

## **FOOTBALL RULES SUMMARY**

### **RULE 4 BALL IN PLAY, DEAD BALL AND OUT OF BOUNDS**

**\* A FREE KICK IS ONE OF TWO WAYS TO GET A DEAD BALL ALIVE. THE FOLLOWING ARE TIMES WHEN A FREE KICK IS TO BE MADE:**

- 1) FOR A KICKOFF TO START EACH HALF.
- 2) FOR A KICKOFF AFTER A TRY OR AFTER A MADE FIELD GOAL.
- 3) AFTER A SAFETY
- 4) WHEN A FREE KICK IS CHOSEN FOLLOWING A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH.
- 5) WHEN THE DOWN FOLLOWING A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH IS TO BE REPLAYED AND A FREE KICK IS CHOSEN.
- 6) WHEN ANY FREE KICK DOWN IS TO BE REPLAYED.

**\* A LEGAL SNAP IS ONE OF TWO WAYS TO GET A DEAD BALL ALIVE.**

\* ALL SNAPS AND FREE KICKS ARE TO BE PUT IN PLAY BETWEEN THE INBOUNDS LINES. WHEN THE BALL IS LIVE A DOWN IS IN PROGRESS.

**\* THE BALL REMAINS DEAD (IT DOES NOT BECOME LIVE) IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR:**

- 1) THE BALL IS SNAPPED OR FREE KICKED PRIOR TO IT BEING MARKED READY FOR PLAY.
- 2) THERE IS AN ILLEGAL SNAP OR OTHER SNAP INFRACTION.
- 3) A DEAD BALL FOUL.

**\* THE BALL BECOMES DEAD AND A DOWN IS ENDED WHEN:**

- 1) WHEN THE RUNNER GOES OUT OF BOUNDS.
- 2) WHEN ANY PART OF THE RUNNERS BODY OTHER THAN HIS HAND OR FOOT TOUCHES THE GROUND. EXCEPTION:  
IF AT THE SNAP A PLACEKICK HOLDER HAS A KNEE(S) ON THE GROUND AND THERE IS A TEAMMATE IN KICKING POSITION AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OCCURS:
  - A) CATCHES OR RECOVERS THE SNAP WHILE THE KNEE IS ON THE GROUND AND PLACES THE BALL FOR A KICK.
  - B) RISES AND CATCHES AN ERRANT SNAP AND IMMEDIATELY RETURNS THE KNEE(S) TO THE GROUND AND PLACES THE BALL FOR A KICK.
- 3) WHEN THE RUNNERS FORWARD PROGRESS IS STOPPED.
- 4) WHEN A LIVE BALL GOES OUT OF BOUNDS.
- 5) WHEN A LEGAL OR ILLEGAL FORWARD PASS IS INCOMPLETE OR IF THERE IS A SIMULTANEOUS CATCH BY OPPOSING PLAYERS.
- 6) WHEN ANY LEGAL FREE KICK OR SCRIMMAGE KICK THAT IS NOT A SCORING ATTEMPT BREAKS THE PLANE OF R'S GOAL LINE.
- 7) WHEN ANY LEGAL FREE KICK OR SCRIMMAGE KICK THAT IS A SCORING ATTEMPT TOUCHES A 'K' PLAYER IN 'R'S' END ZONE OR AFTER BREAKING THE PLANE OF 'R'S' GOAL LINE HAS APPARENTLY FAILED.
- 8) WHEN ANY LOOSE BALL IS SIMULTANEOUSLY CAUGHT OR RECOVERED BY OPPOSING PLAYERS (THIS INCLUDES AN ILLEGAL PASS).
- 9) IS ON THE GROUND MOTIONLESS AND NO PLAYER ATTEMPTS TO SECURE POSSESSION OF THE BALL.
- 10) TOUCHES OR IS TOUCHED BY ANYTHING INBOUNDS THAT IS NOT A PLAYER, A SUBSTITUTE, A REPLACED PLAYER, AN OFFICIAL, AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT OR THE GROUND (EXAMPLE: A DOG). IF THIS HAPPENS THE PLAY IS TREATED AS AN INADVERTENT WHISTLE.
- 11) WHEN THE KICKERS CATCH OR RECOVER ANY FREE KICK ANYWHERE.
- 12) WHEN THE KICKERS ARE THE FIRST TO TOUCH A SCRIMMAGE KICK BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE AND BETWEEN THE GOAL LINES THAT HAS COME TO REST.
- 13) FOLLOWING A VALID OR INVALID FAIR CATCH SIGNAL BY THE RECEIVING TEAM, WHEN ANY MEMBER OF THE RECEIVING TEAM CATCHES OR RECOVERS THE BALL.
- 14) WHEN A TOUCHDOWN OR FIELD GOAL OCCURS.
- 15) WHEN 'B' GAINS POSSESSION ON A TRY OR IF 'B' GAINS POSSESSION IN OVERTIME.
- 16) WHEN AN OFFICIAL SOUNDS HIS WHISTLE INADVERTENTLY.
- 17) WHEN THE HELMET COMES COMPLETELY OFF OF THE PLAYER IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL.

**\* INADVERTENT WHISTLE**

\* AN INADVERTENT WHISTLE IS WHEN AN OFFICIAL BLOWS THE BALL DEAD DURING A TIME WHEN IT SHOULD BE LIVE. WE CAN CORRECT THESE SITUATIONS BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) A LEGAL FORWARD PASS OR SNAP IN FLIGHT, OR DURING A LEGAL KICK, THE DOWN WILL (MUST) BE REPLAYED.
- 2) THE BALL IS LOOSE FOLLOWING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE, ILLEGAL FORWARD PASS OR ILLEGAL KICK, THE TEAM LAST IN POSSESSION MAY CHOOSE TO PUT THE BALL IN PLAY WHERE POSSESSION WAS LOST OR REPLAY THE DOWN.
- 3) THE BALL IS IN PLAYER POSSESSION THE TEAM MAY CHOOSE TO ACCEPT THE PLAY AT THE SPOT OR THEY MAY REPLAY THE DOWN.

**\* INBOUNDS SPOT**

\* IF THE BALL GOES OUT OF BOUNDS WHETHER ITS IN PLAYER POSSESSION OR IT IS LOOSE THE SPOT IS FIXED BY THE YARD LINE WHERE THE FOREMOST POINT OF THE BALL CROSSED THE SIDELINE. THE BALL IS RETURNED INBOUNDS TO AN INBOUNDS SPOT. THE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS IS A LEGAL FORWARD PASS THAT IS INCOMPLETE OR A REPLAY DUE TO AN INADVERTENT WHISTLE.

\* IF THE BALL GOES OUT OF BOUNDS BEHIND A GOAL LINE IT IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) SAFETY
- 2) FIELD GOAL
- 3) TOUCHBACK

\* IF THE BALL BECOMES DEAD IN A SIDE ZONE, PLAY WILL BE RESUMED AT THE INBOUNDS SPOT WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

- 1) A LEGAL FORWARD PASS INCOMPLETION- RETURNED TO PREVIOUS SPOT
- 2) A REPLAY DUE TO AN INADVERTENT WHISTLE- RETURNED TO PREVIOUS SPOT.
- 3) A REPLAYED TRY- TEAM MAY DESIGNATE SPOT.
- 4) A FREE KICK OR SNAP WHICH FOLLOWS A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH. THE TEAM MAY DESIGNATE THE SPOT.

**\* BEFORE THE READY FOR PLAY SIGNAL A TEAM MAY DESIGNATE THE PLACE BETWEEN THE INBOUNDS LINE ON THE APPROPRIATE YARD LINE THAT THEY WANT TO SNAP OR FREE KICK THE BALL FROM IN THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS.:**

- 1) FOR A TRY
- 2) FOR A KICKOFF
- 3) FOLLOWING A SAFETY
- 4) FOLLOWING A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH
- 5) FOLLOWING A TOUCHBACK
- 6) FOR THE START OF EACH SERIES IN THE OVERTIME PROCEDURE