



# Rule 9

## Conduct of Players and Others



## Assisting a Runner

- **It is illegal for an offensive player to assist the runner by pushing, pulling or lifting him**
  - Penalty – helping the runner - 5 yards



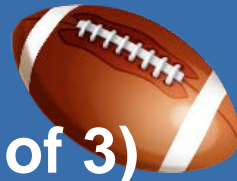
## Blocking

- **An offensive player (exclusive of the runner) may not use a blocking technique which is not permissible by rule**
  - Penalty – illegal use of hands - 10 yards
- **Offensive players (other than the runner) may not grasp or encircle teammates to form interlock blocking**
  - Penalty – interlock blocking - 10 yards
- **The runner may not grasp a teammate**
  - Penalty – illegal use of hands - 10 yards



### A Defensive Player Shall Not

- **Use a blocking technique that is not allowable by rule**
  - Penalty – illegal use of hands - 10 yards
- **Use his hands to add momentum to the charge of a teammate that is on the line of scrimmage**
  - Penalty – illegal use of hands - 10 yards
- **Contact an eligible receiver who is no longer a potential blocker**
  - Penalty – illegal use of hands - 10 yards



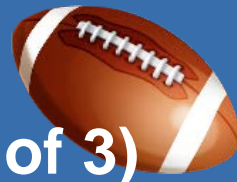
## 1. Kick catching interference

## 2. Forward pass interference

## 3. Personal foul

## 4. Other types of contact that are prohibited by rule (chop block, clipping, blocking below the waist, etc.)

- Blocking below the waist is legal in the free blocking zone as long as the requirements are met

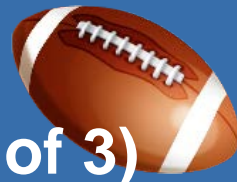


## **5. The kicker or place-kick holder of a free kick may not be blocked until**

- They have advanced 5 yards beyond their free kick line
- The kick has touched the ground or any other player

## **6. Clipping an opponent unless**

- The clip is in the free blocking zone and meets the requirements of the zone



## 7. Chop block

- A chop block occurs when two teammates block the same opponent (not the runner), one high and one low
- A chop block can only occur in the free blocking zone

## 8. Tripping a player that is not the runner

**Note: all of the above illegal blocking techniques carry a penalty of 15 yards**



## Illegal Blocking

### **9. No member of the kicking team shall initiate contact on a free kick until:**

1. The legal kick has traveled 10 yards;
2. The kicking team is eligible to recover a free-kicked ball; or
3. The receiving team initiates a block within the neutral zone

NOTE: This illegal block carries a 10-yard penalty from the previous spot.





## Illegal Personal Contact

**No player or non-player shall**

**1. Fight**

— Penalty – disqualification

**2. Swing the foot, shin or knee into an opponent**

— Penalty – disqualification

**3. Charge into an opponent when the ball is dead or when he is clearly out of the play**

**4. Pile on any player that is on the ground**

**5. Hurdle an opponent**

**6. Position himself on the body of another player to gain an advantage**



## Illegal Personal Contact

**No player or non-player shall**

- 7. Throw a helmet to trip an opponent**
- 8. Grasp an opponent's face mask, other helmet opening, chin strap, or tooth and mouth protector**
- 9. Butt block, face tackle, or spear**
- 10. Intentionally use the helmet to punish an opponent**
- 11. Make any contact on an opponent, including a defenseless opponent, that is deemed as unnecessary or excessive and incites roughness**
- 12. Grab the inside back or side collar of the runner and pull him down backward or sideward**
- 13. Initiate contact with an opposing player whose helmet has come completely off**



## Illegal Personal Contact

### 14. Roughing the Passer

- This is a foul that can only be called on the defense
- Once a passer has thrown the ball in or behind the neutral zone a defensive player is to try to avoid contact
- A defensive player cannot charge into a passer that is standing still or fading back

**\*\*Note:** Illegal Personal Conduct Fouls committed against the passer should be enforced as Roughing. Exception: Incidental grasping of face mask is a 5 yard penalty and no automatic first down.



## Illegal Personal Contact

(3 of 4)

### No player shall

#### 15. Run into or rough the kicker or holder

- Running into the kicker/holder is contact that displaces the kicker or holder without actually roughing him
  - Penalty – 5 yards - previous spot
- Roughing the kicker/holder is charging into, blocking, or tackling the kicker/holder (endangers the kicker/holder)

#### **Note: it is not running into or roughing the kicker/holder when**

- Contact is unavoidable because it is not reasonably certain that the kick will be made
- The defense touches the kick near the kicker and contact is unavoidable
- Contact is slight and partially caused by the movement of the kicker
- Contact is caused by **R** being blocked into the kicker/holder by **K**



## Illegal Personal Contact

(4 of 4)

### **No player or non-player shall**

#### **16. Rough the snapper**

16. A defensive player may not charge directly into the snapper when the offense is in scrimmage kick formation

#### **17. Intentionally contact an official**

#### **18. No defensive player may use his hands to slap the blocker's head**

# Noncontact Unsportsmanlike Conduct by Players



(1 of 2)

1. Baiting or taunting acts or words or insignia worn that may engender ill will
2. Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures
3. Any prolonged or excessive act in which a player tries to focus attention upon himself
4. Using disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with **A**'s signals
5. Intentionally kicking at the ball (other than a legal kick)
6. Leaving the field between downs to gain an advantage

# Noncontact Unsportsmanlike Conduct by Players



(2 of 2)

7. Refusing to comply with an official's request
8. Using tobacco or smokeless tobacco
9. When the ball becomes dead in possession of a player, a player shall not
  - a. Intentionally kick the ball
  - b. Spike the ball into the ground
  - c. Throw the ball high into the air or from the field of play or end zone
  - d. Fail to place the ball on the ground or give it to a nearby official

**All of these types of fouls are treated as dead ball fouls with a 15 yard penalty. Disqualification can result if the foul is flagrant.**

**Noncontact Unsportsmanlike Conduct by  
Non-players**



(1 of 2)

- 1. Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language, or gestures**
- 2. Attempting to influence the decision of an official**
- 3. Disrespectfully addressing an official**
- 4. Using any illegal communication equipment**
- 5. Holding an unauthorized conference**
- 6. The failure of a team to be ready to start either half**



# Noncontact Unsportsmanlike Conduct by Non-players



(2 of 2)

- 7. Failure of the head coach (following verification) to have his players wear legal or required equipment**
- 8. Using tobacco or smokeless tobacco**
- 9. Being on the field except as a substitute or replaced player**
- 10. Being outside the team box but not on the field**
  - Warn first, second offense is 5 yards, third is 15 and considered an unsportsmanlike foul
- 11. A substitute that leaves the team box during a fight**



## Conferences

- **During times when authorized conferences are allowed, no more than three attendants (none of whom are a coach) may enter the field to attend to their team**



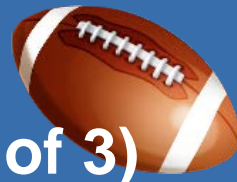
### Unfair Acts

- **A player, a non-player, or any person not subject to the rules shall not hinder play by an unfair act that has no specific rule coverage**
- **No player shall hide the ball under a jersey**
- **No team shall repeatedly commit fouls that half the distance to the goal line**
- **Neither team shall commit acts that in the opinion of the referee, tends to make a travesty of the game**

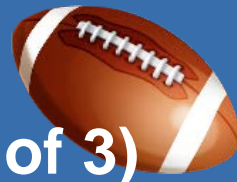


## Illegal Participation

- 1. No player of A or K shall go out of bounds and return during the down, unless the player is blocked out of bounds**
  - If a player is blocked out of bounds he must return at the first opportunity (if no change of team possession has taken place or prior to a change of team possession)
- 2. During the down no player shall intentionally go out of bounds and then return**
- 3. No replaced player or substitute shall hinder an opponent, touch the ball, influence the play or otherwise participate**



- 4. To have 12 or more players participating when the ball becomes live**
- 5. If an injured player is not replaced for a least one down (unless the halftime or overtime intermission occurs)**
- 6. To use a replaced player or substitute or pretended substitution to deceive opponents at or immediately before the ball is to become alive**



- 7. For a player to be lying on the ground to deceive the opponents at or immediately before the ball is to become alive**
- 8. For a disqualified player to re-enter the game**
- 9. When any player, replaced player or substitute enters and participates during a down**
- 10. For a player whose helmet comes completely off during a down to continue participating beyond the immediate action**



## Illegal Participation Truths

- **Illegal participation is always a 15 yard penalty**
  - More than 11 players on a single team participating at the snap
    - Previous spot enforcement
  - If a substitute comes onto the field during the down and participates in the play
    - Enforcement spot is the spot of the illegal participation and is penalized under the all but one enforcement principle
  - **A** or **K** going out of bounds and returning prior to change of team possession
    - Enforcement spot is the spot of the illegal participation and is penalized under the all but one enforcement principle
  - For a player that has been injured to return and participate in the game without sitting out one play (unless halftime or overtime intermission occurs)
    - Previous spot enforcement
  - For a disqualified player to re-enter the game
    - Previous spot enforcement
  - Using a player or a replaced player for deception
    - Previous spot enforcement



## Illegal Kicking and Batting

1. **No player shall intentionally kick the ball other than a free or scrimmage kick**
  
2. **It is illegal to bat a live ball other than the following situations:**
  - A pass in flight can only be batted by eligible receivers
    - Note: it is illegal for the offense to bat a backward pass forward
  - A fumble in flight
  - A low scrimmage kick in flight (attempting to block this kick) in or behind the expanded neutral zone
  - **K** may bat a grounded scrimmage kick towards its own goal line if it is beyond the neutral zone
  - **K** may bat a scrimmage kick that is in flight that is beyond the neutral zone if no player of **R** is in position to catch the ball
  - A ball in player possession may not be batted forward by a teammate





## Batting Rule Truths

(1 of 2)

- **For batting to be illegal it must be an intentional act**
- **An illegal bat can cause a new force**
- **The penalty for illegal batting is 15 yards**
- **Examples of illegal batting are:**
  - Batting a grounded loose ball
  - Batting the ball that is in possession of a teammate
  - For team **A** to bat a backward pass forward
  - For an ineligible team **A** player to bat a forward pass that he cannot possess away from a defender



## Batting Rule Truths

- **Examples of legal batting are:**

- All eligible receivers (offense or defense) can bat a forward pass
- Any member of team **B** can bat a backward pass
- Any member of team **K** can bat a grounded scrimmage kick that is beyond the neutral zone towards his own goal line
- Any member of team **K** can bat a scrimmage kick in flight (in any direction) as long as there is no member of team **R** in position to catch the ball