

FOOTBALL RULES SUMMARY

RULE 6 KICKING THE BALL AND FAIR CATCH

A FEW OBSERVATIONS PRIOR TO GETTING INTO THE HEART OF THIS RULE.

* MANY ERRORS CAN AND DO OCCUR DURING THE KICKING PART OF THE GAME.

BELOW ARE A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER.

1) ALL LEGAL KICKS ARE PART OF A LOOSE BALL PLAY. THUS THE BASIC SPOT FOR PENALTY ENFORCEMENT IS THE PREVIOUS SPOT. EXCEPTION IS PSK ENFORCEMENT.

2) THE KICK ENDS WHEN THE KICKED BALL IS CAUGHT OR RECOVERED OR BECOMES DEAD BY RULE.

3) ON A FREE KICK 'K' CAN RECOVER THE BALL BUT THEY CANNOT ADVANCE THE BALL.

4) ON A SCRIMMAGE KICK , 'K' CAN RECOVER A BALL THAT HAS GONE BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE AND IS TOUCHED BY 'R' BUT 'K' CANNOT ADVANCE THE BALL.

5) ON A SCRIMMAGE KICK ANY KICK THAT HAS GONE BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE AND HAS BEEN FIRST TOUCHED THERE BY 'R' WILL RESULT IN A FIRST DOWN FOR THE TEAM IN POSSESSION AFTER THE DOWN HAS ENDED.

6) A KICKED BALL THAT BREAKS THE PLANE OF THE OPPONENTS GOAL LINE IS DEAD AND CANNOT BE ADVANCED. (EXCEPTION: A FREE KICK OR A SCRIMMAGE KICK THAT CAN SCORE A FIELD GOAL OR AN EXTRA POINT IS NOT DEAD WHEN IT CROSSES THE GOAL LINE).

7) AN ILLEGAL KICK IS TREATED THE SAME WAY AS A FUMBLE.

8) A KICKER IS SOMEONE THAT ACTUALLY KICKS THE BALL. IF THE PLAYER DOES NOT ACTUALLY MAKE CONTACT WITH THE BALL WITH HIS KNEE OR LOWER LEG THEN HE CANNOT BE ROUGHED. (HE CAN BE FOULED, BUT HE CANNOT BE ROUGHED).

9) A FAIR CATCH CAN ONLY BE MADE BY THE PLAYER THAT SIGNALS FOR THE FAIR CATCH.

10) IF ANY PLAYER OF THE RECEIVING TEAM SIGNALS FOR A FAIR CATCH THE BALL BECOMES DEAD WHEN CAUGHT OR RECOVERED AND IT CANNOT BE ADVANCED.

FREE KICKS:

- * ON A FREE KICK EACH TEAM HAS A FREE KICK LINE (SIMILAR TO A SCRIMMAGE LINE). THESE LINES ARE ALWAYS 10 YARDS APART. UNLESS MOVED BY A PENALTY 'K'S FREE KICK LINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - A) KICKOFF-K'S 40 YARD LINE.
 - B) FOLLOWING A SAFETY--K'S 20 YARD LINE.
 - C) FOLLOWING A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH: THE YARD LINE THROUGH THE SPOT OF THE CATCH OR THE AWARDED FAIR CATCH.
- * ON A FREE KICK THE KICK MAY BE MADE FROM ANY POINT BETWEEN THE INBOUNDS LINES (HASH MARKS). THE FREE KICK MUST BE MADE FROM THE DESIGNATED SPOT AND ON THE FREE KICK LINE. A PUNT MAY BE USED FOR A FREE KICK, BUT ONLY AFTER A SAFETY. IF A PUNT IS USED THE KICK MUST BE MADE WITHIN ONE STEP BEHIND K'S FREE KICK LINE.
- * ENCROACHMENT: ON A FREE KICK IT IS ENCROACHMENT FOR ANY PLAYER OTHER THAN THE KICKER OR PLACE KICK HOLDER TO BE BEYOND THEIR FREE KICK LINE ONCE THE BALL HAS BEEN MARKED READY FOR PLAY.
- * ANY RECEIVER MAY CATCH OR RECOVER ANY FREE KICK AND ADVANCE IT UNLESS:
 - A) ANY PLAYER FOR 'R' HAS SIGNALLED FOR A FAIR CATCH.
 - B) THE KICK GOES INTO 'R'S END ZONE.
- * ANY KICKER CAN RECOVER A FREE KICK AND THE BALL IS HIS (HE CANNOT ADVANCE THE BALL) PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE:
 - A) THE KICKED BALL HAS GONE AT LEAST 10 YARDS AND TOUCHED THE GROUND.
 - B) A TEAM 'R' PLAYER HAS TOUCHED OR BEEN TOUCHED BY THE BALL.
- * A FREE KICK THAT IS IN JOINT POSSESSION OF OPPONENTS OR BECOMES DEAD WITH NO PLAYER IN POSSESSION BELONGS TO 'R'.
- * FIRST TOUCHING: ON A FREE KICK THIS IS WHEN A MEMBER OF THE KICKING TEAM TOUCHES OR IS TOUCHED BY THE BALL PRIOR TO THE BALL TRAVELING 10 YARDS. THIS IS NOT A PENALTY AND THE SPOT OF FIRST TOUCHING IS TO BE MARKED WITH A BEAN BAG. THE RECEIVERS WILL HAVE A RIGHT TO TAKE THE BALL AT THE SPOT OF FIRST TOUCHING (ANY SPOT OF FIRST TOUCHING IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE) UNLESS THEY TOUCH THE BALL LATER IN THE DOWN AND THEN COMMIT A PENALTY OR THE PENALTY FOR ANY FOUL IS ACCEPTED. THE CLOCK DOES NOT START ON FIRST TOUCHING.

* **FREE KICKS ARE ONLY REPEATED:**

- A) WHEN A FOUL OCCURS PRIOR TO A CHANGE OF TEAM POSSESSION AND THE PENALTY IS ACCEPTED.
- B) THERE IS A DOUBLE FOUL.
- C) THERE IS AN INADVERTENT WHISTLE DURING THE KICK.

*** NOTE: PSK IS NOT A FACTOR ON FREE KICKS.

SCRIMMAGE KICKS

- * TEAM 'A' MAY MAKE A SCRIMMAGE KICK AT ANYTIME ON ANY DOWN PROVIDE THE KICK IS FROM IN OR BEHIND THE NEUTRAL ZONE.
- * ANY RECEIVER MAY CATCH OR RECOVER ANY SCRIMMAGE KICK IN THE FIELD OF PLAY (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE END ZONES) AND ADVANCE UNLESS ANY MEMBER OF THE RECEIVING TEAM HAS SIGNALLED FOR A FAIR CATCH. EXCEPTION: THE RECEIVING TEAM MAY NOT ADVANCE A FAILED TRY FOR POINT.
- * ANY MEMBER OF THE KICKING TEAM MAY CATCH OR RECOVER A SCRIMMAGE KICK WHILE IT IS BEHIND THE NEUTRAL ZONE AND ADVANCE (THE DOWN WILL COUNT AND IF THIS OCCURS ON FOURTH DOWN AND THE LINE TO GAIN IS ACHIEVED IT WILL RESULT IN A FIRST DOWN FOR 'K'). EXCEPTION:'K' CANNOT ADVANCE A FAILED TRY.
- * ANY KICKER MAY CATCH OR RECOVER A SCRIMMAGE KICK WHILE IT IS BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE PROVIDED THE KICK HAS TOUCHED OR BEEN TOUCHED BY A RECEIVER THAT WAS BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE. ONCE 'K' GAINS POSSESSION OF THE BALL IT BECOMES DEAD IMMEDIATELY.
- * IF A SCRIMMAGE KICK IS TOUCHED BY ANY MEMBER OF THE KICKING TEAM BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE EXPANDED TO R'S GOAL LINE AND BEFORE IT HAS BEEN TOUCHED THERE BY 'R' IT IS REFERRED TO AS THE SPOT OF FIRST TOUCHING. THE RECEIVING TEAM CAN TAKE THE BALL AT THE SPOT OF FIRST TOUCHING (OR ANY SPOT OF FIRST TOUCHING IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE) UNLESS:
 - A) THEY SELECT THE RESULTS OF THE PLAY
 - B) IF 'R' TOUCHES THE KICK AND LATER COMMITS A FOUL DURING THE DOWN
 - C) IF THE PENALTY FOR ANY FOUL COMMITTED DURING THE DOWN IS ACCEPTED.
- * THE TOUCHING OF A LOW SCRIMMAGE KICK IS IGNORED IF THE TOUCHING OCCURS IN OR BEHIND THE EXPANDED NEUTRAL ZONE. THE NEUTRAL ZONE CANNOT BE EXPANDED INTO THE END ZONE.

*** ON A SCRIMMAGE KICK THE BALL IS AWARDED TO 'R' WHEN:**

- A) THE BALL GOES OUT OF BOUNDS BETWEEN THE GOAL LINE.
- B) BECOMES DEAD INBOUNDS WITH NO PLAYER IN POSSESSION.
- C) THERE IS JOINT POSSESSION BY OPPOSING PLAYERS.

TOUCHBACK

- * IT IS A TOUCHBACK IF ANY FREE KICK OR SCRIMMAGE KICK (THAT IS NOT A THREE POINT SCORING ATTEMPT) BREAKS THE PLANE OF 'R'S GOAL LINE.
- * IF A THREE POINT SCORING ATTEMPT THAT BREAKS THE PLANE OF 'R'S GOAL LINE IN FLIGHT TOUCHES A 'K' PLAYER THAT IS IN 'R'S END ZONE OR AFTER BREAKING THE PLANE OF 'R'S GOAL LINE IS UNSUCCESSFUL.
- * ANY FREE KICK OR SCRIMMAGE KICK THAT BECOMES DEAD IN 'K'S END ZONE WITH NO PLAYER IN POSSESSION, GOES OUT OF BOUNDS IN 'K' END ZONE OR BECOMES DEAD WITH 'K' IN POSSESSION IS A TOUCHBACK IF THE KICK WAS FORCED INTO 'K'S END ZONE BY 'R'.

SAFETY

- * ANY FREE KICK OR SCRIMMAGE KICK THAT BECOMES DEAD IN 'K'S END ZONE WITH NO PLAYER IN POSSESSION, GOES OUT OF BOUNDS IN 'K' END ZONE OR BECOMES DEAD WITH 'K' IN POSSESSION IS A SAFETY IF THE KICK WAS FORCED INTO 'K'S END ZONE BY 'K'.

TOUCHDOWN:

- * ANY FREE KICK OR SCRIMMAGE KICK THAT IS POSSESSED BY 'R' IN 'K' END ZONE IS A TOUCHDOWN REGARDLESS OF WHO FORCED IT THERE.

FAIR CATCH

- * ANY RECEIVER MAY SIGNAL FOR A FAIR CATCH WHILE ANY LEGAL KICK IS IN FLIGHT. ANY RECEIVER THAT SIGNALS FOR A FAIR CATCH IS PROHIBITED FROM BLOCKING UNTIL THE KICK ENDS. PENALTY: ILLEGAL BLOCKING TECHNIQUE -15 YARDS AND PSK ENFORCEMENT.
- * IT IS A FAIR CATCH IF THE RECEIVER THAT GAVE A VALID FAIR CATCH SIGNAL CATCHES A FREE KICK IN OR BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE TO 'R'S GOAL LINE OR ON A SCRIMMAGE KICK MAKES THE CATCH BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE TO 'R'S GOAL LINE.
- * ONLY THE RECEIVER THAT GIVES A VALID SIGNAL IS AFFORDED PROTECTION. IF A TEAMMATE MAKES THE CATCH IT IS NOT A FAIR CATCH BUT THE BALL BECOMES DEAD IMMEDIATELY. NO RECEIVER MAY ADVANCE THE BALL ONCE A VALID OR INVALID SIGNAL HAS BEEN GIVEN BY ANY MEMBER OF THE RECEIVING TEAM.
- * A RECEIVER SHALL NOT GIVE AN INVALID SIGNAL.
- * THE RUNNER SHALL NOT GIVE AN ILLEGAL SIGNAL.
- * AFTER A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH THE CAPTAIN OF THE RECEIVING TEAM MAY ELECT TO SNAP OR FREE KICK THE BALL ANYWHERE BETWEEN THE INBOUNDS LINES (HASH MARKS). THESE CHOICES REMAIN IF THERE IS A DEAD BALL FOUL OR A FOUL OR INADVERTENT WHISTLE OCCURS DURING THE DOWN AND THE DOWN IS TO BE REPLAYED.
- * ON ANY FREE KICK THAT IS IN FLIGHT IN OR BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE TO 'R'S GOAL LINE AND ON ANY SCRIMMAGE KICK BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE TO 'R'S GOAL LINE, 'K' SHALL NOT TOUCH THE BALL OR BLOCK 'R'S PATH TO THE BALL. PENALTY- KICK CATCHING INTERFERENCE-15 YARDS FROM PREVIOUS SPOT OR 'R' MAY ACCEPT AN AWARDED FAIR CATCH FROM THE SPOT OF THE INTERFERENCE. EXCEPTION: 'K' MAY CATCH, TOUCH, MUFF OR BAT A SCRIMMAGE KICK IN FLIGHT BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE IF NO PLAYER OF 'R' IS IN POSITION TO CATCH THE BALL.

****THINGS ABOUT THE KICKING GAME THAT ARE ALWAYS TRUE.**

- 1) THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A SCRIMMAGE KICK IS IF THE BALL IS LEGALLY SNAPPED.
- 2) THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A FREE KICK IS IF THE BALL IS LEGALLY KICKED WITHOUT BEING SNAPPED.
- 3) POINTS CAN BE SCORED ON A SCRIMMAGE KICK.
 - A) VIA FIELD GOAL=3 POINTS
 - B) VIA EXTRA POINT= 1 POINT
- 4) POINTS CAN BE SCORED ON A FREE KICK BUT ONLY AFTER A FAIR CATCH OR AN AWARDED FAIR CATCH. THUS THE ONLY POINTS THAT CAN BE SCORED BY 'K' ON A FREE KICK ARE WORTH 3 POINTS.
- 5) ALL FREE KICKS ARE EXAMPLES OF A LOOSE BALL PLAY. THEY CONTINUE TO BE A LOOSE BALL PLAY UNTIL THE KICK ENDS. THUS IF A PENALTY OCCURS BY EITHER TEAM DURING THE FREE KICK THE ENFORCEMENT SPOT FOR THE PENALTY IS THE PREVIOUS SPOT. THIS IS TRUE OF SCRIMMAGE KICKS AS WELL AS FOULS BY K.
- 6) WHEN A NEW SERIES IS AWARDED (TO EITHER TEAM) AFTER ANY LEGAL KICK, THE CLOCK WILL START ON THE SNAP.
- 7) TO HAVE A SCRIMMAGE KICK FORMATION A PLAYER MUST BE A MINIMUM OF 7 YARDS BEHIND THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AND NO PLAYER CAN BE IN POSITION TO RECEIVE A HAND TO HAND SNAP. THE PLAYER THAT IS A MINIMUM OF SEVEN YARDS DEEP MUST BE IN A POSITION TO RECEIVE THE SNAP. SEVERAL THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN A TEAM IS IN SCRIMMAGE KICK FORMATION:
 - A) THE BALL DOES NOT HAVE TO BE SNAPPED TO THE PLAYER THAT IS A MINIMUM OF SEVEN YARDS DEEP.
 - B) THE PLAYER THAT RECEIVES THE BALL DOES NOT ACTUALLY HAVE TO KICK THE BALL.
 - C) THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THAT A ROUGHING THE SNAPPER PENALTY CAN BE CALLED.
 - D) NUMBERING EXCEPTIONS ARE ALLOWED WHEN THIS OFFENSIVE FORMATION IS USED.
- 8) ALL KICKS END IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
 - A) WHEN POSSESSION IS GAINED (BY 'R' OR 'K')
 - B) WHEN THE BALL GOES OUT OF BOUNDS.
 - C) WHEN A NON-SCORING ATTEMPT BREAKS THE PLANE OF 'R'S GOAL LINE.
 - D) WHEN THE BALL IS OTHERWISE DEAD BY RULE.
- 9) A KICKER IS ONLY A KICKER IF HE ACTUALLY KICKS THE BALL. THUS YOU CANNOT HAVE A ROUGHING THE KICKER PENALTY IF THE BALL IS NEVER KICKED.