



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

### Off-Season Preparation

As we continue to prepare for the season, we have posted a new video that will further clarify the replay timing rules and the new interpretation related to a kicking team player going out of bounds.

The timing rules are broken into three categories:

- 12-3-6-b (resetting game clock during a review)
- 12-3-6-c (ten-second runoffs created by replay)
- 12-3-6-d (resetting game clock at end of quarter and half)

One clarification for 12-3-6-b that is on the video covers resetting the game clock any time the call on the field is changed in replay and the change creates a stopped clock. This will be the case regardless of whether time runs off the clock beyond that point. The Timing PowerPoint on the CFO website has been updated to reflect this.

One other clarification regarding Replay Case Book play 130 listed below. The safety interpretation that was implemented in 2019 and highlighted in 2020 Case Book play 126 also applies here. New language is underlined, and obsolete language is struck through.

#### **130. Backward pass–potential safety**

Team A snaps the ball at its 5-yard line. A12 throws a quick pass from the A-3 to the flat toward receiver A44. The line judge signals incomplete pass as the ball hits the ground at the A-2, takes a backward bounce and rolls into the end zone and out of bounds.

**RULING:** Reviewable. Safety. Without video evidence of the ball going out of bounds or a clear recovery, or no confirmation of a recovery from the officials on the field, the ruling is also a safety. The only two possible rulings in this situation are a safety or a touchdown for Team B, so the result will be the least impactful of those two rulings, which is a 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-e)~~

## **Reference to 2019 memo regarding safety interpretation:**

### **Fumble in A's End Zone**

When the ruling on the field is a dead ball (incomplete pass/runner down), but the correct ruling should be a live ball (fumble/backward pass), and Team A is responsible for putting the ball in its end zone with no clear recovery by either team, we will award a safety to Team B. The theory is that we know it can only be one of two things – a TD or safety for B – so we will go with the lesser of the two.

This only applies to this specific situation when there is no evidence of who recovered the ball or it clearly going out of bounds.

### **Play situation:**

*QBA1 is hit and loses the ball at the A-3. The ball goes into A's end zone and ends up in a pile of players from both teams. The Referee rules incomplete pass. Replays show the ball came loose before A1's hand came forward, but there is no evidence of a clear recovery by either team.*

***Ruling:*** Reviewable. Safety for Team B, safety kick A-20.

In addition, one last clarification for 2020 regarding the clear recovery confirmation from the field. It also applies to 12-3-2-e. New language underlined below.

e. Pass ruled forward or backward.

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 football action after the loose ball. If the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers or the ball going out of bounds, or does not have confirmation of a recovery by the officials on the field, the ruling of incomplete pass stands. (Exception: Rule 12-3-1-a)

***Dean Blandino***

***CFO National Director of Instant Replay***

July 2nd, 2020