

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

August 19, 2009

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[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

TO: Divisions I, II and III Supervisors of Football Officials,  
Conference Commissioners and Head Football Coaches.

FROM: Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Football Clarification and Play Situations Bulletin No. 1.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the first set of play situations and several interpretations for the 2009 season. The committee hopes these examples assist in the understanding of NCAA Football rules. Each play includes the ruling and a rule reference to assist.

Additionally, you will soon receive the 2009 Points of Emphasis DVD from the rules committee and College Football Officiating, LLC. Please review this important presentation before the season starts. For more information on our rules, and to view video examples, please go to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org), click on the football tab and then click on "Rules and Officiating."

If you have any questions, please contact Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, via e-mail at ([footballrules@ncaa.org](mailto:footballrules@ncaa.org)).

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Enclosure

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members

**2009 NCAA FOOTBALL RULES**  
**PLAY SITUATIONS #1**

1. With the score tied Team A snaps the ball at the A-35. Quarterback A12 drops straight back to pass and, under a heavy rush, throws an incomplete forward pass into an area where there are no Team A eligible receivers. Time in the fourth quarter expires during the play. This happens on (a) third down; (b) fourth down.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) The foul for intentional grounding carries a penalty that includes loss of down, so the period is not extended. The game goes into the first extra period. (3-1-3, 3-2-3)

2. As B23 is returning a punt, time in the first quarter expires. When B23 reaches the A-6, he completes a forward pass to B79 who is standing in Team A's end zone.

**RULING:** Team A accepts the penalty for the illegal forward pass to erase the touchdown, but the period is not extended. While a loss-of-down penalty is not an issue for a Team B foul, fairness dictates that the period not be extended, since it would not be extended for a similar illegal-forward-pass play by Team A. The penalty is enforced at the spot of the foul. The second quarter starts with Team B having first and 10 at the A-11. (7-3-2-b, 8-2-1-b, 3-2-3)

3. Fourth and 10 at the A-15. A33 is in deep punt formation when he muffs the long snap. At the A-2, B79 kicks the ball into Team A's end zone and over the end line. Time in the first half expires on the play.

**RULING:** The result of the play is a touchback. Team B foul for illegally kicking the ball. The period is extended for one play following the 15-yard penalty from the previous spot (the down would be repeated had not time expired in the period). First and 10 for Team A at the A-30. (8-6-1, 8-7-2-b-1, 9-4-4, 3-2-3)

4. Fourth and 10 at the A-10. A33 is in deep punt formation to receive the long snap. (a) A33 receives the snap, carries the ball outside the tackle box and (i) kicks the ball rugby-style on the run or (ii) establishes himself as a kicker and punts the ball in the normal fashion. (b) A33 muffs the ball which goes outside the tackle box, where he recovers, establishes himself as a kicker, and punts the ball in the normal fashion. In all cases end B80 dives and crashes into A33's plant leg immediately after the ball is kicked.

**RULING:** (a) In both (i) and (ii) there is no foul for roughing the kicker because A33 carries the ball outside the tackle box before kicking. (b) Foul by B80 for roughing the kicker. A33 did not carry the ball outside the tackle box. First and 10 for Team A at the A-25. (9-1-4-a-5-b)

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5. Fourth and 10 at the A-10. A33 is in deep punt formation where he receives the long snap, carries the ball outside the tackle box and kicks the ball rugby-style on the run. After the ball is away and as A33 is regaining his balance, B88 launches and drives the crown of his helmet up under A33's facemask.

**RULING:** Not roughing the kicker. Personal foul by B88 for targeting and initiating contact against a defenseless opponent. First and 10 for Team A at the A-25. (9-1-4-a-5-b, 9-1-3)

6. Third and seven at the A-40. A79, the second lineman to the right of the snapper, is split very wide. Back A35 is lined up directly behind A79 and A35's entire body is outside the tackle box. On a sweep to the right side, linebacker B56 crosses the neutral zone and is pursuing the play at the A-38 when A35 blocks him in front below the waist directly back toward the original position of the ball. Ball carrier A28 is tackled for an eight-yard gain.

**RULING:** Illegal block below the waist (crackback) by A35. Fifteen-yard penalty from the previous spot. Third and 22 at the A-25. (2-34, 9-1-2-e-2)

7. B29 intercepts a forward pass in his end zone and begins his return. While still in the end zone B29 fumbles the ball when A77 grabs and twists his facemask. The ball rolls into the field of play. A80 recovers at the B-3, fumbles at the B-2 and the ball strikes the goal-line pylon.

**RULING:** The change of possession takes place in the end zone and the result of the play is a touchback. The penalty for the facemask foul is enforced at the B-20, which is the basic spot. Team B's ball, first and 10 at the A-35. (8-6-1, 10-2-2-d-2-a)

8. On fourth down, Team A punts from a scrimmage kick formation in which they have only 10 players on the field.

(a) Six players are on the line of scrimmage and are numbered (left to right): 80 24 50 67 79 83. After the snapper has touched the ball, A22 moves from the backfield to take a position on the line to the right of A83 while A80 moves into the backfield, leaving A24 as the left end. All are set for one second before the snap.

(b) Six players are on the line of scrimmage and are numbered (left to right): 80 63 50 67 79 83. After the snapper has touched the ball, A22 moves from the backfield to take a position on the line to the right of A83 while A80 moves into the backfield, leaving A63 as the left end. All are set for one second before the snap.

**RULING:** (a) Five-yard penalty for an illegal formation. A24 becomes a numbering-exception player because he is originally ineligible by position but is on the end of the line at the snap. Team B may have the penalty enforced either at the previous spot or at the dead-ball spot where they will have the ball when the down is over. (b) Legal play. There are no numbering-exception players because A80 and A83 are originally eligible by number and position. (7-1-3-b, 1-4-2-b-Exc., 10-2-4)

9. Fourth and 10 at the B-32. Team A kicks a field goal. Linebacker B56 starts from two yards beyond the neutral zone, runs forward, and leaps in an attempt to block the kick. He (a) lands on the ground and barely brushes snapper A50 as he falls; (b) lands on either snapper A50 or teammate B76; (c) is blocked by snapper A50 as he is coming down from his leap.

**RULING:** (a) No foul as the contact is incidental. (b) and (c) Personal foul. Team A may decline the penalty and keep the three points or accept the penalty to have an automatic first down at the B-17. (9-1-2-n, 10-2-5-d)

10. With 10 minutes remaining in the first quarter and the visiting team ahead 7-0, the referee suspends play due to an electrical storm. He is advised by game management personnel in contact with the weather service that the storm is likely to persist for several hours. After an hour delay the referee then declares that the game is terminated with the visiting team the winner by a score of 7-0.

**RULING:** The referee does not have authority to terminate the game. This responsibility rests with the directors of athletics (or their designees) of the two institutions. The options are: resume at a later date, terminate the game with a determined final score, declare a forfeit, or declare "no contest." (3-3-3-c)

11. Team A punts on fourth and 10 at the A-30. During the kick B87 blocks below the waist at the B-32. (a) Deep receiver B27 catches the kick at the B-35 and is tackled at the B-45. (b) Deep receiver B27 muffs the kick at the B-35 and it rolls out of bounds at the B-30.

**RULING:** In (a) and (b) postscrimmage-kick rules apply to the foul by B87. The principle of postscrimmage-kick enforcement is that the foul is treated as if it had occurred after Team B had gained possession. Enforcement of the penalty is governed by the Three-and-One Principle with the end of the kick taken as the basic spot. (a) The basic spot is the B-35. The foul occurs behind the basic spot, so enforcement is at the spot of the foul. First and 10 for Team B at the B-17. (b) The basic spot is the B-30. The foul occurs beyond the basic spot, so the enforcement is at the basic spot. First and 10 for Team B at the B-15. (9-1-2-e-4, 10-2-2-c-1 and 2, 10-2-3)

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12. In attempting to tackle ball carrier A22, B77 grabs his chin strap. The chin strap remains snapped to the helmet as B77 uses it to pull A22 to the ground.

**RULING:** Personal foul for pulling the chin strap. The 15-yard penalty is enforced at the yard line where A22 is down, and includes an automatic first down. (9-1-2-q)

13. Second and seven at the A-35. Ball carrier A22 is tackled inbounds after a gain of 10 yards. When the ball is declared dead A22 and B66 both remain on the ground with injuries. While medical personnel attend to the players the referee grants a media timeout. This takes place (a) with 10 minutes remaining in the first quarter; (b) with 34 seconds remaining in the first half.

**RULING:** First and 10 for Team A at the A-45. When play is resumed in both (a) and (b), the play clock is set at 40 seconds. (a) The play clock and the game clock start on the referee's signal. (b) The play clock is not started. The game clock starts on the referee's signal. (3-2-4-c-4, 3-2-2-f, 3-3-2-e-1, 3-3-5-f)

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