

NYSACFO Syracuse Chapter

August 18, 2025

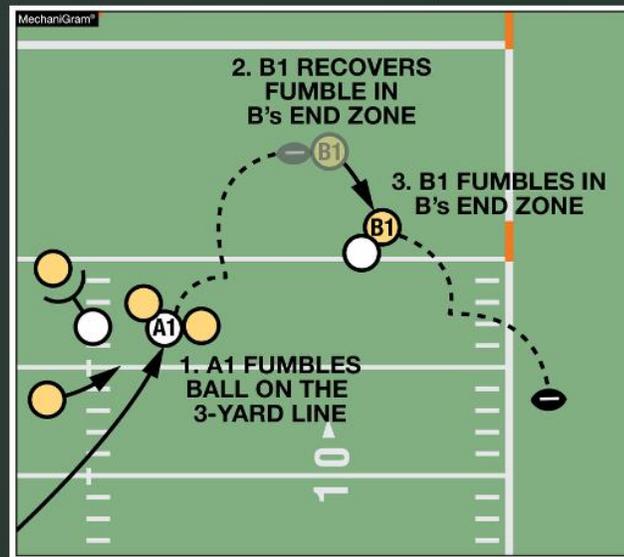
Rules 6 & 8

# Kicking Game & Scoring/Goal Line Plays

# LAST WEEK'S QUESTIONS

## NEW FORWARD FUMBLE RULE

### Forward Fumble OOB on COP (R. 4-3-1-exception, 8-5-2[a]-exception)



**Momentum Reminder:** If the momentum exception applies, the forward fumble exception would not apply, and a safety still would not be awarded (e.g. B intercepted at the B1 and stepped backward into B's endzone and then fumbled as shown here, we go to the B1).

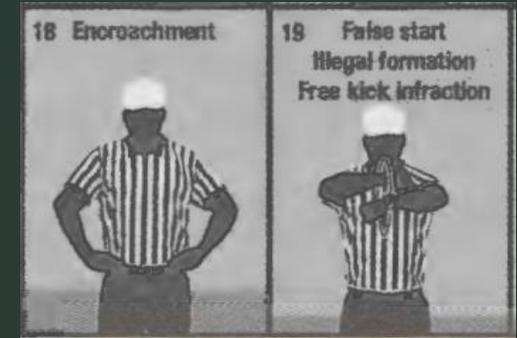
When a forward fumble by team B from team B's end zone goes out of bounds between the goal lines following a change of possession, the end of the related run is where possession was lost by B and the result of the play depends on who caused the ball to be in the end zone.

A is responsible for the ball going into B's endzone, where it was picked up by B, and so this would not be a safety.

B's ball, first and ten, at the B20 (touchback) per new forward fumble and force rules.

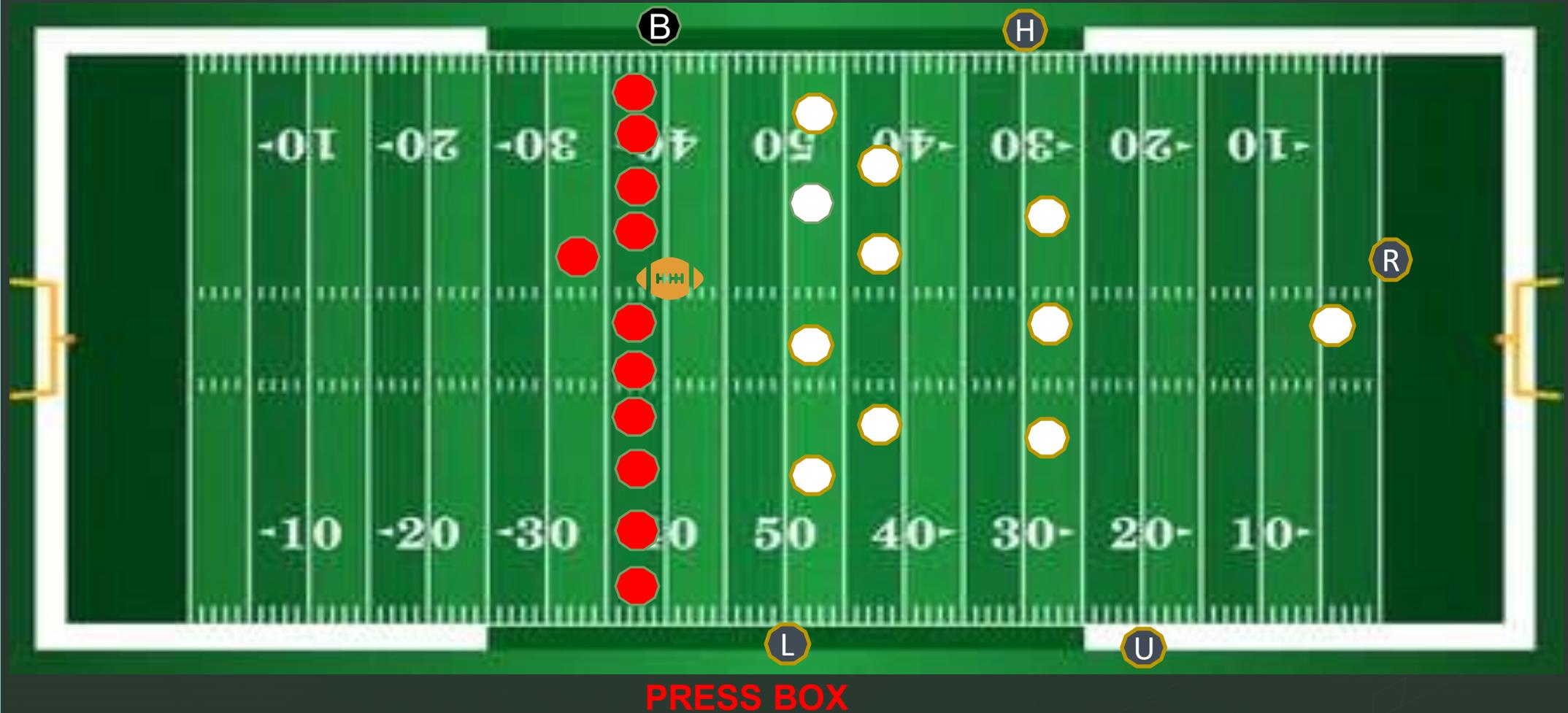
# KICKS

- Setting up for the Kickoff (R. 6-1, 2-24)
  - K's Restraining line, unless moved by penalty: K40 / K20 (safety)
    - Place Kick (using tee or ground) or drop kick
      - Punt allowed only following safety
    - Must contact ball with the leg at or below the knee
    - Puddle: can move from K40 to any yardline (e.g. K39 or K41)
  - Formation
    - 4 players on either side of the kicker *at moment of kicking* (DBF)
    - Kicker/holder only players beyond K restraining line
    - All K's feet must be within 5-yards of K's restraining line (except kicker)
    - Otherwise, no entering NZ by K or R until Kicked (DBF)



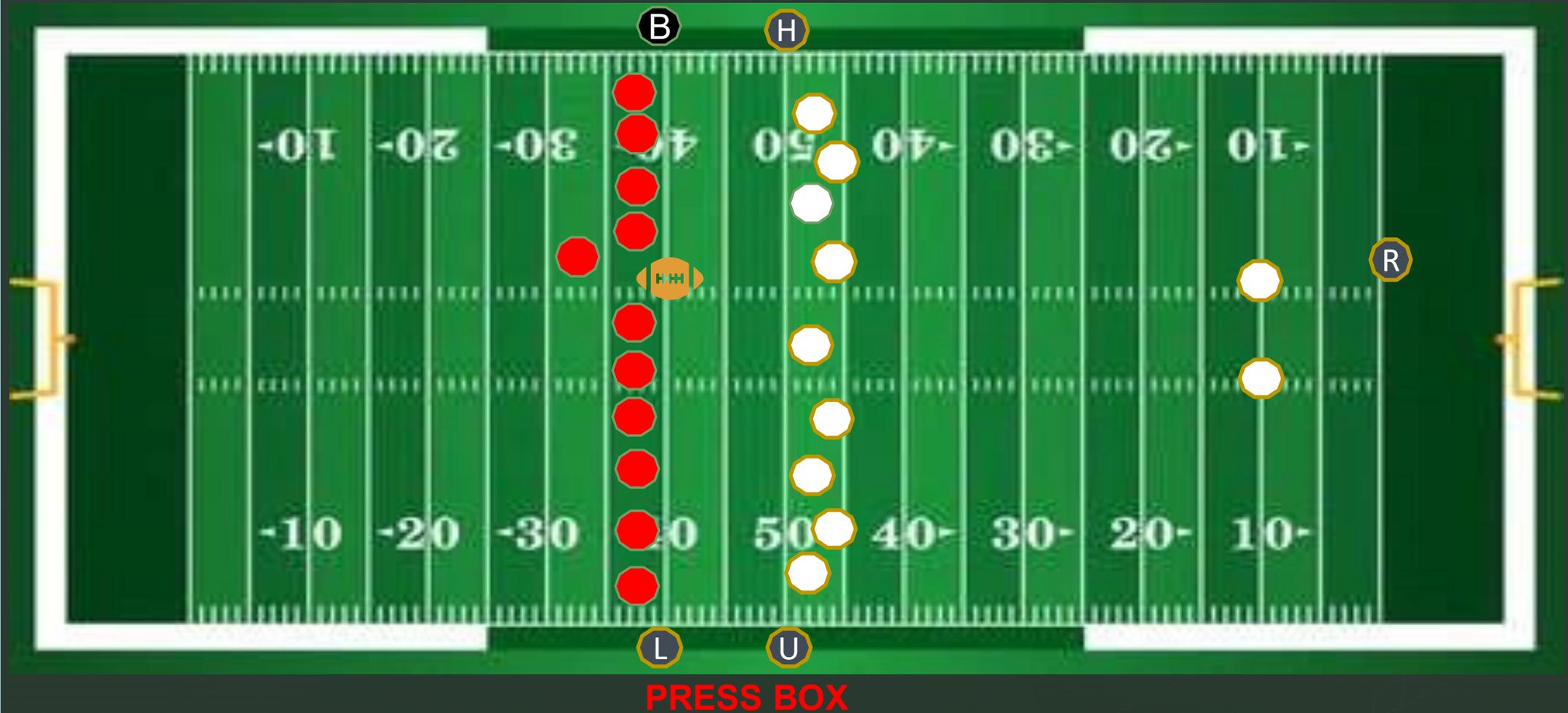
# Kicks

- Setting up for the Kickoff (R. 6-1, 2-24)



# Kicks

- Setting up for the Onside or “Short Kick” (R. 6-1, 2-24)
  - L/H/U “move up” while B and R remain

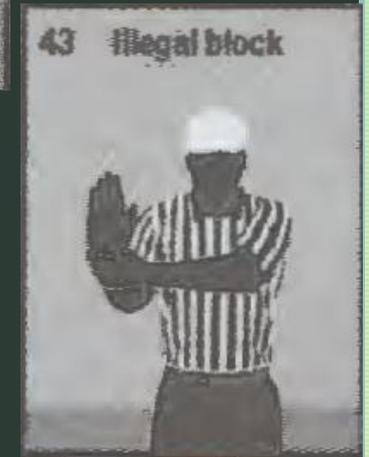


# KICKS

🏈 Setting up for the Kickoff (R. 6-1, 2-24)

## 🏈 Blocking

- 🏈 R can not block Kicker or Holder unless (1) advanced 5 yards or (2) kick touches ground or any player (R. 9-3-4) (Roughing – 15-yard penalty)
- 🏈 K can not block any R player until (1) kick travel 10 yards, or (2) K can recover, or (3) R initiates a block in the NZ (Illegal Block – 10 yard penalty)



# KICKS

- ▶
- 🏈 Setting up for the Kickoff (R. 6-1, 2-24)
  - 🏈 Onside Kick Recovery by K: must touch ground and go 10 yards (i.e. pass R's restraining line) (can occur in either order)
    - 🏈 No Pop-up kicks (DBF!)
    - 🏈 R touches in NZ – K may recover
    - 🏈 K can never advance a recovered kick (only a fumble)
  - 🏈 First Touching by K (blue bag)
    - 🏈 Multiple FTs – most advantageous spot
    - 🏈 Cancelled by Penalty (Foul supersedes FT, Casebook 6-1-7, Situation A)
    - 🏈 FT relevant for both kickoffs and scrimmage kicks (FGs, punts)
  - 🏈 First Touching by K or Touching by R ignored if caused by opponent blocking player into contact with the ball (R. 6-2-4, Casebook Situation)

# ▶ KICKOFFS – FORMATION, ENCROACHMENT, AND ONSIDES/SHORT KICKS



# KICKS

## 🏈 Kickoff Out of Bounds (R. 6-1-9)

🏈 “A free kick shall not be kicked out of bounds between the goal lines untouched inbounds by R”

🏈 4 options (really only 3)

🏈 -5 Yards & Re-kick;

🏈 +5 Yards @ inbounds spot

🏈 +25 yards K's Freekick line

🏈 Inbounds spot (only if coach insists)

**ART. 8 . . .** A free kick is not repeated unless:

- A foul occurs prior to a change of possession and the penalty acceptance requires a replay of the down.
- There is a double foul.
- There is an inadvertent whistle during the kick.

**ART. 9 . . .** A free kick shall not be kicked out of bounds between the goal lines untouched inbounds by R. If it is kicked out of bounds and R does not accept a penalty for kick-catch interference on the same kick as in 6-5-4, R has the following choices:

- Accept a 5-yard penalty from the previous spot and have K rekick;
- Accept a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot;
- Put the ball in play at the inbounds spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot; or
- Decline the penalty and put the ball in play at the inbounds spot.

**ART. 10 . . .** If a free kick goes out of bounds between the goal lines touched inbounds by R, the ball is put in play by R at the inbounds spot.

**ART. 11 . . .** A pop-up kick is illegal.

**PENALTY:** Arts. 2, 11 – Free-kick infraction – (S7-19) – 5 yards; Art. 3a – encroachment – (S7-18) – 5 yards; Arts. 3b, 4 – free kick infraction – (S7-19) – 5 yards; Art. 9 – free kick out of bounds – (S19) – 5 yards and re-kick, 5 yards from the succeeding spot, or put it in play at the inbounds spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot if previous spot on midfield side of R25.

# KICKS



## 🏈 Kickoff Out of Bounds (R. 6-1-9)

### 🏈 Casebook 6.1.9, SITUATION C

- 🏈 R1 is running near a sideline as he attempts to catch a free kick in flight. R1 has:
  - 🏈 (a) both feet inbounds; or
  - 🏈 (b) one foot on the sideline when he reaches through the plane of the sideline.
- 🏈 The ball **bounces off his hands and lands out of bounds**.

### 🏈 RULINGS

- 🏈 In (a), the ball is not yet out of bounds until it hit the ground there. Since R1 touched it, he caused it to go out of bounds and R will have the ball at the inbounds spot.
- 🏈 In (b), since R1 is out of bounds when the ball is touched, the **KICKER** has caused the ball to be out of bounds (i.e. KOO by K – give coach his options)

# KICKS



## 🏈 Kickoff Out of Bounds (R. 6-1-9)

### 🏈 **New 2025 Casebook Play:** 6.1.9 SITUATION B, part D.

- 🏈 The free kick by K1 from K's 40-yard line: (d) untouched in the field of play by either team, crosses the sideline and is caught, touched or recovered by R1 who is standing out of bounds.
- 🏈 In (d), the kick ended when the ball became dead by rule at the time it was touched by R1. The kick did not end until being touched out of bounds and, therefore, this is a free kick out of bounds.

# KICKS

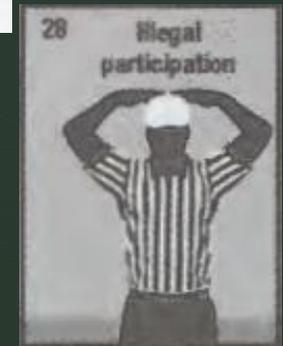
## 🏈 Kickoff Out of Bounds (R. 6-1-9), Player/Person Out of Bounds (R. 4-3-1), and Illegal Participation (R. 9-6-2)

- 🏈 9.6.2 SITUATION C: K1 free-kicks the ball toward the sideline. R1 runs to a sideline and intentionally steps out of bounds. While R1 is still out of bounds, he intentionally touches the ball as it nears the sideline. The ball is declared dead by the covering official. **RULING: Illegal participation by R1** as R1 remains out of bounds until any body part is touching inbounds, and no body part is touching out of bounds. (2-29-1, 4-3-1, 6-1-9)

ART. 2 . . . No player shall intentionally go out of bounds during the down and:

- Return to the field;
- Intentionally touch the ball;
- Influence the play; or
- Otherwise participate.

Player “**intent**” matters – does R stop completely (intended to cause dead ball so its ILP against R) or does he keep running (unintentional and KOO against K)?

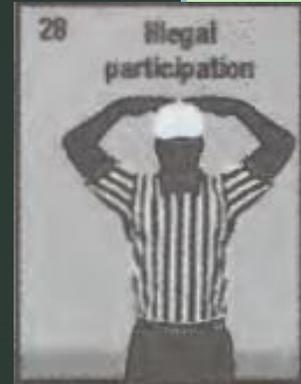


# THE PACKERS PLAYS



# KICKS

- 🏈 Kickoff Out of Bounds (R. 6-1-9) & Illegal Participation (R. 9-6-2)
  - 🏈 When combined with rule 2-29-1 (player remains OOB until returning to field of play with no body part touching OOB), the “Packers Play” results in a 15-yard penalty against R because it is clearly an intentional touching out of bounds by K
  - 🏈 But what about a third Packers Play?
    - 🏈 Touchback per R. 6-3-1



# KICKS

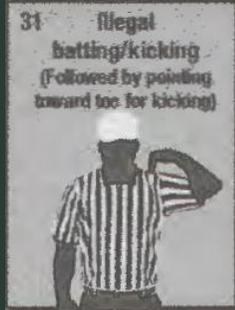
## 🏈 Scrimmage Kicks (R. 6-2)

### 🏈 Legal/Illegal Kicks

- 🏈 K may drop, place, or punt the kick, and need not be in a legal scrimmage kick formation, however the kick must occur behind the NZ (10-yard penalty)
- 🏈 R can never kick (10-yard penalty, R. 9-7-1)
- 🏈 Illegal scrimmage kicks can not score (R. 9-7-1, Casebook Situation A)

### 🏈 First Touching

- 🏈 Multiple FTs – most advantageous spot
- 🏈 Cancelled by Penalty (Foul supersedes FT) (R. 6-2-5; Casebook Situation A)
- 🏈 First Touching by K or Touching by R ignored if caused by opponent blocking player into contact with the ball (R. 6-2-4, Casebook Situation)
- 🏈 Expanded Neutral Zone (ENZ) – touching by ANY player behind the NZ or two yards beyond it is IGNORED but the ENZ does NOT extend into the endzone and the ENZ *disintegrates* once the kick crosses it (R. 2-28-2, 6-2-6)
  - 🏈 Remember, Casebook 4-2-2, Situation I (covered in Rule 4 slides): if K54 is in the Endzone and contacts the PAT, the try is NO GOOD and Play is dead (same for FG attempt).



# KICKS

## 🏈 Scrimmage Kicks (R. 6-2)

- 🏈 K may advance any kick *behind* its neutral zone (or kick it again) (Table 6-4)
  - 🏈 6.2.3 SITUATION A: A scrimmage kick by K1 is partially blocked in the neutral zone by R1. The kick goes beyond the neutral zone where R2 muffs it back behind the neutral zone. K2 recovers behind the neutral zone and advances across R's goal line. RULING: Touchdown for K
    - 🏈 “Comment.....**Whether the kick went beyond the neutral zone and then rebounded behind it is of no consequence. The spot of recovery is the only factor.** If the recovery is in or behind the neutral zone, K may advance. If the recovery is beyond the neutral zone, K may recover, but may not advance”
- 🏈 Simultaneous possession on kicks (or passes) goes to R (or A) and are DEAD IMMEDIATELY (R. 5-2-2[e][1])
- 🏈 Grounded kick that is not moving, and *with no player in the area or advancing toward it*, is dead and belongs to R, but give it a second before blowing it dead

# Table 6-4: Summarizing Scrimmage & Free Kick Rules

SECTION 4 SUMMARY OF SCRIMMAGE KICK AND FREE-KICK ACTIVITIES	
Table 6-4	
RESULT OF ACTIVITIES DURING SCRIMMAGE KICKS AND FREE KICKS	
Scrimmage Kick	Free Kick
1. Kick recovered beyond the neutral zone may be advanced only by R.	1. A kickoff, including the kick following a safety, cannot score a field goal.
2. Kick recovered in or behind the neutral zone may be advanced by either team.	2. Kick following a fair catch or awarded fair catch may score a field goal.
3. Kick not recovered by either team belongs to R.	3. Kick may not be advanced by K.
4. Kick jointly recovered by R and K belongs to R.	4. Kick not recovered by either team belongs to R.
	5. Kick jointly recovered by R and K belongs to R.
<b>NOTE:</b> K is in team possession during a kick. A kick ends when a player gains possession or when the ball becomes dead by rule. R gains possession of the ball when a player of R catches or recovers the live ball.	
IF THE KICK BECOMES DEAD IN R'S END ZONE	
Touchback in all cases unless a field goal is scored.	
IF THE KICK BECOMES DEAD IN K'S END ZONE	
If the force is:	Then the ruling is:
1. The kick or any other new force by K.	1. Safety, if the kick is out of bounds or K has possession, including when the ball is loose, or Touchdown if R is in possession.
2. A new force by R.	2. Touchback, if the kick is out of bounds, or K has possession, including when the ball is loose, or Touchdown if R is in possession.

# KICKS

## Post-Scrimmage Kick Enforcement (PSK)

(R. 2-16-2[h], 2-41-6, 10-4-3)

- game hereafter referred to as a foul.
- h. Post-scrimmage kick – a foul by R (other than an illegal substitution or illegal participation foul that occurs at the snap) when the foul occurs:
1. During scrimmage kick plays, other than a try or successful field goal.
  2. During a scrimmage kick play in which the ball crosses the expanded neutral zone.
  3. Beyond the expanded neutral zone.
  4. Before the end of a kick.
  5. And K will not be next to put the ball in play.

ART. 6 ... The post-scrimmage kick spot is the spot where the kick ends. R retains the ball after penalty enforcement from the post-scrimmage kick spot when a post-scrimmage foul occurs. Fouls by R behind the post-scrimmage kick spot are spot fouls.

interference) prior to the end of the kick when K will not be next to put the ball in play.

**ART. 3 . . .** The basic spot is the spot where the kick ends when R commits a post-scrimmage kick foul (2-16-2h). R fouls behind the post-scrimmage kick spot are spot fouls.

**BLUE** BEAN BAG MARKS THE END OF THE KICK BECAUSE IT IS AN **ENFORCEMENT SPOT**

# KICKS

- 🏈 Fair Catch and Awarded Fair Catch (R. 6-5)
  - 🏈 Valid – waiving above his head (anything else is **In**valid) (R. 2-9, 6-5-7, 6-5-8)
    - 🏈 Giving In/valid (or any other signal) after the kick has touched the receiver or ground is **INVALID** (5-yard penalty)
    - 🏈 Giving In/valid (or any other signal) after the kick is caught or recovered is **ILLEGAL** (5-yard penalty)

## SECTION 9 FAIR CATCH

**ART. 1 . . .** A fair catch is a catch by a receiver of a free kick in or beyond the neutral zone to the receiver's goal line, or of a scrimmage kick beyond the neutral zone to the receiver's goal line, after a valid signal, under conditions in which the receiver forfeits the right to advance the ball in return for protection from being blocked or tackled by an opponent.

**ART. 2 . . .** An awarded fair catch occurs when the offended team chooses to take the ball after enforcement of a foul for kick-catching interference.

**ART. 3 . . .** A valid fair-catch signal is the extending and lateral waving of one arm, at full arm's length above the head, by any R player.

Rule 2-10

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**ART. 4 . . .** An invalid fair-catch signal is any signal by a receiver before the kick is caught or recovered:

- That does not meet the requirements of a valid signal.
- After the kick has touched a receiver.
- After the kick has touched the ground.

**ART. 5 . . .** An illegal fair-catch signal is any signal by a runner:

- After the kick has been caught.
- After the kick has been recovered.



Can make valid FC signal in or beyond NZ on Free Kick and beyond NZ up until EZ on scrimmage kick.

# KICKS

- 🏈 Fair Catch / Awarded Fair Catch & Kick Catching Interference (KCI) (R. 6-5)
  - 🏈 **Special Enforcement** of KCI / Fair Catch Options (Awarded FC or FC) (R. 6-5-6, 10-5-1[b])
    - 🏈 Elect the lateral spot anywhere between the hash marks;
    - 🏈 15 yards and re-kick;
    - 🏈 15 yards from the spot of the KCI;
    - 🏈 Accept the result of the play (decline);
    - 🏈 No “tack on” option under NFHS rules
  - 🏈 KCI Defined (R. 6-5-6):



ART. 6 ... While any free kick is in flight in or beyond the neutral zone to the receiver's goal line or any scrimmage kick is in flight beyond the neutral zone to the receiver's goal line, K shall not:

- Touch the ball or R, unless blocked into the ball or R, or to ward off a blocker; or
- Obstruct R's path to the ball.

This prohibition applies even when no fair-catch signal is given, but it does not apply after a free kick has been touched by a receiver, or after a scrimmage kick has been touched by a receiver who was clearly beyond the neutral zone at the time of touching.

**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.

# KICKS

- 🏈 Fair Catch / Awarded Fair Catch & KCI (R. 6-5)
  - 🏈 Dead Ball as soon as possessed by any R player following either In/valid fair catch signal
  - 🏈 Don't think about protection as much as opportunity to make initial catch
    - 🏈 Only player signaling is afforded protection, but K may commit KCI against a player who does not give a valid fair catch signal because R. 6-5-6 says “this prohibition applies even when no fair catch signal is given” (i.e. this does not mean contacting a player who did not give a fair catch signal is not KCI)
    - 🏈 Multiple case book examples in which K is guilty of KCI where they inadvertently contact or catch the kick *without contacting R so long as R is in a position to potentially make the initial catch* of the kick (R. 6.5.6, **SITUATIONS A, C & D**)
    - 🏈 So, what does the FC signal do for R? Means signaling R player can NOT be “blocked or tackled” by K, right? (R. 2-9-1 [definition on previous slide])

# KICKS

## 🏈 Fair Catch / Awarded Fair Catch & KCI (R. 6-5)

🏈 **6.5.2 SITUATION A:** During a scrimmage kick beyond the expanded neutral zone, [R1 gives a faircatch signal](#). He **muffs** the kick into the air, where:

- 🏈 (a) R1 catches it 5 yards in advance of his muff; or
- 🏈 (b) **K2 pushes R1 in an attempt to reach the ball**; or
- 🏈 (c) **K3 tackles R1** following the muff, preventing R1 from catching the kick; or
- 🏈 (d) R1 is blocked below the waist by K4 and K5 recovers.

## 🏈 RULINGS:

- 🏈 In (a) R1 has made a fair catch and the ball will be put in play at the spot where the catch was completed.
- 🏈 In (b), the **contact on R1 by K2 is legal** because K may retain possession following the muff by R1.
- 🏈 In (c), it is a **holding** foul for K3 to **tackle** R1 following the muff, thus preventing him from reaching the ball.
- 🏈 The block by K4 is illegal in (d).
- 🏈 The fouls in (c) and (d) are fouls during a loose-ball play and the penalty, if accepted, will be administered from the previous spot and the down replayed. (2-3-5b, 6-2-4, 9-3-2)

# KICKS

## 🏈 Fair Catch / Awarded Fair Catch & KCI (R. 6-5)

🏈 But the opportunity to catch ends “after a free kick has been touched by a receiver”

🏈 **6.5.6 SITUATION E:** While K1's punt is in flight beyond the neutral zone, R2 (a) gives a valid fair catch signal, or (b) does not give a signal. The ball strikes R2 on the shoulder and bounces high into the air. While the loose ball is still airborne, K4 pushes R2 in the chest and K4 catches the ball at that spot. **RULING:** In both cases, the ball is dead when K4 catches it. There is **no foul for kick-catching interference since R2's protection ended when the kick was touched.**

🏈 First and 10 for K.

🏈 DRAMATICALLY different under NCAA / NFL rules

🏈 Therefore, the “protection” afforded the player signaling FC ends when he *touches* the ball NOT when he *possesses* it (NOT when the kick ends), i.e. he’s protected only on that **initial attempt to catch** it, and we do NOT protect him for his muff (**R. 2-9-1** [previous slide], Casebook 6-5-6, Situations A & E)

🏈 IMO, it’s like they’ve redefined FC through Casebook Situations

🏈 Let’s see some film demonstrating the differences under NFHS/NFL/NCAA



# KICKS

- Fair Catch / Awarded Fair Catch & Blocking or Running (R. 6-5)
  - Blocking after giving In/valid FC signal is illegal blocking and 15-yard penalty (only time illegal blocks are 15 instead of 10 yards are on kicks)
  - Running after completing the catch of the kick following in/valid signal results in a 5-yard for DOG
    - If R gets hit during his illegal return, you probably have no foul for a routine tackle (definitely not KCI), but you might have a UNR, targeting, other illegal helmet contact, etc.

▶ DICKER THE (FREE) KICKER!



# FREE KICKS TO SCORE

**6.5.4 SITUATION:** R1 signals for a fair catch beyond the neutral zone on K's 40. K2 interferes with R1's opportunity to make the catch. R chooses an awarded catch and to put the ball in play with a snap. During the next down: (a) A1 gains 15 yards and the coach of B is charged with an unsportsmanlike foul; or (b) **B2 commits pass interference**; or (c) **an inadvertent whistle** sounds during A1's forward pass.

**RULING:** In (a), the unsportsmanlike foul during the down does not give A another choice to snap or free kick. **However, in (b), A may snap or free kick following penalty enforcement.** In (c) the down is replayed, and A has the option to snap or free kick (10-4-5a)

**4.3.7 SITUATION:** With the score tied near the end of the fourth period, R1 signals for a fair catch and catches the kick at K's 40. After a time-out, the captain of R advises the referee that he wishes to put the ball in play by snap. A1 throws a pass intended for A2. B1 interferes with A2, and the pass is incomplete. **Following administration of the penalty the captain of R decides to put the ball in play by free kick from K's 25 as a field goal attempt.**

**RULING:** This is permissible, and the game clock will not start until the kick is touched, other than first touching by K. **This is one of the times a field goal may be scored by a free kick.** The captain may request a time-out prior to making the decision on whether to snap or free kick. In putting the ball in play in this situation, the captain of R is privileged to designate the point on K's 25, anywhere between the hash marks he wishes the ball to be placed. (1-4-1, 5-2-4, 6-5-4)

**6.1.7 SITUATION A:** A free kick from K's 40 is high and comes down over K's 45 where it is muffed in flight by K2 after which it is recovered by K3 on R's 40.

**RULING:** This is first touching and also kick-catching interference by K2. R may choose to take the ball at the spot of first touching, take the results of the play or accept the 15-yard penalty for kick-catching interference. If the distance penalty is accepted, it is R's choice to have the penalty enforced from the spot of the foul or to have it enforced from the previous spot and require K to rekick.

**COMMENT:** The game clock will not be started when there is first touching of a free kick. The purpose is to prevent the kickers from taking advantage by touching the ball to start the game clock and thereby deny the receivers the opportunity of putting the ball in play. The exception "the game clock not starting with first touching," is protection for the receiving team and is consistent with the philosophy that the receiving team be given an opportunity of putting the ball in play following a free kick. (3-4-1, 6-5-4, 6-5-6)

*IMO:* the casebook obviously neglects to add that, in this situation, if they elect an awarded FC / enforcement of the KCI from the spot of the foul, then they have the option to put the ball in play by free kick, per R. 6-5-4.

## **Elect Snap or Free Kick to score 3 points (R. 6-1-1[c], [d], 6-5-4)**

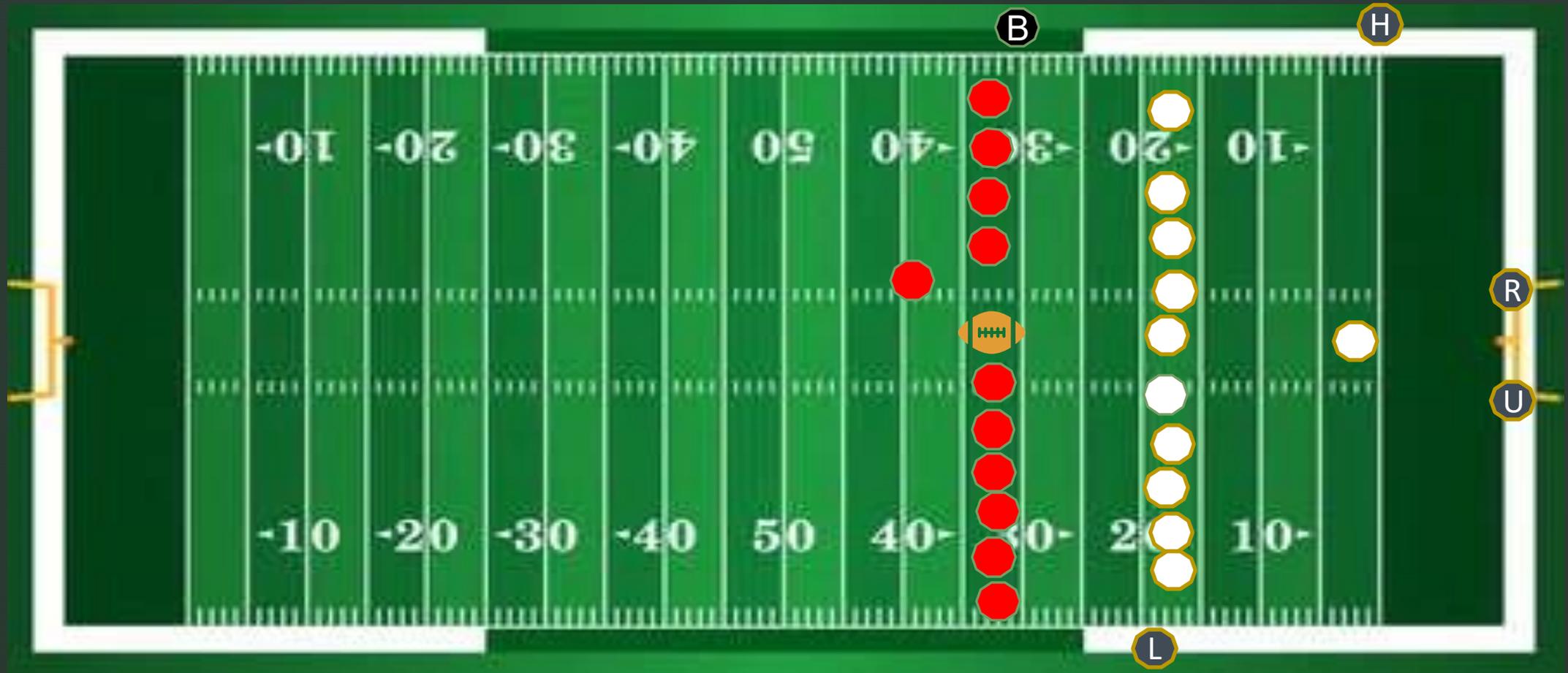
 **After a Fair catch or awarded fair catch, R may elect another free kick (to score 3 points)**

 **Remember: a DBF or IW gives them the option again (R. 6-5-4), and a live ball foul enforced from the previous spot might also give them the option again (as seen in these casebook examples throughout the Casebook for Rules 4 & 6)**



# Kicks

- Setting up for Free Kick for Score after FC or Awarded FC (mechanics p. 142)



PRESS BOX

# KICKS

## 🏈 Roughing / Running Into the Kicker (or holder) w/ 4 Exceptions (R. 9-4-5)

### 🏈 Enforcement:

- 🏈 Running into = 5 yards
- 🏈 Roughing = 15 yards + Auto 1<sup>st</sup> Down
- 🏈 Both **special enforcement** from the Previous Spot (unlike RTP, RTK/H is NOT a 'tack on' penalty)

ART. 5 ... Running into or roughing the kicker or holder. A defensive player shall neither run into the kicker nor holder, which is contact that displaces the kicker or holder without roughing; nor block, tackle, or charge into the kicker of a scrimmage kick, or the place-kick holder, other than when:

- Contact is unavoidable because it is not reasonably certain that a kick will be made. (P scrambling/QB pooch)
- The defense touches the kick near the kicker and contact is unavoidable. (Any member of "defense")
- Contact is slight and is partially caused by movement of the kicker. (Slight AND caused by K)
- Contact is caused by R being blocked into the kicker or holder by K.



# Touching of the ball by the Official IS IGNORED!



- What's the result of this play?
  - PAT/FG is GOOD! (R. 2-44 [touching by official is ignored])
- Different result if it hits R88?
  - Same Result if it hits R player in the EZ - PAT is good! (R. 4-2-2, Casebook Situation I; R. 6-3-1, Casebook Situation B [R may attempt to block from the EZ, but if it caroms through the uprights, its good])
- Other examples of ignoring touching of a loose ball by officials (Casebook R. 2-29-3)

# RULE 8: Goal Line & Scoring Plays

## 🏈 Football Fundamentals (8-1, 8-3)

🏈 TD = 6; Try = 2 or 1 (3-yard line); FG = 3

🏈 Safety = 2 or 1

🏈 Try is dead only when possessed by B or it is apparent the drop/place kick will not score or try successful or ball OOB.

🏈 Only A may score on a try (R. 8-3-3, Casebook Situation B)

🏈 Possession of a live ball in the opponent's endzone is always a touchdown (R. 8-2-1[a], [b]), but even loose ball resulting from a fumble or backwards pass that lays in the opponent's endzone may be a touchdown for the non-fumbling team (R. 8-2-1[c]), but again, wait a few seconds before declaring it.

# PASSING GAME

## RULE 7

### 🏈 Fumbles (i.e. *Unplanned* Loose Balls) or Backwards Pass (R. 7-4)

- 🏈 May be caught or scooped and advanced by any player of A or B
- 🏈 Ball out of bounds behind a goal line will belong to the team defending that goal line (possibly for a free kick) and will either be a touchback or safety *depending upon the force* and whether a penalty occurred (R. 7-4-4, 8-5-1, 8-5-2, 8-5-3)
  - 🏈 More examples / casebook plays when we cover passes next week
- 🏈 Force definition is KEY to properly ruling on TD or safety on these plays as we saw last week with our new fumble OOB rule (R. 2-13) (next slide)

# FORCE DEFINED (R. 2-13)

## SECTION 13 FORCE

ART. 1 ... Force is the result of energy exerted by a player which provides movement of the ball. The term force is used only in connection with the goal line and in only one direction, i.e., from the field of play into the end zone. Initial force results from a carry, fumble, kick, pass or snap. After a fumble, kick or backward pass has been grounded, a new force may result from a bat, an illegal kick, or a muff.

ART. 2 ... Responsibility for forcing the ball from the field of play across a goal line is attributed to the player who carries, snaps, passes, fumbles, or kicks the ball, unless a new force is applied to either a kick, fumble or backward pass that has been grounded.

ART. 3 ... The muffing or batting of a pass, kick or fumble in flight is not considered a new force.

ART. 4 ... Force is not a factor:

- a. On kicks going into R's end zone, since these kicks are always a touchback regardless of who supplied the force.
- b. When a backward pass or fumble is declared dead in the end zone of the opponent of the player who passed or fumbled, with no player possession.

# RULE 8: Goal Line & Scoring Plays

- 🏈 Force & Momentum (R. 8-5-1, 8-5-2, **2-13**)
  - 🏈 Generally, **a muff** or batting of a pass, kick, or fumble in flight is **NOT** a new force and touching of a loose ball by a player blocked into the ball is **NOT** a new force
  - 🏈 It is a SAFETY when a player carries the ball into his own endzone *unless his momentum* took him into the endzone and he first possessed the ball from inside the 5 yd line (e.g. *momentum* rule exception discussed last week for interceptions or punt returns at or inside the 5 yd line) (R. 8-5-2 [EXCEPTION]).
    - 🏈 Mechanics: **blue** bean bag marks the spot where he gained possession
  - 🏈 Only A may score on a try (R. 8-3-3, Casebook Situation B) but A may score a 1-pt safety if B is responsible for the force that sends the loose ball into B's EZ and B recovers and downs the ball in their EZ (R. 8-3-3, Casebook Situation A; R. 9-7-2).
    - 🏈 R. 8-3-3, Casebook Situation A : “a muff by B1 is judged by the game official to be a new force causing the ball to go into B's end zone” – just rule the muff was not a new force and then it is dead and the try is no good (avoid trouble)

# RULE 8: Goal Line & Scoring Plays

- 🏈 Rule 8-5-2 (safety) and 8-5-3 (touchback) should be read in their entirety and in conjunction with the Casebook examples
  - 🏈 Generally, for routine snaps, the decision of whether to award a safety or TB is determined by the force that put the ball in the EZ (and whether it's in A or B's EZ)
  - 🏈 K's free or scrimmage kick into R's endzone is *always a touchback* (R. 2-13-4[a])
    - 🏈 **8.5.3 SITUATION B:** K1 kicks off to start the second half. The ball is rolling on R's 7-yard line when R1: (a) *accidentally*, or (b) *intentionally* kicks the ball into his own end zone where R2 recovers. Is the kick by R1 in either (a) or (b) a new force? If the action is a foul, where is it penalized from? **RULING:** It is not a new force in either (a) or (b), as **force is not a consideration on kicks going into R's end zone**. Even though the ball was kicked by R1, *the kick had not ended*. The contact in (a) is ignored because it was not an intentional act. In (b), *the kick is illegal, and if the penalty is accepted, it is enforced from the previous spot*. If the penalty is declined, it is a touchback by rule. In both (a) and (b), the ball becomes dead when the kick breaks the plane of R's goal line. (2-13-4, 9-7-1).
      - 🏈 Very different result under NFL / NCAA rules

ART. 4 ... Force is not a factor:

- On kicks going into R's end zone, since these kicks are always a touchback regardless of who supplied the force.
- When a backward pass or fumble is declared dead in the end zone of the opponent of the player who passed or fumbled, with no player possession.

# RULE 8: Goal Line & Scoring Plays

## 🏈 **Special Enforcement Rules After a TD (R. 8-2)**

- 🏈 Oversimplification of the Well-Written Rules (R. 8-2-2 through 8-2-5): When a TD is scored, and the penalty by Team B does not require previous spot enforcement (e.g. **occurring before a COP [unclean hands]**), or another **special enforcement** rule (e.g. **KCI**), then Team A might get to keep both the score and the penalty with the option of enforcing the penalty on either (a) the try or (b) subsequent kickoff (see Roger Redding chart summarizing the options):

**Carry-Over Penalties**

Play	Penalty is for	Can be enforced on/in		
		Try	Succeeding KO	Overtime
Touchdown (8-2-4)	Live-ball Foul % #	Yes	Yes	No
Touchdown (8-2-5)	Dead-ball Foul Before Try	Yes	Yes	No
Try (8-3-5b)	Live-Ball Foul #	Yes	Yes	Yes
Try (10-4-5b)	Dead-ball Foul After Try *	NA	Yes	Yes
Field Goal (8-4-3)	Live-ball Foul Dead-ball Foul After Field Goal #	NA	Yes	Yes

**Table 11-3**

- % Foul must occur after any change of possession unless nonplayer or unsportsmanlike.
- \* Does not apply if try is replayed.
- # Includes nonplayer and unsportsmanlike fouls (live-ball fouls treated as dead-ball fouls).

# RULE 8: Goal Line & Scoring Plays

## Special Enforcement Rules After a **Try** (R. 8-3)

- During a Try, fouls by Team A that include a loss of down do NOT get replayed (See R. 10-1-6), and some fouls by Team B might carry over to the succeeding kickoff (again, helpful chart from Roger Redding):

Fouls during a Try				
Foul by	Try is			
	Successful		Unsuccessful	
	Kick (1 pt)	Pass/Run (2 pts)	Kick (1 pt)	Pass/Run (2 pts)
<b>Team A</b> (8-3-6)	Replay unless loss of down foul		Penalty Obviously Declined	
<b>Team B</b> (8-3-5)	Accept score with carry-over penalty or replay for 2-points	Accept score with carry over Penalty	Replay (Distance penalty may be declined)	

**Table 11-2**

# RULE 8: Goal Line & Scoring Plays

## 🏈 Special Enforcement Rules After a TD (R. 8-2)

### 🏈 Important Exception on Scrimmage Kicks:

- 🏈 6.2 SITUATION: R returns K's scrimmage kick for a touchdown and (a) during the kick, K commits a holding foul, or (b) during the run back, K commits a foul for blocking below the waist. RULING: In (a) the succeeding spot for this play is the goal line (touchdown). Therefore, R may accept the distance penalty enforced on the try or decline the penalty. In either case, the touchdown will score; however, since the foul occurred before the change of possession, there is no option to enforce the distance penalty from the succeeding kickoff. In (b), because the foul occurred on a play in which a touchdown was scored after the change in possession, R can count the touchdown and have the penalty enforced on the try or on the succeeding kickoff per 8-2-3. (6-1-9, 8-2-3)
- 🏈 For scrimmage kicks, succeeding spot enforcement depends on whether the foul occurred before or after the COP

# VIDEO ON SCORING PLAYS & SPOTS – RULE 8 (WITH RULE 4 SPRINKLES)

Homework: Watch [this 20-minute video from the 2020 Aloha Clinic Pylon Training](#)



Great training for everyone, but particularly our young wing officials learning Rules 4 and 8!

NEXT WEEK  
August 25, 2025

- 🏈 Next Week – Final Pre-Season Meeting!
  - 🏈 Rule 7 (Passing / Formations)
  - 🏈 Rule 9 (ALL THE FOULS!)