackled by A65 who targets B45, launching and hitting him with the crown of the helmet. A65 is flagged for a personal foul. Replays show A10’s pass hit the ground before B45 controlled it. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was incomplete or intercepted. Reverse to A 2-25 on A-15. Regardless of the outcome of the replay review, the penalty for the personal foul is enforced. The foul is treated as a live-ball foul if the ruling stands, or as a dead-ball foul if the ruling is reversed. Only penalties for personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct fouls are enforced in this situation (Rule 12-3-2-a).

156. Penalty enforcement after a reversal
Third and 10 on A-43. A10 throws a low pass that is ruled incomplete at the B-45. A77 is called for offensive holding and B declines the penalty making it fourth down. The replay official stops the game for further review and it is determined that the pass was complete. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the pass was complete or incomplete. Since the call on the field was changed the defense will have the opportunity to accept the penalty for holding. A 3-20 on A-33 (Rule 12-3-2-a).
**Targeting Fouls**

157. **Targeting and Making Forcible Contact with the Crown of the Helmet**

Passer A12 is looking downfield to pass the ball. Defender B52 sheds a block and lowers his head, driving the crown of his helmet with force into the chest of the quarterback. The referee: (a) Throws a flag and announces a foul for targeting and contact with the crown of the helmet and that B52 is disqualified; (b) Throws a flag and announces roughing the passer; (c) Does not throw a flag. **RULING:** (a) The play is reviewable because the ruling on the field is for targeting with the crown of the helmet, which carries a disqualification. The replay official stops the game to review the play. (b) and (c) The play is not reviewable because targeting with the crown of the helmet was not the on-field ruling. Instant Replay may not upgrade the penalty for an on-field foul.

158. **Targeting and Making Forcible Contact with the Crown of the Helmet**

Runner A31 is wrapped up by several Team B players and is pulled to the ground. After A31 is on the ground and the officials signal the play dead, B44 drives the crown of his helmet into A31’s back. A flag is thrown and the referee announces (a) A foul on B44 for targeting with the crown of the helmet, but he neglects to announce that B44 is disqualified; (b) A foul for unnecessary roughness on B44. **RULING:** (a) The play is reviewed to determine if forcible contact was made with the crown of the helmet. The play is allowed to stand and B44 is disqualified. (b) The play is not reviewable.

159. **Targeting and Making Forcible Contact in the Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player**

Receiver A82 runs a pattern across the middle of the field and leaps to catch the pass. Defender B28 launches toward A82 and makes contact above A82’s shoulders, drawing a flag from the back judge. The referee announces a foul for targeting and that B28 is disqualified. **RULING:** This play is reviewed to see if forcible contact was made above the shoulders. The game must be stopped for instant replay review.

160. **Targeting and Making Forcible Contact in the Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player**

Receiver A82 runs a pattern across the middle of the field and leaps to catch the pass. Defender B28 launches toward A82 and makes contact above A82’s shoulders. The back judge throws a flag and the referee announces a foul for
defensive pass interference. **RULING:** This play is not reviewable, because the ruling on the field is pass interference and not targeting.

**161. Targeting and Making Forcible Contact in the Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player**

During a kick return, the runner starts at one side of the field and runs toward the other. Kicking team player A55 is pursuing the runner. Return team player B38 targets and contacts A55 with a blind-side block. B38 contacts A55 (a) in the shoulder; (b) clearly above the shoulders; (c) initially in the shoulder, but he also makes significant forceful contact above the shoulders. In all three cases, a flag is thrown and targeting is announced as the foul. **RULING:** The game is stopped to review this play. (a) If indisputable video evidence shows that the contact was in the shoulder, the disqualification is overturned and B38 remains in the game. (b) The ruling on the field stands and B38 is disqualified. (c) Significant contact with force was made on a defenseless player above the shoulders. Therefore, the ruling on the field stands and B38 is disqualified.

**162. Targeting and Making Forcible Contact in the Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player**

Quarterback A7 drops back to pass. Blitzing linebacker B52 is unblocked. As A7 throws the ball, B52 tackles him, making contact to the head with his shoulder. The referee throws a flag and (a) announces a foul for targeting a defenseless player and that B52 is disqualified; or (b) announces a foul for roughing the passer. **RULING:** (a) The game is stopped to review this play to determine if forcible contact was made above the shoulders. The play stands and B52 is disqualified. (b) The play is not reviewable.

**163. Targeting and Making Forcible Contact in the Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player**

On a pass play over the middle, defensive back B33 launches and drives his headgear into receiver A88 who is leaping for the ball. The back judge throws his flag for Defensive Pass Interference with Targeting and reports both DPI with “targeting above the shoulders” to the referee, who then announces that B33 is disqualified from the game. **RULING:** The replay official stops the game to review the play, to determine if the contact to the head/neck area was forcible. The replay official may overturn the targeting call, but the foul for defensive pass interference will stand and the penalty will be enforced.
Miscellaneous Plays

164. Illegal Substitution
Third and 10 on the B-22. B45 intercepts a pass and returns it for a touchdown. At the snap, Team B had 12 players in the formation. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether Team B had 12 players on the field. Reverse to A 3-5 on B-17. To make a ruling the replay official must be able to see 12 players on the replay monitor while the ball is live. Separate replays may be used to determine if 12 players were on the field (Rule 12-3-5-a).

165. Illegal Substitution
Third and 10 on the B-22. Before the snap B23 realizes he is the 12th man on the field and runs towards his bench. He is five yards from the sideline when the ball is snapped and continues off the field. B45 intercepts the pass and returns it for a TD. There are no flags on the play. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether Team B had 12 players on the field. A 3-5 on B-17. (Rule 12-3-5-a)

166. Illegal Substitution
Third and 10 on A-35. B37 intercepts a forward pass at the 50 and returns it to the A13. Prior to the snap B75 thought he was the 12th player on the field and attempted to get to his sideline. He was at the numbers when the ball was snapped and a flag is thrown for illegal substitution. Upon further review it is determined that B75 was the 11th defensive player on the field. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding whether the player was the 12th man on the field. Reverse to B 1-10 on A-13 (Rule 12-3-5-a).

167. Illegal Substitution
Third and 10 on the B-22. Before the snap B23 realizes he is the 12th man on the field and runs towards his bench. He is near the sideline and after the ball is snapped his next step puts him on the sideline. There are no flags on the play and the pass is intercepted and returned for a touchdown. RULING: Not reviewable. If after the snap the player’s next step puts him on the sideline, then the play is not reviewable. Touchdown.

168. Momentum
First and 10 on the B-35. B45 intercepts a forward pass near Team B’s goal line, and officials rule a touchback when B45 falls to the ground in the end zone. B45 was in possession at the B-1. RULING: Reviewable play, regarding where B45 intercepted the pass in relation to the goal line. Reverse to B 1-10 on B-1 (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-3-3-i).
169. **Next Legal Snap or Kick**
First and 10 on the A-20. A10 throws a low pass that appears to be intercepted by B45 at the A-33 line, but the officials rule incomplete pass. While lining up for the next play Tackle A76 false starts. Replays show that the ball never touched the ground. **Ruling:** The play is reviewable until the next legal snap or free kick. Reverse to B 1-10 on A-33. Do not enforce false start penalty (Rules 12-3-2-a and 12-5-1-a).

170. **Challenge After Review**
Second and 8 on the A-34. B34 intercepts a low pass at the A-48 and returns it for a TD. The replay official shuts the game down to review whether the pass was intercepted. After further review there is not enough evidence to determine if the pass hit the ground. As Team B is lining up for the try, the Team A head coach attempts to challenge the play as he thinks B34 stepped out of bounds during the return. **Ruling:** A coach cannot challenge a ruling after the game has been stopped and a decision has already been made by the replay official. Call stands, touchdown for Team B. Once the play is shut down, the replay official is responsible for looking at all reviewable aspects (Rule 12-5-1-b-4).

171. **Referee’s Announcement**
Second and 8 on the A-34. B34 intercepts a low pass at the A-48 and returns it for a TD. The replay official shuts the game down to review whether the pass was intercepted. After further review there is not enough evidence to determine if the pass hit the ground. As Team B is lining up for the try another replay comes up that shows that the ball hit the ground. **Ruling:** Once a replay official makes a decision and the Referee has made his announcement there can be no further review of the play. Neither the coach nor the replay official can initiate another review. Call stands. Touchdown. Once the play is shut down the replay official is responsible for looking at all reviewable aspects (Rule 12-5-1-b-4).
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