



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

Fumbles

The next offseason video is now available on the CFO website. This video covers fumbles. Whenever the ruling on the field is a fumble, replay can look at whether the player was down or out of bounds prior to losing the ball. If the ruling on the field is a fumble, replay cannot create forward progress. The only exception would be if the ball broke the plane of the opponent's goal line prior to it coming loose.

The process to follow for these types of plays includes:

- Establish the first body part that puts the runner down or out of bounds. Any body part touching out of bounds puts the runner out. Any body part other than a hand or foot touching the ground puts the runner down.
- Establish the status of the ball when the first body part touches the ground or out of bounds.
- Look for a clear recovery.

In addition, we have posted a 10-question quiz on fumbles and the answers to the scoring plays quiz.

Two clarifications for you to review:

Backward Pass with Goal Line Involved

If the ruling on the field is an incomplete forward pass, but the ball clearly goes backward and out of bounds we know we can make it a backward pass and put it at the out of bounds spot.

A question came up regarding this situation where it is clear the ball went out of bounds, but not clear if it went out in the end zone or field of play. In this situation we would put the ball out in the field of play. It would have to be clear the ball went out in the end zone to make it a safety.

Play situation:

A 1-10 on A-8. QBA1 releases a pass from the A-7 that first touches back A2's hands at the A-6 and then bounces back toward the goal line where it goes out of bounds near the pylon. The Line Judge rules the pass forward and incomplete. Replays show the pass is backward, but it is not clear as to whether ball went out inside/over or outside pylon.

Ruling: *A 2-17 1/2 on B-1/2.*

Line to Gain Quiz

On the line to gain quiz the answer to question #9 had a typo. Correction below:

9. *A 3-20 on 50. Receiver A80 catches a pass near the sideline and runs to the B-28 where he is pushed out of bounds. The Head Line Judge rules that A80 stepped out of bounds at the B-33 and killed the play there. Replays show that A80 did not step out of bounds.*

Ruling: *A 4-3 on B-33. Once the officials on the field rule the runner out of bounds the play is over and we **cannot** award an advance in replay even if the line to gain is involved. The only exception is when the runner scores in the immediate continuing action following the ruling.*

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July 26th, 2019