



P.O. Box 6222

Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Telephone: 317/917-6222

Shipping/Overnight Address:

1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive

Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

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

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

December 10, 2009

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 Play Situations Bulletin No. 4.

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

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)).

RR:nkb

Enclosure

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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**NCAA FOOTBALL RULES**  
**2009 PLAY SITUATIONS #4**

1. Third and seven at the A-40. After the snapper touches the ball guard A65 commits a false start when he comes out of his three-point stance. In reaction, B79 jumps across the neutral zone and slugs A65, who in turn slugs B79. Officials drop flags for all three fouls.

**RULING:** The penalty for the false start is enforced. The two flagrant dead-ball personal fouls offset. Both A65 and B79 are disqualified. Third and 12 at the A-35. (10-1-5-Exc.)

2. During a touchdown run by A25, defender B48 is flagged for twisting his facemask. This occurs (a) with 10 minutes remaining in the third quarter; (b) as the game clock goes to 0:00 in the fourth quarter; (c) during an extra period.

**RULING:** B48 is guilty of a personal foul, the penalty for which may in principle be enforced on either the try or the succeeding kickoff. (a) Team A may choose to have the penalty enforced on either the try or the kickoff. (b) The penalty may only be enforced on the try, as the period is not extended for a kickoff. (c) The penalty may only be enforced on the try, as there is no kickoff in extra periods. The penalty is not carried over to the next possession series in the extra period or to the next extra period. (10-2-5-a-1, 3-2-3-a-1-Exc.)

3. Team A scores a touchdown with 10 minutes remaining in the third quarter. The try kick is successful. B79 is flagged for (a) roughing the kicker during the try; (b) blocking the snapper before the lapse of one second during the try; (c) committing a personal foul after the ball is dead following the try.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) Team A may keep the one point and have the personal-foul penalty enforced on the succeeding kickoff, or they may repeat the try following enforcement of the penalty. (c) The penalty is carried over to the kickoff. (8-3-3-b-1, 8-3-5)

4. Team A scores a touchdown to make the score A20-B21 as the game clock goes to 0:00 in the fourth quarter. Team A's try kick is successful, making the score tied at 21-21. B79 is flagged for (a) roughing the kicker during the try; (b) blocking the snapper before the lapse of one second during the try; (c) committing a personal foul after the ball is dead following the try.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) Team A may keep the one point and have the personal-foul penalty enforced at the succeeding spot in the extra period, or they may repeat the try following enforcement of the penalty. (c) The penalty is carried over to the succeeding spot in the extra period. (8-3-3-b-1, 8-3-5)

5. Team A scores a touchdown to make the score A20-B21 as the game clock goes to 0:00 in the fourth quarter. B79 is flagged for (a) roughing the passer; (b) committing a personal foul after the ball is dead.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) The penalty is enforced at the succeeding spot on the try. It may not be carried over to the succeeding spot in the extra period if the game becomes tied. (10-2-5-a-1, 10-2-5-c)

6. Trailing by three points, Team A scores a field goal as the game clock goes to 0:00 in the fourth quarter, sending the game into overtime. After the ball is dead following the field goal, B24 slugs an opponent.

**RULING:** The penalty is enforced at the succeeding spot at the start of the extra period. B24 is disqualified. (10-2-5-d)

7. Fourth and four at the B-44. Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation with A12 fifteen yards deep in punting position and three players in the backfield as personal protectors. When the snapper touches the ball there are only four players wearing numbers 50-79 on the line of scrimmage. A12 then moves into the normal quarterback position behind the snapper and the other three backs shift to a T formation. A12 completes a pass to eligible A43 who is tackled beyond the line to gain.

**RULING:** Foul, illegal formation. At the snap Team A is not in a scrimmage kick formation, so the numbering exception for linemen is not in effect. Fourth and nine at the B-49. (1-4-2-b-Exc.)

8. Fourth and 12 at the A-40. Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation with an unbalanced line that has two players to the left and four to the right of snapper A55. When A55 puts his hands on the ball, the players on the line of scrimmage are (L-R): A82, A47, A55 (snapper), A62, A79, A36, A88. All players except A55 have their hands on their knees. Seeing the defensive formation, Team A shifts A79 and A36 to the left of the snapper so that they are between A82 and A47, making the left-to-right alignment: A82, A79, A36, A47, A55 (snapper), A62, A88. The ball is snapped and punted.

**RULING:** Legal formation. A47 and A36 are ineligible by position and thus are established as the numbering-exception players when the snapper touches the ball. At the snap A47 and A36 are on the line and not on the end of the line. (1-4-2-b-Exc.)

9. Second and seven at the B-40. Ball carrier A22 runs wide to his right and turns the corner near the sideline. Cornerback B43 retreats toward the sideline to cover the play and is out of bounds when he attempts to tackle A22 at the B-35. A22 breaks free of B43's grasp and continues his run, stepping out of bounds at the B-30.

**RULING:** First and 10 for Team A at the B-30. A22 is not out of bounds when he touches a player who is out of bounds. (4-2-1)

10. Fourth and seven at the B-30. Team A attempts a field goal. Linebacker B56 jumps and blocks the kick at the B-29, and the ball lands at the B-32. Holder A21 recovers and carries the ball to the B-20 where he is tackled.

**RULING:** Because the kick was blocked within three yards of the neutral zone, by rule it is deemed not to have crossed the neutral zone. Thus either team may advance the ball. Team A's ball, first and 10 at the B-20. (6-3-1)

11. Team A is in a balanced-line formation. Snapper A56 has his hands on the ball and all other linemen have their hands on their knees. A56 then takes his hands off the ball and all linemen shift to the left so that right guard A67 becomes the snapper in an unbalanced-line formation.

**RULING:** Dead-ball foul, false start by A56. Once the snapper touches the ball he may not move to a different position. (7-1-3-a-1-a)