

# Kicking Game

## Free Kicks

1. 40 Yard Line or 20 Yard Line (Following a Safety)
2. Fouls by Kickers are either previous spot or end of R's run. Exception (Kick Catch Interference) spot foul not a tack on. Team B (Receivers) will have the choice of the result of the play or the penalty.
3. Kickers must:
  - Be behind the Restraining line before the ball is kicked (Exception: The Kicker and Holder may be on or beyond the restraining line.
  - Be inbounds (Exception: Unless blocked out (FR-87 6-2-f).
  - Have at least 4 players on each side of the kicker
  - Must have all players inside the 9 yard marks until the ready for play has been blown.
  - Not Touch the ball until the ball has traveled 10 yards

\*Penalty for any violations (*above in # 3*) are 5 yards previous spot, 5 yards from the end of the run by Team B (Receivers), or where the ball is placed after a touchback.

4. Free Kick out of Bounds has 3 enforcements spots: Team B may choose only 1.
  - 5 yards from the previous spot
  - 5 yards from where the ball went of bounds
  - Ball may be placed 30 yards beyond the previous kickers restraining line.
5. An untouched kick that hits the EZ will make the ball become dead and will be a touchback.

## Scrimmage Kicks

1. Fouls by Kickers are either previous spot or end of R's run. Exception (Kick Catch Interference) spot foul not a tack on. Team B (Receivers) will have the choice of the result of the play or the penalty.
2. Touching of a scrimmage kick by the kickers after it has crossed the neutral zone before being touched by the receivers is considered illegal. The receivers may select to have the ball at the illegal touching spot in lieu of the end of the run.
3. It is NOT illegal touching if a member of the kicking is blocked by a member of the receiving team into the ball.
4. A ball that is secured beyond the neutral by the kicking team untouched by the receiving team will place the ball at that spot 1<sup>st</sup> down for the receiving team.
5. An untouched kick that hits the EZ will make the ball become dead and will be a touchback.
6. Legal and Illegal Kicks
  - A scrimmage that is deemed legal is a punt, drop kick, or place kick.
  - A return kick is illegal and makes the ball dead by rule. The official must blow the whistle to stop action. Foul 5yds from the spot of the foul.

- A ball kicked by Team A when the kicker's ENTIRE body is BEYOND the neutral zone makes the ball dead by rule. The official must blow the whistle to stop action. Foul 5yds from the PREVIOUS SPOT + Loss of Down
  - No "material" will be allowed to elevate the ball to gain an advantage for a better kick other than a Tee that is no more than 2 inches above the ground.
7. No kicking team member (Team A) may go out of bounds and RETURN and play on that down. (Exception: Unless blocked out (FR-91 6-3-12)).
8. Kick Catch Interference is foul that is penalty on either a Free Kick or a Scrimmage Kick
- Kick Catch Interference however shall not be called once the ball touches the ground.

Examples of Kick Catch Interference- Receiver is in position to catch the ball

- Kicking Team player is next to the Receiver and is **shouting at him** – Receiver catches the ball.
- Kicking Team player sprints past the Receiver – **very close to him** - Receiver catches the ball.
- Kicking Team player stands near the Receiver and **waives hits hands in front of him** - Receiver catches the ball.
- Just after the Receiver touches the ball a Kicking Team player **tackles him and he muffs the kick.**
- Kicking Team player is **so close to the Receiver that he cannot extend his arms** to catch the kick and muffs the kick.
- Receiver gives a Valid Fair Catch signal – muffs the catch and the ball is in the air above him when a Kicking Team player tackles him.

\*Penalty enforcement for Kick Catch Interference is 15 yards from the spot of the foul. If the foul occurs in the EZ an awarded touchback may be chosen and then enforced from the 20 yd line. The receiving may ONLY choose the foul or the result of the play. They may not have the foul tacked onto the end of the run.

9. A Fair Catch-Must be honored if a **VALID** signal is made. If an **Invalid Signal** is made such as waiving the arms back and forth trying to get people out of the way, signaled after the ball is touched or possessed, or after the ball has touched the ground the official will blow the ball dead when it is immediately possessed.
10. A member of the receiving may not block an opponent after giving a Valid or Invalid during that down.

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11. Post Scrimmage Kick Enforcement-The PSK spot is the spot where the kick ends when there is a foul by the receiving team. Requirements that need to happen in order for there to be PSK
- a) During scrimmage kick plays other than a Try or a Successful Field Goal, and During Extra Periods.
  - b) During a scrimmage kick play in which the ball crosses the neutral zone.

- c) Three yards or more beyond the neutral zone.
  - d) Before the end of the kick
  - e) Team must not have possession of the ball when the down is over
12. If the receiving team commits a foul behind the postscrimmage spot the enforcement will be from the spot of the foul.

To understand enforcement of fouls an official must know what the 3 and 1 Principle is.

The 3 and 1 Principle is...

1. When the team in possession commits a foul behind the basic spot, the penalty is enforced at the spot of the foul.
2. When the team in possession commits a foul beyond the basic spot, the penalty is enforced at the basic spot.
3. When the team not in possession commits a foul either behind or beyond the basic spot, the penalty is enforced at the basic spot.

