



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

Replay Process

The first offseason video is now available on the CFO website. This video takes us through the replay process. This is the process we should follow for each play throughout the game. Things to remember:

- Roughly 90% of all replay reviews fall into one of the following five categories:
 - Catch/No Catch
 - Scoring Plays
 - Targeting
 - Line to Gain
 - Fumble/Down by Rule
- Situational awareness and anticipation are important. Pre-snap we should be aware of all game factors (down, distance, yard line, line to gain, time remaining, and score) in addition to anticipating different outcomes to the play.
- Focus on the process not the outcome. If we follow the same steps on each play, we will come up with the correct outcome.

In addition, we have posted a 10-question quiz covering targeting.

We will post the answers to the quiz and the next video in two weeks and continue that schedule up until the start of the season.

We would like to clarify several other items that have come up in recent weeks.

Egregious Mistake

The word egregious has been removed from Rule 12 as it has been a challenge to clearly define it.

The new language (in red) states:

*No other plays or officiating decisions are reviewable. However, the replay official may correct **obvious errors that may have a significant impact on the outcome of the game**, including those involving the game clock, whether or not a play is reviewable. This excludes fouls that are not specifically reviewable.*

This pertains to situations that are not reviewable by rule. The last sentence is key as it clarifies that non-reviewable fouls are not included. Fouls such as a facemask or a player going out of bounds on a kick and returning to the field of play are not reviewable even under this provision.

We must use our discretion in all other cases. One thing to remember is the significance of a mistake increases if it involves a score, change of possession, or occurs late in a one score game.

Fumble at Goal Line

In the past, we have seen a player drop the ball short of the goal line thinking he had already scored. In this situation, if the ball does not break the plane of the goal line before he loses possession it will be ruled a fumble in replay. This is the case regardless of any official's signal. If the final ruling on the field is a score, the end result after replay review will be as follows:

- a) Recovery by Team B (any down)
 - 1. Field of play – B's ball at spot of recovery
 - 2. End zone - touchback
- b) Recovery by Team A
 - 1. Field of play - A's ball at spot of recovery
 - 2. End zone – TD
 - 3. Field of play on 4th down (LTG not made) – B's ball at spot of recovery
 - 4. End zone on 4th down (LTG not made) – B's ball at spot of fumble
- c) Ball goes out of bounds
 - 1. Field of play – A's ball at spot of fumble or OB spot (least beneficial)
 - 2. Field of play on 4th down (LTG not made) – B's ball at spot of fumble or OB spot (most beneficial)
 - 3. End zone – touchback
- d) No clear recovery
 - 1. 1st-3rd down – A's ball at spot of fumble
 - 2. 4th down (LTG not made) – B's ball at spot of fumble

Intentional Grounding for Safety

AR 140 in the 2018 replay casebook states:

*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.*

When reviewing whether the foul occurred in the end zone or field of play, we use the position of the ball when it is released in relation to the goal line. The passer's body is not a factor.

10-Second Runoff for Intentional Grounding

Rule 3-4-4-a-2 (FR-56) in the 2018 Rule Book lists intentional grounding as a foul that results in a 10-second runoff with less than one minute remaining in a half. The language states:

2. Intentional grounding to stop the clock.

The question came up whether replay had to determine the reason the passer grounded the ball to implement the runoff rule. To clarify, if a grounding foul results from a replay decision inside of one minute of either half there will be a runoff and the normal rules will apply. The Replay Official will not have to determine the reason the passer grounded the football.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions.

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