

1. A 1/goal @ B-5. Running back A1 gets the handoff and runs for a touchdown. After the down is over, lineman A2 and defender B3 begin exchanging expletives, or, as the Umpire, who threw the flag, said: "I got FU's on A2 and B3." The umpire is not sure who started the expletive exchange.

- a. The umpire has flagged A2 and B3 for personal fouls.
- b. The umpire has flagged A2 and B3 for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- c. It doesn't matter what you call the fouls, don't worry about it.

RULING: Per 2-16-2f and 9-5-1b, these are unsportsmanlike fouls since they are non-contact and involve the use of profanity. It does matter what we call the fouls, since the second unsportsmanlike fouls results in ejection per 9-5 penalty. Since it was not known which foul was committed first, we would not do a distance walk-off, per 9.4.1a and 10.2.5b.

2. First overtime period, score 0-0 in the "top" of the period. A 4/goal @ 10. A lines up for a field goal attempt, but the kick is no good. B's players start celebrating because they have a kicker who almost never misses. They continue to celebrate, and the Umpire throws a flag for excessive celebration. **[Note: for purposes of this question, all references to yard lines are at the same end of the field.]**

- a. A will replay the down.
- b. A will get a new series, A 1/goal @ 5.
- c. The next down will be B 1/10 @ 25.
- d. The next down will be B 1/goal @ 25.

RULING: Excessive celebration by a player is a violation of 9-5-1c, an unsportsmanlike act. Per 10-4-5a, all unsportsmanlike acts have the basic spot as the succeeding spot. Since this is overtime, the succeeding spot is the start of B's series, the 10 yard line. We mark off 15 yards from B's 10 yard line, and in accordance with the overtime rules exception 5-3-1, the line to gain is always the goal line, so B 1/goal @ 25.

3. A 2/10 @ A-40. A is out of time outs and is behind by 6 points with under 2 minutes to go. The game clock is running. B's coach sends in a substitute, B-12. The player he was supposed to go in for, B-11, does not realize he is supposed to be off the field until Team A comes to the line. More than 3 seconds elapse. LJ and BJ both have counted 12 and begin to throw their flags just as B-11 begins to run off the field, but he is at the numbers when the ball is snapped. LJ and BJ throw flags and blow their whistles prior to the snap, but the ball is snapped anyway and A's quarterback spikes the ball after receiving a direct hand-to-hand snap.

- a. Clock will start on the snap for the next down.
- b. Clock will start on the ready for the next down.
- c. LJ and BJ had inadvertent whistles.
- d. LJ and BJ had flags for illegal participation.

RULING: B11 is a replaced player, and he must leave the field within 3 seconds per 3-7-1. Per 3.7.1b, once the officials have determined that there are more than 11 players prior to the snap, a dead-ball illegal substitution foul should be charged since a player did not leave within 3 seconds. Since the ball became dead by the officials' whistles (4-2-1), we technically have an official's time out per 3-5-7j. The status of the clock has not changed, therefore, we start the

clock on the ready for play. The incomplete pass did not actually happen, since the ball was dead prior to the snap.

4. A 1/10 @ B-20. A1's forward pass is intercepted by B2 in the end zone. During B2's return, B3 blocks A4 in the back @ B-5. B2 is eventually tackled by a horse-collar and downed @ 50, in-bounds.

- a. B can accept the penalty for the horse-collar foul and keep the ball.
- b. B must decline the penalty for the horse-collar foul to keep the ball.
- c. B has no choice.
- d. No matter what happens, the clock starts on the ready for the next down.

RULING: We have a change of possession, but B got the ball with "clean hands", in other words, they got the ball free of foul, per 10.2.2B. Since both A and B committed live ball fouls, the captain of B, the last team in possession, may accept or decline the penalty for A's foul. If B accepts the penalty for A's horse-collar foul, it creates a double foul. B may retain possession by declining the penalty for the horse-collar foul, in which case, it would be B's ball, 1/10 @ B-2½. If B accepts the foul, and we have a double foul, we replay the down, and the only reason the clock stopped was to enforce the penalty. Since we had a double foul in that case, B did not get a new series, and we start the clock on the ready. If B wants the ball, however, they are awarded a new series and we start on the snap, per 3-4-3b.

5. A 1/10 @ A-15. Quarterback A1 throws a legal forward pass that is intercepted by B2 @ 50. As B2 is running with the ball, B3 blocks in the back @ A-35. B2 continues to run for an apparent touchdown as time expires for the first half. B2 then is flagged for excessive celebration after the apparent touchdown, but A4 decides to take matters into his own hands and knocks B2 to the ground.

- a. If A declines the penalty for the block in the back, B scores a touchdown.
- b. The spot of enforcement for the block in the back is the A-35.
- c. The spot of enforcement for the block in the back is the goal line.
- d. If A accepts the penalty for the block in the back, B gets an untimed down.
- e. Both the B2 foul and the A4 fouls are unsportsmanlike conduct.

RULING: Same discussion as in #4, above: we have a change of possession, but B got the ball with "clean hands", in other words, they got the ball free of foul, per 10.2.2B. The only live ball foul we have in this situation is the block in the back (BIB) by B3: the excessive celebration is a dead-ball foul, as is the late hit by A4, since both fouls occurred after the apparent touchdown. Therefore, we talk to the A captain, and say something like "If you decline the BIB, they will score a touchdown, so you want the penalty, right?" We would then enforce the BIB from the spot of the foul, the A-35, using the "but one" exception to the "all but one" principle—a foul by the offense behind the basic spot. That takes the ball from the A-35 to the A-45. We would then enforce the dead ball fouls in order of their occurrence. We would go from the A-45 to the B-40 for the excessive celebration, which is a USC foul (9-5-1c), and then go from the B-40 to the A-45 for the late hit by A4, which is a personal foul (9-4-3b). We would set the sticks, B 1/10 @ A-45. Since the BIB actually occurred during the down, we had an accepted foul during the last timed down of the period. Per 3-3-3a we would extend the period for an untimed down.

6. A 4/10 @ A-30. A1 is an eligible receiver at the snap. After the snap, A1 is being closely guarded by defender B2 as they go down the field. A1 tries to evade B2, and in doing so, A1 runs out of bounds (without being contacted by B2) @ A-40, returning inbounds @ A-45. Without contacting B2, A1 catches a legal forward pass @ 50 and runs for an apparent touchdown.

- a. A1 committed offensive pass interference.
- b. A1 committed illegal touching.
- c. A1 committed illegal participation.
- d. A1 committed illegal substitution.
- e. Clock starts on the ready for the next down.
- f. Clock starts on the snap for the next down.
- g. Spot of the foul is the 50.
- h. Spot of the foul is the A-40.
- i. No foul occurred, player re-entered legally.

RULING: Per fundamental VII.1, a player who is eligible at the start of the down remains eligible throughout the down. Therefore, A1 did not commit either OPI or illegal touching. Per 9-6-1, any A player who goes out of bounds, unblocked by B, and returns to the field, prior to a change in possession has committed illegal participation. Since the ball became dead behind the goal, per 3-4-3d, the clock starts on the snap. Spot of the foul is where A1 returns, per 9.6.1A, the A-45. So, go 15 from the A-45, repeat the down, A 4/10 @ A-30.

7. K 4/goal @ R-5. K1's field goal attempt is good. During the down, R2 roughs holder K3.

- a. K can accept the penalty and take the points.
- b. K can accept the penalty and have a first down.
- c. K has no choice.

RULING: The penalty for roughing the holder includes an automatic first down per 9-4-5 Penalty. We had a successful field goal, therefore, per 8-4-3, K has 2 choices: accepting the penalty for the roughing the holder, giving K 1/goal @ R-2½, and taking the points off the board. The second choice is to accept the result of the play—in other words, keep the 3 points, and enforce the roughing penalty on the succeeding kickoff, K kickoff @ R-45.

8. K 4/10 @ 50. K1's punt is in the air when R2 makes a valid fair catch signal @ R-20. No K players are in close to him, but R2 muffs the ball anyway, causing it to go flying high in the air, behind him, where K3 catches the ball @ R-15 and begins to run. K3 is @ R-10 when the BJ blows his whistle.

- a. Inadvertent whistle by BJ.
- b. Kick catching interference by K3.
- c. No foul, K's ball 1/10 @ R-10.
- d. The clock will start on the snap for the next down.

RULING: A kick is a kick until it is possessed or is dead by rule, per 2-24-2. R was the first to touch a scrimmage kick while it is beyond the expanded neutral zone, so the team in possession at the end of the down gets a new series, per 5-1-3f. K3's catch is legal, but the catch caused the ball to become dead at the spot of the catch, the R-15, per 6-2-4. Since we have a new series following a legal kick, we start the clock on the snap per 3-4-3c. K 1/10 @ R-15.

9. A 4/3 @ 50. QB A1 drops back to pass, but is sacked by B2 @ A-45 and is down there; however, B2 grabs but does not twist A1's face mask during the tackle (live ball).

- a. Enforce the face mask foul from the previous spot.
- b. The penalty for any face mask foul is an automatic first down.
- c. The penalty for a 15 yard face mask foul is an automatic first down.
- d. After we assess the penalty, A 4/3 @ 50.
- e. If A declines the penalty, it is B's ball.

Ruling: Running play, 5 yards from the end of the run, repeat the down. Enforce from A-45 to the 50, A 4/3 @ 50. If A declines the penalty, they failed to meet the line to gain on 4<sup>th</sup> down, therefore it would be B's ball.

10. K kickoff to start the game @ K-40. K1's line drive kick hits R1 in the chest @ R48, then bounces straight off his chest and into the arms of K2 @ K-45. K2 starts to run but the LJ blows the ball dead. Game clock says 12:00.

- a. K2 committed kick catching interference.
- b. K2 committed first touching.
- c. LJ should have thrown a bean bag at the spot where R1 touched the ball.
- d. LJ should have wound the clock when R1 touched the ball.
- e. R will put the ball in play next.

RULING: This free kick has both crossed R's free kick line and been touched by R, so there is no first touching by K, per 2-12-1. We wind the clock on touching of a free kick other than first touching, per 3-4-3. The prohibition on K catching a kick ends when the kick was touched by R per 6-5-6. So, we should have had a wind upon R1's touching of the kick, then a whistle when K2 caught the ball. K 1/10 @ K-45. We should probably have run a couple of seconds off of the game clock.

11. K try @ R-3. K1's kick try is good, and R2 is called for running into the kicker. After the down is over, the K team starts to protest the hit by R2, and in the ensuing scuffle, the HL throws a flag for a personal foul on K3.

- a. K can accept the penalty for the running into the kicker (RIK) foul and go for 2 points.
- b. K can have the penalty for the RIK foul assessed on the kickoff.
- c. If K accepts the penalty for the RIK foul and goes for 2, K will try @ R-16 ½.
- d. If K accepts the penalty for the RIK foul on the kickoff, K will kick off @ K-30.
- e. Double fouls, replay the down.

RULING: We had 2 fouls: a live ball foul for running into the kicker and a dead ball personal foul. When a live ball foul by one team is followed by a dead-ball foul by the opponent, the penalties are administered separately and in the order of occurrence. K can accept the penalty for running into the kicker on the try, and go for 2 points from the R-1 ½, which is half the distance to the goal line. Since the dead ball foul occurs after the down was over, the 15 yard penalty would be enforced from the R-1 ½ to the R-16 ½. K could ask to have the penalty assessed on the ensuing kickoff, which would move the ball from the K-40 to the K-45, but then the penalty against them for the personal foul would move the ball from the K-45 to the K-30.

12. A 1/10 @ A-3. Quarterback A1 is being chased deep into his own end zone, and, in desperation, throws a pass with both hands in the general direction of eligible receiver A2. A2 is standing on the goal line when he is blocked by linebacker B3, above the waist. The block by B3 knocks A2 down to the ground, and B3 catches the ball in flight while he is standing in the A end zone. (No other player touched the ball in flight other than B3.)

- a. B3 has committed defensive pass interference (DPI) by rule.
- b. It is a judgment call by the covering official as to whether B3 has committed DPI.
- c. A1 has thrown an illegal forward pass because he used 2 hands.
- d. No foul on either team, touchdown stands.

RULING: Pass interference restrictions only apply beyond the neutral zone per 7-5-7. Touching by B behind the neutral zone, as occurred here, wipes out all pass interference restrictions, per 7-5-7. There is no restriction on the manner that a forward pass can be throw, as long as the A player throws the pass prior to a change in possession and while both feet are in or behind the NZ per 7-5-1. Since B now has possession of the ball in A's end zone, touchdown for B.

13. A 1/goal @ B-8. Running back A1 is stopped for a 2 yard loss @ B-10, then linebacker B2 is flagged for a late hit.

- a. Repeat the down, enforce from end of the run, so next down is A 1/goal @ B-5.
- b. Repeat the down, enforce from previous spot, so next down is A 1/goal @ B-4.
- c. Enforce from succeeding spot, A 2/goal @ B-5.

RULING: Late hit is a dead ball foul, enforce from succeeding spot (10-4-5b), which is the B-10. Go from the B-10 half distance to the B-5, per 10-1-5. As with all dead-ball fouls, the down counts, so A 2/goal @ B-5. .

14. K kickoff @ R-45 (moved by penalty). K1's kickoff goes out of bounds, untouched by R, @ R-18, on the HL's sideline.

- a. R can choose a re-kick from the 50.
- b. R can choose R 1/10 @ R-20.
- c. R can choose R 1/10 @ R-18.
- d. If R chooses any choice other than a re-kick, they can designate where to put the ball in play anywhere within the hashmarks.

RULING: Per 6-1-8, R's choices 1) Accept a 5-yard penalty from the previous spot (from R-45 to the 50), and have K re-kick; 2) Put the ball in play **at the inbounds spot** 25 yards from the previous spot (R-45 to the R-20), R 1/10 @ R-20; 3) Decline the penalty and put the ball in play **at the inbounds spot** (R 1/10 @ R-18). In a game situation, we would only give R's coach the first 2 options. If option 2 is selected, the ball is put in play at the inbounds spot, which is the hashmark on the HL's side of the field.

15. A 1/10 @ A-20. Quarterback A1 goes back to pass, but is under heavy pressure from several defenders. A1 is @ A-10 when he looks as if he has decided to run—he tucks the ball under his arm and runs toward his line of scrimmage. Two of the A team's interior linemen, #56 and #59, see A1 running and they begin to run downfield, also. Eligible receiver A2 is @ A-35 when he sees A1 begin to run. A2 turns and blocks defensive back B3 from the front, above the waist @ A-35. After A2's block, quarterback A1 gets away from the defensive pressure and is @ A-18

when he throws a legal forward pass, untouched by B, toward eligible receiver A4. The pass falls incomplete @ A-30. #56 and #59 are @ A-25 when the pass is released.

- a. #56 and #59 committed fouls for ineligible receivers downfield.
- b. No foul by A2 since the block occurred prior to the pass.
- c. A2 has committed offensive pass interference.
- d. B will probably want to decline any penalty that occurred since the pass was incomplete.

RULING: Ineligibles downfield by #56 and #59 per 7-5-12: they must remain in or behind the ENZ until the pass is in flight. OPI by A2, since restrictions start at the snap per 7-5-7. Half distance from previous spot for OPI, LOD, A 2/20 @ A-10.

16. A 1/10 @ A-20. A1, wearing #90, runs a pass route to the @ A-30 near the A sideline. A legal forward pass intended for A-1 lands out of bounds. A1 walks back toward the numbers on the B sideline, but never enters the huddle. The RFP sounds for second down, and A1 runs across the field toward the B sideline, never going into the A huddle. A1 lines up as an eligible receiver next to the B sideline and remains stationary for several seconds. The ball is snapped, A1 catches a legal forward pass and runs for a TD.

- a. Foul on A1 for not going into the huddle.
- b. No foul by A1.

RULING: There is no requirement for any player to go into a huddle; however, all A players must have been between the 9 yard marks between the RFP and the snap, per 7-2-1. Since A1 ran from sideline to sideline, he obviously met this requirement. No foul by A1.

17. K 3/goal @ R-10, 10 seconds are left in the first half, K has no time outs remaining. K1's kick is blocked, but holder K2 recovers the ball @ R-18 and is downed.

- a. R is awarded a new series since K kicked the ball.
- b. Officials should stop the clock once they see that K2 recovered.
- c. Next down will be K 4/goal @ R-18.

RULING: The only way R gains possession after a scrimmage kick is for R to recover, the ball is in joint possession, it goes out of bounds, or becomes dead with no player in possession, per 5-1-3e. None of these situations apply, so we go to the next down. There is no basis for stopping the clock once the officials have determined that K recovered.

18. A 1/10 @ A-20. A1's legal forward pass is caught inbounds by eligible A2 @ A-35, who runs to the @ A-40 where he is down in-bounds. B3 is flagged for roughing the passer (RTP) @ A-15.

- a. A will probably decline the penalty since they gained more than 15 yards.
- b. Spot of enforcement for the RTP foul is the A-35.
- c. Spot of enforcement for the RTP foul is the A-20.
- d. The game clock will start on the snap for the next down.
- e. The game clock will start on the ready for the next down.
- f. Status of the clock depends on penalty acceptance.

RULING: The special enforcement provision for RTP fouls is listed in 9-4-4 as the end of the last run when the last run ends beyond the NZ and there has been no change in possession. The last run ended @ A-40, so we go from the A-40 to the B-45, A/10 @ B-45. Since the clock was

stopped when the run ended inbounds, we had an official's time out to administer the penalty, clock starts on the ready, per 3-4-2.

19. A try @ B-3. A1's run attempt is stopped for no gain, but B2 is flagged for a 15 yard face mask. A decides to take the yardage and replay the down and the A captain asks the umpire to spot the ball at the left hashmark. A lines up for the try again, but before they can snap the ball, lineman A3 commits a false start. After the penalty is assessed, the A captain comes up to the umpire and asks to put the ball in play in the middle of the field.

- a. If B accepts the penalty for the false start, A will have the ball @ B-6 ½ .
- b. If B accepts the penalty for the false start, A can place the ball anywhere between the hashmarks.
- c. A does not have the right to spot the ball in the middle of the field since they committed the foul.

RULING: First, the enforcement for the facemask: even though it is a 15 yard penalty, we cannot penalize B more than half the distance to the goal. So, foul during a running play, spot of enforcement is the end of the run, the B-3, half the distance to the B 1 ½, so A will re-try @ B-1 ½ . Next, we have the false start by A3, which is a 5 yard penalty from the succeeding spot, so A re-try @ B-6 ½ . Per 4-3-6a, A can designate where to put the ball in play for a try, and per 4-3-7, if a team has the right to designate a spot they still retain that right if a dead ball foul occurs, as in this case.

20. K 4/5 @ 50. K punts a high kick to the R-5. R1 gives a valid fair catch signal prior to the ball striking him in the chest and bouncing into the air. Immediately after the ball strikes him in the chest and is still airborne, a K1 blocks R1 in the chest, knocking him to the ground as the ball becomes grounded and is recovered by K2 @ R-8.

- a. Kick catching interference (KCI) on K, awarded fair catch at the 5 yard line. R 1/10 @ R-5.
- b. KCI on K, 15-yard penalty from the spot of the foul, R 1/10 @ R-20.
- c. KCI on K, 15-yard penalty from the previous spot, K 4/20 @ K-35.
- d. Legal play. K 1/goal @ R-8.

RULING: Once the receiver doesn't make the catch cleanly, he can be hit, per 6-5-6.

21. A 3/3 @ A8, 1:15 remaining in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, A leads 20-17. A1 bobbles snap, ball goes into A's end zone where it is recovered by A1, who throws pass downfield to eligible A2. On the play A3 holds in the end zone. Pass is intercepted by B1 @ A-30, where he is immediately tackled. 1:03 remains on the clock.

- a. B must accept the penalty because the enforcements result is a score (safety).
- b. B has a choice of accepting or declining the penalty.
- c. If B accepts the holding penalty, the result is a safety, two points, making the score A20-B19. A would free-kick from the A20. Clock would start when legally touched.
- d. If B declines the penalty, they will put the ball in play, 1-10 on their opponent's 30.. Clock will start on the snap.

RULING: You need to be extremely careful in explaining the options. It would be a good idea to make sure the B coach himself hears the options. I would make sure the wing official on the B side line explained the options directly to the head coach.

22. A 4/goal @ B1. A1 dives into the line causing a pile-up. Ball comes loose and is recovered in the end zone by B. Wing officials determine that ball was in A1's possession when he broke the plane of the goal line. TD is awarded. After the play, two B players and the B head coach are assessed flags for unsportsmanlike conduct.

- a. Game is forfeited because of three unsportsmanlike penalties.
- b. Penalties on B must be administered on try.
- c. Penalties on B can be administered on try or ensuing kickoff.
- d. Penalties on B must be administered on ensuing kickoff.
- e. If penalties are administered on ensuing kickoff, K will kick from R-15.
- f. K can refuse distance markoff on any of the penalties.

RULING: If K accepts all three of the unsportsmanlike penalties against B, they would kick from the R15, which would give them only 5 yards to recover the ball and prevent a touchback. K may opt to decline the yardage on one or more of the penalties and kick from either the R30 or R45.

23. A 3/1 @ B-44. A breaks from huddle and comes to the LOS with three lineman side by side (#88,#75 and #62) on the left of the center on the LOS with their hands on the ground and a wideout (#18) on the LOS five yards outside A88. They shift, A18 stays put and A88 moves to the right side of the center becoming the TE on the opposite side. The play goes off with 7 on the line and everyone legally set for a full second before anyone goes in motion. Running play gains two yards, earning a first down.

- a. Legal play, A 1/10 @ B-42.
- b. False start. A 3/6 @ B-49.
- c. Illegal shift, options are result of the play or A 3/6 @ B-49.

RULING: Should have been a false start. A88 was covered on the LOS by A18. When A88 shifted, he was an interior lineman with his hands on /near the ground. Play should have been blown dead at that point.

24. Opening kickoff. Deep kick, R1 receives ball @ R-5 and runs a reverse with R2, handing the ball to R2 as R2 cuts in front of him at the R15 yard line. R2 continues down the field, finally being tackled @ K-10, being jerked to the ground by the face mask

- a. R 1/10 @ K-5 after ½ distance face mask penalty.
- b. R 1/10 @ R-10 after 5-yard penalty for forward handing.
- c. Replay kickoff, offsetting penalties during down.

RULING: Had K not committed the face mask penalty, R would have the ball 1-10 @ their own 10 for a new series. If R accepts the penalty for the face mask foul, the penalties offset, replay.

25. 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr, 0:30 remain. Having just scored, K is set to kickoff from K40, trailing 21-19. K aligns in traditional formation, 5 on each side of kicker. When ball is marked ready for play, four of the players on the kicker's left shift to the right as the kicker approaches the ball, leaving only one K

player on the left side of the ball when it is kicked. None of the players on either team encroach. K1 kicks the ball immediately into the ground causing it to bounce high into the air toward the right sideline near midfield, where it is first touched by K2 @ R-49. Thereafter it is touched/muffed in succession by R1, R2, K3 and R4 before finally being recovered inbounds @ K-48 by K4, whose feet and legs are lying on the ground across the sideline when he recovers the ball.

- a. Illegal Formation, insufficient players on one side of the ball. Live ball foul on K. Five-yard penalty. Replay down.
- b. Clock starts when ball is touched by K2.
- c. Clock starts when ball is touched by R1.
- d. First touching by K2.
- e. Legal recovery by K. Their ball 1-10 at K48 yard-line.
- f. Penalty on K, ball did not go required 10 yards before being recovered. Replay down with 5-yard penalty.
- g. Ball is considered out-of-bounds last touched by K. R ball, 1-10, at K48 yard-line.
- h. R can opt for a 5-yard penalty on K and a re-kick because K last touched a kick that went out-of-bounds.

**RULING:** NF has no requirement for a minimum number of players on either side of the ball in a free kick formation. Ball traveled 10 yards before being touched first by K – clock starts, not first touching. Ball is considered out-of-bounds when touched by any player out-of-bounds. K4 is considered out-of-bounds. Touching precedes possession. There is no option for a re-kick since R touched the ball during the play.