



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

The 2021 Shaw / Blandino Weekly Quiz

Week 9

This quiz is being provided on a weekly basis to promote robust crew discussions and further individual rules study. It is in no way intended to be official play interpretations, as those are contained within Part II of the 2021 NCAA Football Rules and are updated by official CFO Play Interpretation Bulletins when released during the season. These quizzes will be released on Thursday of each game week, with answers being provided on the following Monday.

The first eight questions are focused around on-field rulings, and the final two questions are focused on Instant Replay. All officials should be familiar with and work both sets of questions.

Answer each on-field question by giving **THESE FOUR ITEMS** of information for the **next time the ball is to be put in play**:

Team in possession

Down and distance (or Free Kick or Try)

Yard line of succeeding spot

Game clock status (Ready/ Snap / Running / FK Rules / No Clock / 10-Second Runoff)

For Replay Questions, complete the answer with the **outcome** and any **replay reasoning**.

1. 3/3 @ B-35. With the clock running, snapper A54 legally begins the snap, but B50 bats the ball before A54 completes the snap, and B70 recovers the ball at the B-37.

RULING: A, 1/10, B-30, Ready.

Foul by B50, and the ball remains dead. The penalty is 5 yards from the succeeding spot and will result in a 1st down for Team A. Team B may not touch the ball until it has been legally snapped (Rule 7-1-5-a-1 & AR 7-1-5 II).

2. 3/5 @ B-35. B20 intercepts a legal forward pass on his three-yard line, and his momentum carries him into his end zone. B20 fumbles in the end zone and the ball rolls forward and out of bounds on Team B's two-yard line.

RULING: B, 1/10, B-3, Snap.

B20's fumble is a forward fumble out of bounds in advance of the fumble. The ball belongs to Team B at the spot of the fumble which is in Team B's end zone (Rule 7-2-4-b-1). Since the ball is declared dead in the end zone, the momentum exception applies, and it is Team B's ball at the 3-yard line (Rule 8-5-1-a Exception c).

3. 1/10 @ B-45. Team A has 4 backs lined up clearly in the backfield, and slot receiver A88 is covered up by A80 who is on the end of the line. At the snap, A80 breaks downfield and A88 retreats into the backfield. QB A12 drops back to pass, faces no duress, and throws a pass toward A88. The intent was to throw a backward pass to A88, but the ball is released by A12 at the 50 and is first touched and caught by A88 at the B-49. A88 catches the ball and runs to the B-35 where he is downed.

RULING: A, 2/20, A-45, Ready.

A88 is covered up and is not an eligible receiver (Rule 7-3-3-c-1). He could receive a backward pass (Rule 7-2-2-a) but is not eligible to catch or touch a forward pass. The pass by A12 is not intentional grounding because it does not meet all the components of Rule 7-3-2-h, namely the provision that the passer is trying to conserve yardage. If the pass were considered a legal forward pass, it would be illegal touching by A88 (Rule 7-3-11) but based on play 4 from the first play interpretation bulletin of 2021, the pass is an illegal forward pass, and is penalized 5 yards from the spot of the foul and includes loss of down. This will be cleaned up in the 2022 rules cycle.

4. 3/5 @ B-15. Late in the half with the clock running, QB A12 is in shotgun formation and muffs the snap. A44 catches the muffed ball at the B-20 and immediately throws the ball forward into the ground. The clock displays 0:03 remaining in the 2nd quarter.

RULING: A, 4/5 @ B-15, Snap.

This is a legal play by A44 if he catches the ball and then immediately throws the ball directly into the ground (Rule 7-3-2-f). The pass is incomplete, and the clock will start on the snap (Rule 3-3-2-d-4).

5. 3/10 @ A-30. Quarterback A12 drops back to pass. About to be tackled at the A-20, he throws the ball forward to an area where there are no eligible receivers. Tackle A77 catches the pass at the A-28 and is tackled at the A-32.

RULING: A, 4/20, A-20, Ready.

A12's pass is an illegal forward pass for intentional grounding (Rule 7-3-2-h). The penalty is loss of down at the spot of the pass. This is "intentional grounding" since A12 throws the ball into an area where there are no eligible Team A receivers and A12 is under duress. Note that this is not illegal touching by A77, because the rule for illegal touching applies only to a legal forward pass (Rule 7-3-11).

6. 3/Goal @ B-7. QB A12 throws a pass to A85 in the end zone. A85 is airborne and inbounds in the end zone and grasps and gains firm control of the forward pass, but while airborne he is hit by a defender, which causes A85 to fall to the ground. Immediately upon A85 hitting the ground, the ball comes loose and strikes the ground.

RULING: A, 4/Goal, B-7, Snap.

This is an incomplete pass. An airborne receiver contacted before completing all the requirements of a catch must still maintain control of the ball after hitting the ground and A85 lost control as he hit the ground (Rule 2-4-3-b).

7. 3/15 @ B-26. QB A12 throws a pass to A88 that is caught at the B-10. A88 drives for the end zone, is hit and fumbles at the B-4. The ball rolls forward and is recovered by B21 in the end zone. B55 is guilty of roughing the passer after A12 released the pass.

RULING: A, 1/10, B-13, Snap.

The penalty for the personal foul, roughing the passer by B55 is enforced half the distance to the goal from the previous spot because there was a change of team possession during the down (Rule 9-1-Penalty). The penalty also includes an automatic 1st down. The game clock starts on the snap because the result of the play is a touchback (Rule 3-3-2-d-1).

8. 3/15 @ B-26. QB A12 throws a pass to A88 that is caught at the B-10. A88 drives for the end zone, is hit and fumbles at the B-4. The ball rolls forward into and out the side of the end zone. B55 is guilty of roughing the passer after A12 released the pass.

RULING: A, 1/Goal, B-2, Snap.

The penalty for the personal foul, roughing the passer by B55 is enforced half the distance to the goal from the end of A88's run (Rule 9-1-Penalty) and Team A keeps the ball. Since the fumble rolled into and out of the end zone, there was no change of team possession during the down since the rule states the ball would belong to Team B so the penalty may be enforced from the end of the last Team A run (Rule 8-6-2). The game clock starts on the snap because the result of the play is a touchback (Rule 3-3-2-d-1).

9. 3/10 @ B-35. With 2:25 remaining in the 4th quarter the score is tied. QBA1 drops back to pass and is hit causing the ball to come loose. B27 recovers the ball at the B-32 and runs out of bounds at the A-40. The Umpire has a flag down for offensive holding on A77 at the line of scrimmage. The ruling on the field is a fumble and Team B declines the holding penalty. Replays show A1's hand came forward with control of the ball and he lost it before his hand started back down toward his body.

RULING: A 4/10 @ B-35, decline OH or A 3/20 @ B-45, accept OH. The pass is incomplete as the hand came forward with control and the ball came out before any tuck back toward body. After the overturn Team B has the option to accept or decline the penalty. The clock is reset to where it was when the ball hit the ground (created a stopped clock inside 5:00 in the 4th Qtr.) and starts on the snap.

10. KO @ A-35. A1's pooch kick lands at the B-30 and bounces past returner B22 and toward B's goal line. A17 possesses the ball near the goal line and carries it into the end zone. The officials rule TD. Replays show the ball did not touch B22 and that A17 possessed the ball at the B-2 before taking it into the EZ.

RULING: A 1/Goal @ B-2. The spot where possession was gained in relation to the goal line is reviewable. Once A17 gains possession the ball is dead, and he cannot advance it. Whether B22 touched the ball is not relevant here on a free kick as the ball had already traveled 10 yards.