

2015 Football Rules & Mechanics Examination

Use a number 2 pencil to **COMPLETELY** fill in the correct answer. To change your answer **ERASE COMPLETELY** and mark again. Make no extra marks on the answer sheet; they may be picked up as incorrect answers.

Answers are either: (TRUE or FALSE = A or B)
The marks should look like the example below:



EXAMPLE: [B] [C] [D]



FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND PROPERLY MARK YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN YOUR TEST BEING IMPROPERLY GRADED.

DO NOT LEAVE the exam room UNTIL your answer sheet has been reviewed and ACCEPTED by the Proctor!

7/25/2015

1. One type of illegal helmet contact is spearing, which is an act by an offensive or defensive player who initiates contact against any opponent with the top of their helmet to the body of the opponent.
2. Until a new series is awarded, the Referee has the authority to correct an error in the number of a down.
3. At the time the ball is kicked, for a free kick, Team K shall have at least four (4) players on each side of the kicker.
4. During a scrimmage down after a change of team possession, a player may hand the ball forward to a teammate provided the handing is behind the line of scrimmage.
5. If a forward pass is caught simultaneously by two opponents, the ball becomes dead and belongs to the defending team.
6. A player can fumble before gaining possession.
7. A kick always ends as soon as any player secures possession.
8. A period is extended for an untimed down if a penalty is accepted for a live ball foul that occurs during a down in which time expires. (*do NOT consider exceptions in this question*)
9. A defenseless player is a player who, because of his physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury.
10. Targeting fouls against a defenseless player may be considered flagrant fouls.
11. The accidental touching of a loose ball by a player who is blocked into the ball is ignored and cannot be a new force.

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12. The neutral zone is established when the Umpire spots the ball.
13. When in a scrimmage kick formation, on 4th down, or for a try, Team A must have at least 4 linemen numbered 50-79.
14. Prior to the ready-for-play the snapper, A1, touches the ball while B2 and B3 are in the neutral zone. **RULING:** Encroachment
15. A back may wear a jersey numbered 50 through 79.
16. A place kick holder, with his knee(s) on the ground, must rise and lift his knee(s) off the ground in order to throw a pass.
17. The runner may lower his head when contacted to gain yardage, but he cannot use his head to butt, ram or punish an opponent.
18. If the helmet of the tackler comes off while he is making contact with the runner, the ball becomes dead immediately.
19. If a dead ball foul occurs after time expires for any period, the penalty shall be measured from the succeeding spot unless there are try for point options.
20. During the 1st period, Team A attempts a PAT by kick. B65 leaps and touches the kick, which continues in flight, and hits the crossbar and caroms through the uprights for an apparent successful try. The BJ rules the kick unsuccessful, however the LJ rules the kick successful. **RULING:** The Referee should make the final call.
21. The distance penalty for any foul cannot be declined.
22. Unused second half time-outs can be used in overtime.
23. After being put in play, the ball remains live until the down ends.
24. The ball becomes dead if the place-kick holder muffs the snap or fumbles and recovers after his knees have been off the ground, and he then touches the ground with other than hand or foot while in possession of the ball.
25. The ball becomes dead and the down is ended when the kickers catch or recover any free kick anywhere.
26. If the kickers catch or recover a scrimmage kick in or behind the neutral zone, the ball remains live and belongs to K and the down counts, unless this occurs during a try.
27. From B's 20-yard line, Team A kicks a successful field goal. (*The ball was actually placed on B's 27 yard line for the kick.*) After the kick, the Referee determines that during the kick, the kicker had used an illegal kicking tee. Team B accepts the penalty. **RULING:** The ball will be spotted at B's 42-yard line for the replay of the down.

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28. 3rd and 8 from B's 40 yard line. A1 advances to B's 35 where he is downed. After the down, B1 piles on and immediately A2 spears B1. **RULING:** The penalties offset; the down counts resulting in 4th and 3 from B's 35. *(If A2's spearing is considered flagrant, A2 shall be disqualified.)*
29. Face tackling, butt blocking and spearing are somewhat related fouls. All are illegal and each carries a 10 yard penalty.
30. 1st and 10 from A's 5-yard line. A1 drops back into his own end zone, where he is grabbed and dragged by the face mask and fumbles the ball before he is brought to the ground. The ball rolls out of bounds at A's 3-yard line. **RULING:** The fumble by A1 is a loose ball play behind the neutral zone and the penalty for the face mask will be enforced from the previous spot. The ball will next be put into play from A's 20-yard line.
31. During a running play, A1 breaks into the secondary. B1 comes up quickly and drives his face mask or helmet directly into the chest of A1. B1 simultaneously wraps his arms around A1 bringing him to the ground. **RULING:** This is face-tackling and a 10 yard penalty enforced from the end of the run by A1.
32. A1 is running in the open field when B1 grabs A1's shoulder pad opening from behind and pulls A1 abruptly. A1 breaks the attempted tackle and falls forward to the ground 5-yards down field. **RULING:** Horse-collar tackle.
33. When attempting to block a punt, B1 nearly blocks the kick by touching it immediately after the ball leaves the kicker's foot. Then B1 forcefully contacts the kicker. **RULING:** Because B1 touched the kick, he has the freedom to contact the kicker even though he had an opportunity to avoid the contact.
34. If a non-player hinders an opponent outside the field of play, it is illegal participation.
35. Following a kickoff return, A1 and A2 enter the field while A3, A4 and A5 move toward the sideline and the team's box. The ball is marked ready-for-play and then snapped with A4 set outside the 9-yard marks. A3 and A5 have left the field. A8 throws a forward pass to A4, who has gone downfield. **RULING:** Illegal participation for using a pretended substitution to deceive the opponents.
36. In the first period Team A is warned for having more than three (3) coaches in the restricted area while the ball was live. In the 2nd period, Team A is penalized for the same infraction. In the 3rd period and again in the 4th period Team A is again flagged for having more than three (3) coaches in the restricted area. **RULING:** The penalties in the 3rd and 4th periods are unsportsmanlike conduct penalties resulting in the Head Coach being ejected.

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37. Blocking by either team is permissible, unless it is kick-catching interference or pass interference, a personal foul or an illegal block.
38. No live-ball foul causes the covering official to sound his whistle immediately.
39. An overtime period may include only one offensive series of downs if the defensive team scores a safety or touchdown.
40. The clock shall start on first touching by K.
41. Post-scrimmage kick enforcement is applicable during overtime.
42. With 10 seconds remaining in the game, Team A trails by 7 points. QB, A1, attempts to “spike” the ball to stop the clock. However, A1 never gets control of the snap as he muffs the ball. A1 continues his attempt to “spike” the muffed snap and the ball rolls along the ground behind the line of scrimmage. B1 picks up the ball and runs for a touchdown. **RULING:** The ball remains live and the touchdown counts.
43. 2nd and 10 from the 50 yard line. A16 takes a direct snap and runs toward B’s end zone. At B’s 2-yard line A16 drops the ball, which rolls into B’s end zone. Teammate, A18, who has intentionally run out of bounds at the 5-yard line, comes back inbounds in the end zone and picks up the loose ball. **RULING:** (a) No foul; touchdown for Team A (b) Illegal participation by A18 and the penalty is enforced from B’s 2-yard line
44. Free-kick lines are never less than 10 yards apart.
45. K1 attempts a normal kickoff. (*not on-side kick*) K1 “whiffs” the kick, barely touching the ball. The ball does not go 10 yards downfield; in fact it only goes about 3-feet from the spot of the kick. All 22 players are confused as the ball rolls to a stop in the neutral zone untouched. Several players from K and R surround the ball, but no one touches or possesses the kick. After a long pause, the Umpire finally blows his whistle. **RULING:** (a) K’s ball (*last team in possession*), (b) R’s ball; (c) re-kick; or (d) none of the above: this is an inadvertent whistle.
46. The loss of down aspect of a penalty has no significance following a change of possession or if the line to gain is reached after enforcement.
47. An offensive player shall not push, pull or lift the runner to assist his forward progress.
48. The muffing or batting of a pass, kick or fumble in flight is not considered a new force.
49. Assuming there is no score during a game, the score of a forfeited game: Offended team 7; Opponent 0.
50. Forward pass interference applies to legal and illegal passes.
51. The football shall be inflated to 11 ½ to 13 ½ psi (*pounds per square inch*).

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52. Each team shall provide at least two (2) legal game balls to the Referee at the time the officials assume authority for the contest.
53. 4th and 20 from B's 35 yard line. A1 punts to B9, who gives a valid fair catch signal. A2 runs into B9 and knocks B9 to the ground before B9 can catch the kick. The BJ and LJ flag A2 for kick catching interference. The ball hits the ground at B's 15 yard line and B9 gets off the ground, recovers the kick and advances for a touchdown with the R and L in hot pursuit. B9 is flagged for delay of game. **RULING:** Offsetting fouls: KCI by A2 and delay by B9: replay the down.
54. 4th and 25 from A's 49. Team A lines up in scrimmage kick formation. A7 snaps the ball over potential kicker, A2's head. A2 recovers the errant snap at A's 20 and advances to A's 32 where B2 tackles him by the facemask. (the big one!) B2 is also flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct after the ball becomes dead. (taunting) **RULING:** After enforcing the penalty for B2's face mask foul and not having reached the line to gain; the ball goes over to Team B, which is then penalized for the unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Team B will put the ball in play at B's 36.
55. Batting a loose ball is always a foul.
56. The momentum rule is an exception to force.
57. Eligible receiver, A8, is in B's end zone running toward the field of play. While still in the end zone A8 leaps to receive a legal forward pass and he first lands at the one yard line where he is downed. **RULING:** A's ball at the one yard line.
58. Team K players may legally bat a grounded scrimmage kick which is beyond the neutral zone toward his own goal line.
59. A ball in player possession shall not be batted forward by a player of either team.
60. A player, whose helmet has come completely off during a down but continues to participate beyond the immediate action in which he was engaged constitutes illegal participation.
61. 4th and 5 from B's 18, K1's field goal attempt is successful. B1 roughs the kicker & holder. **RULING:** K may accept the result of the play (3 points) and have the penalty enforced from the succeeding spot, or accept the penalty which will be penalized from the 18. Resulting in 1st and goal from R's 9-yard line.
62. During the 2nd down of a series, the field clock goes from 1:45 to 0:45 but is not detected. Following 3rd down, time expires for the first period. After the Referee has indicated the period has officially ended, the error is discovered. **RULING:** The timing error can be corrected.

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63. A lineman is any Team A player who is facing his opponent's goal line with the line of his shoulders approximately parallel thereto and with his head or foot breaking an imaginary plane drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the snapper when the ball is snapped.
64. Communication devices cannot be brought out to the players if the conference is held on the field between the 9-yard marks.
65. There are no color restrictions for athletic gloves worn by offensive and defensive linemen.
66. A period is not extended by an untimed down when unsportsmanlike conduct or non-player fouls occur during the down in which time expires.
67. If the clock was stopped because of an inadvertent whistle, it will start with the ready-for-play signal on a down beginning with a snap.
68. During the opening kickoff R2 backs up into his own end zone to catch the kick. R2 hands the ball forward to teammate, R4, who advances to the 12 yard line. **RULING:** Because the illegal forward handing occurred in the end zone, which is behind the basic spot, (*the end of the run by R4*) the result of the play is a safety.
69. On 3rd down, A4 fumbles the ball short of the line-to-gain. The ball crosses the line-to-gain before going out of bounds, last touched by B5. **RULING:** A's ball at the spot of the fumble and the clock shall start on the snap.
70. One of the keys to avoiding inadvertent whistles is to avoid blowing the whistle unless the ball can be seen.
71. Whenever an inadvertent whistle is sounded during a kick or a legal forward pass, there are no options: the ball is returned to the previous spot and the down is replayed.
72. During the last timed down of the 2nd period, B5 commits a live-ball foul on a play in which Team A scores a touchdown. **RULING:** The penalty for this foul may be enforced either on the try or the carried over to the 2nd half kickoff.
73. After A1 scores a touchdown, he is struck by B1. The coach of Team A then berates the official for waiting so long to make the call. **RULING:** The penalties for both, the dead ball personal foul by B1 and the unsportsmanlike conduct foul by the coach of Team A, will cancel.
74. The momentum exception does not apply to a free kick.
75. 4th and 5 for Team A. QB, A1 retreats into his own end zone and intentionally grounds a forward pass. Team B has no penalty options since the result of the play is a safety.

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76. A11 mistakenly believes he is the 12th player leaves the field before the snap, on his sideline and enters his team's box. A11 then realizes that he is the 11th player and he returns to the field on his team's side of the neutral zone before the snap. This was not an intent to deceive.

RULING: Legal

77. Between downs, any number of eligible substitutes may replace players. Replaced players shall begin to leave the field within three (3) seconds.

78. K3 accidentally steps out of bounds while K1's punt is in the air. K3 returns inbounds before R2 catches the kick. **Ruling:** Illegal participation by K3.

79. 3rd and 10 from R's 25. K1 has one knee on the ground to hold for an apparent field goal attempt at R's 32. K2 is in position to kick. K1 catches the snap and without rising, flips the ball to K2, however K2 muffs the ball and there is a scramble by K2, K3, R1, R2 and R5 to recover the muff. After the ball is muffed numerous times, K2 recovers the ball at R's 39. **RULING:** K's ball: 4th down from R's 39.

80. R2 catches K2's punt. During R2's advance, R7 accidentally steps on the sideline, returns inbounds and blocks K5. **RULING:** Illegal participation by R7.

81. If a player's helmet comes completely off and he quickly puts it back on, he may continue to participate in the play.

82. A period is not extended if a penalty that has a loss of down provision is accepted. Any score by the fouling team is cancelled.

83. 2nd and 10 at Team A's 20 yard line. B1 grasps QB, A1's face mask but does not twist or pull. A1's subsequent pass is incomplete. **RULING:** Personal foul, automatic 1st down for A.

84. No player or non-player shall make any other contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player, which is deemed unnecessary or excessive and which incites roughness.

85. The official who is out of condition, more often than not, does a poor job of officiating simply because of the inability to cover the play.

86. Game officials shall arrive at the site of the game at least 1½ hours before the scheduled game time.

87. If the Referee is late or does not attend the pre-game conference, the official with the most experience shall conduct the conference.

88. While all officials should record the score, the Referee is responsible for the official score.

89. All officials should mirror the touchdown signal if a score is called by another official.

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90. If there is a fumble, the covering official should delay ruling on possession until he communicates with the Referee which team has recovered. The Referee shall then give the proper possession signal.
91. When a foul is called by another official, all officials should be alert to cover the penalty marker or the dead ball spot.
92. Before the snap on a scrimmage down, the L and LJ should position themselves one (1) yard outside the sideline for optimum coverage, regardless of the formation.
93. The Referee, Umpire and Back Judge should rarely have the first whistle at the end of a play.
94. After the ball has been spotted, the Referee shall check to see that other officials are in position before giving the ready-for-play signal.
95. If a field goal attempt is unsuccessful and the ball breaks the plane of the goal line, the only signal that the Referee should give is the touchback signal.
96. The Linesman only needs to supply one (1) clipping device to the chain crew.
97. From Team B's 20-yard line, Team A snaps the ball with 5 seconds remaining on the clock in the first period. QB, A1, throws a forward pass, which is intercepted by B1. B1 advances to Team A's 5-yard line where he throws an incomplete forward pass toward B2. The clock expired during the down. **RULING:** It will be Team B's ball, first and goal from Team A's 10-yard line to begin the second period.
98. The clock is running with 9 seconds remaining in the fourth period as QB, A1, drops back about 5 yards and intentionally throws the ball forward to the ground to stop the clock. Team B accepts the penalty for the illegal pass. Following penalty administration, the Referee starts the clock on the ready and time expires before Team A can snap the ball. **RULING:** There is no untimed down which would extend the period. The game is over.
99. At the time of the snap there may be no more than six eligible offensive pass receivers.
100. A false start includes any shift or a feigned charge which simulates action at the snap, or any act clearly intended to cause Team B to encroach.