

Rule 14 Penalty Enforcement

(Governing all cases not otherwise specifically provided for)

Section 1 General Rules

Article 1: Refusal of Penalties. Unless expressly prohibited, the penalty for any foul may be declined by the offended team, and play proceeds as though no foul had been committed. The yardage distance for any penalty may be declined, even though the penalty is accepted.

Note: If the defensive team commits a foul during an unsuccessful Try, the offensive team may decline the distance penalty, and the down is replayed from the previous spot.

Exception:

(a) If there is a Double Foul, enforcement is pursuant to Section 5 below.

Note: In all situations, a disqualified or suspended player must be removed, including when the foul that led to the disqualification or suspension is declined, a penalty for another foul is chosen (Multiple Foul), or fouls by both teams offset (Double Foul).

A.R. 14.1 Second-and-10 on A30. A legal forward pass is completed to end A1 on the A45 where he is downed. Defensive B1 held flanker A2 on the A35 prior to the pass.

Ruling: Declines holding penalty which would have been five yards from the previous spot and a first down. A's ball first-and-10 on A45.

A.R. 14.2 Second-and-10 on A30. On a legal forward pass, B1 interferes with eligible A1 on the B40 where the ball falls incomplete. B2 strikes A2 on the line of scrimmage.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on B40. Pass interference foul is accepted. B2 is disqualified even though no distance penalty is enforced for that foul.

Article 2: Number of Down After Penalty

Item 1: Foul by Team A. If the ball is behind the line to gain after the enforcement of a distance penalty for a foul by Team A that occurs prior to (between downs) or during a play from scrimmage, the number of the ensuing down remains the same, unless it is a combination penalty involving loss of down (see Item 2).

Item 2: Combination Penalty. A combination penalty involving both distance and loss of down is enforced for the following fouls:

- (a) A forward pass from beyond the line (8-1-2-Pen. a); or
- (b) A forward pass that is intentionally grounded (8-2-1); or
- (c) Handing the ball forward beyond the line of scrimmage; or
- (d) Kicking a Loose Ball.

If a loss-of-down penalty is enforced prior to fourth down, the number of the ensuing down is one greater than that of the previous down. If it is enforced on fourth down, the ball is awarded to Team B; if there is a combination penalty on fourth down, the distance penalty is also enforced.

Item 3: Line to Gain and Change of Possession. If a change (or multiple changes) of possession is negated by enforcement of a penalty against Team A during a play from scrimmage, the line to gain for Team A remains the same.

A.R. 14.3 Second-and-10 on A30. Team A is offside. A legal forward pass is intercepted by defensive B1 on the 50. B1 runs to the A40, fumbles, and A2 recovers there.

Ruling: A's ball second-and-15 on A25. (If Team B refused the penalty, it would have been A's ball first-and-10 on A40).

Item 4: Ball in Advance of Line to Gain. If the ball is in advance of the line to gain after the enforcement of a distance penalty for a foul by Team A during a play from scrimmage, it is first-and-10 for Team A. It is also first-and-10 after enforcement for a Dead Ball Foul (Section 4, Article 9) by Team A at the end of a play from scrimmage when there has not been a change of possession.

Exception: A foul against an official, regardless of when it occurs, is always treated as a Foul Between Downs (Section 4, Article 9). See 12-3-1-g-pen.

A.R. 14.4 Second-and-4 on A30. Runner A1 goes to the B45. During the run, A2 clipped on the 50.

Ruling: After the penalty, the ball is still in advance of the necessary line for the first down. A's ball first-and-10 on A35.

Item 5: Foul by Team B. After a penalty for a foul by Team B prior to (between downs) or during a play from scrimmage, the ensuing down is first-and-10 for Team A.

Exceptions are:

- (a) offside;
- (b) encroachment;
- (c) Neutral zone infraction;
- (d) Delay of game;
- (e) Illegal substitution;
- (f) Excess time out;
- (g) Running into the kicker;
- (h) More than 11 players on the field at the snap;
- (i) More than 11 players in the formation prior to the snap; and
- (j) Illegal formation by the defense during a scrimmage kick play.

For the above exceptions, the number of the down and the line to gain remain the same unless a distance penalty places the ball on or in advance of the line to gain, in which case it is first-and-10 for Team A.

A.R. 14.5 Second-and-15 on A30. Runner A1 is downed on the A35. During the run defensive B1 held on the line of scrimmage.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on A40.

A.R. 14.6 Third-and-10 on B40. The defensive team is offside and A1 gains one yard.

Ruling: A's ball third-and-5 on the B35.

A.R. 14.7 Third-and-3 on B40. The defensive team is offside and A1 gains one yard.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on the B35.

Item 6: Foul After Change of Possession. If there is a foul, including a dead-ball foul, after team possession has changed during a down, following enforcement of a distance penalty, it is first-and-10 for the team that was in possession at the time of the foul.

A.R. 14.8 Third-and-10 on B48. B1 intercepts a pass and runs to the B45 where he steps out of bounds, after which B2 clips on the 50.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B30.

A.R. 14.9 Second-and-10 on A30. B1 intercepts a legal forward pass on the A40. He fumbles and A1 recovers on the A25. A1 runs to the A45. During A1's run A2 clipped on the 50.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on A30.

Item 7: Foul Between Downs. If there is a Foul Between Downs, the down remains the same, unless enforcement of the foul results in a first down.

Item 8: Double Fouls. If there is a Double Foul during the down, and the fouls offset, the down is replayed, and the number of the down remains the same.

Article 3: Choice of Penalties (Multiple Fouls). If there is a Multiple Foul (3-12-2-b) during the down, only one penalty may be enforced after the Referee has explained the alternatives to the offended team.

Exceptions:

- (a) A foul against an official is not part of a Multiple Foul and will be enforced in addition to any other foul.
- (b) If there is a personal foul that is also defensive pass interference, both fouls may be enforced.

A.R. 14.10 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 goes to the A35. During the run, A2 clipped on the A30. Team A was offside.

Ruling: A multiple foul and only one penalty can be enforced. Option for defensive Team B. A's ball second-and-15 on A25 (offside) or A's ball second-and-25 on A15 (clip). If both declined, it is third-and-five on A35.

A.R. 14.11 B1 makes an invalid fair catch signal at the B20. The ball goes over his head, lands at the B3-yard line and bounces into the end zone. Before the ball went into the end zone B1 blocked A4 at the B22.

Ruling: Multiple fouls but only one can be enforced. Option for Team A. B's ball first-and-10 on B11 (UNR) or B's ball first-and-10 on B15 (IFC).

A.R. 14.12 B1 intercepts a pass in the end zone. He runs and is downed in the end zone. B2 holds in the end zone during B1's run. B3 clips after the ball is dead.

Ruling: Safety, safety kick B20. In order to get the safety A must accept the hold, and multiple fouls against B cannot be enforced here so the clip does not carry over.

A.R. 14.13 B1 fumbles after catching a punt on his two-yard line. In attempting to recover in the end zone, he deliberately kicks the ball out of bounds behind the goal line.

a) B2 clips on his four yard line during the fumble.

Ruling: Safety, safety kick B10. Result of the play is a safety so the clip carries over to the safety kick.

b) B2 clips on his 4 after the ball is out of bounds.

Ruling: Safety. Safety kick B10.

A.R. 14.14 Second-and-10 on A28. Quarterback A1 completes a pass to end A3 at the A45. Tackle A6 and back A2 chop blocked B5 at the A26. After the play, A6 grabbed the Referee to argue the call.

Ruling: Both fouls enforced. A's ball second-and-31 on A7.

Section 2 Special Enforcement for Penalties

Article 1: Half-Distance Penalty. If the enforcement of a distance penalty would move the ball more than half the distance from the spot of enforcement to the offender's goal line, the penalty shall be half the distance from the spot of enforcement to its goal line. This general rule supersedes any other general or specific enforcement of a distance penalty.

Exceptions:

- (a) See Rule 8-2-1 for enforcement for intentional grounding.
- (b) See Rule 12-3-3 for enforcement for a palpably unfair act.

A.R. 14.15 Second-and-20 on B24. A legal forward pass is caught by end A1 on the B12 and he runs to the B10. B1 roughed the passer.
Ruling: Half the distance from the end of the run. A's ball first-and-goal on B5.

Article 2: Foul Behind a Goal Line.

- (a) When the spot of enforcement for a foul by the defense is behind the offensive goal line, a distance penalty is enforced from the goal line. However, if the play results in a touchback, the penalty is enforced from the 20-yard line. See Section 4, Article 6 for fouls during a backward pass or fumble and Section 4, Article 4 (b), Note, for exception when a player's momentum carries him into the end zone.
- (b) When the spot of enforcement for a foul by the offense is behind the offensive goal line, it is a safety.
- (c) When the spot of enforcement for a foul by the offense is behind the defensive goal line, a distance penalty is enforced from the goal line.

A.R. 14.16 First-and-10 on A3. Runner A1 is tackled in his end zone. During A1's run, B2 grabs A2 by the facemask in the field of play.
Ruling: Enforce from the goal line. A's ball first-and-10 on B15.

A.R. 14.17 Second-and-15 on A4. Runner A1 is downed in the end zone. During the run A2 held on the A10.
Ruling: Safety. Decline penalty.

A.R. 14.18 Second-and-goal on B2. Runner A1 fumbles into B's end zone. B1 recovers in his end zone and runs with the ball before being downed behind the goal line. While B1 is a runner, B2 fouls in the end zone.
Ruling: Safety.

A.R. 14.19 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 crosses the goal line. During A1's run A2 clips in B's end zone before A1 crosses the goal line.
Ruling: Enforcement is from the goal line. A's ball first-and-10 on B15.

Article 3: Foul During a Score. If a team commits a personal or unsportsmanlike conduct foul, or a palpably unfair act, during a down in which the opponent scores, the penalty is enforced on the succeeding free kick (unless the score resulted from the enforcement). On a successful Try kick, any foul by the defense may be enforced on the succeeding free kick.

Exception: If a personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct foul, or a palpably unfair act occurs on a successful field goal or Try kick, the scoring team has the option to begin a new series (after a field goal) or to replay the down (after a Try) following enforcement of the penalty from the previous spot, and the score does not count.

A.R. 14.20 Second-and-10 on B30. A legal forward pass is caught by end A1 who then runs for a score. Prior to the pass, B1 roughs A2 on the line of scrimmage.
Ruling: Touchdown. Kickoff on A50.

A.R. 14.21 Second-and-15 on A2. Runner A1 is downed in the end zone. A2 clipped in the end zone during the run.
Ruling: Safety. Free kick from A10. The personal foul is penalized from the succeeding spot (A20) as the foul did not result in a score.

A.R. 14.22 B1 clips during a kickoff. B1 muffs the kick on the B5 and forces it into his end zone (new impetus) where he recovers and is downed.
Ruling: Safety. Team B free kicks from its 10 as the penalty is also enforced for the clip from the succeeding spot (B20).

A.R. 14.23 Second-and-12 on A4. Runner A1 fumbles in his end zone, where B1 recovers. During A's run, A2 holds anywhere.
Ruling: Touchdown Team B. Kickoff at B35. Decline foul.

A.R. 14.24 Fourth-and-10 on B24. During a successful field goal attempt, B1:
 a) is offside.
Ruling: Points awarded. Decline foul.
 b) roughs the kicker.
Ruling: Point awarded and enforce on kickoff or A's ball first-and-10 on B12.

A.R. 14.25 During a successful Try-kick, B1:
 a) is offside.
Ruling: Point awarded. Enforce five-yard penalty against B on kickoff (See 11-3-3-Item 4-c) or retry at B1.
 b) roughs the kicker.
Ruling: Point awarded. Enforce the penalty on the succeeding kickoff (See 11-3-3-Item 4-c) or retry at B1.

Section 3 Spot From Which Penalty Is Enforced

Article 1: Governing Provisions. The general provisions of Rule 14 govern all spots of enforcement, except for specific enforcements designated elsewhere in these rules.

Article 2: Foul by Non-Player. Penalties for fouls committed by non-players shall be enforced as provided for in Rule 13.

Article 3: Enforcement Spot Not Governed. When the spot of enforcement is not governed by a general or specific rule, it is the spot of the foul.

Article 4: Spots of Enforcement. The Spot of Enforcement is the spot at which a penalty is enforced. There are five spots that are commonly used:

- (a) The Previous Spot: The spot at which the ball was last put in play.
- (b) The Spot of the Foul: The spot at which a foul was committed or, by rule, is considered to have been committed.
- (c) The Spot of a Backward Pass or a Fumble: The spot at which the backward pass or fumble occurred during the down in which there was a foul.
- (d) The Dead Ball Spot: The spot at which the ball became dead.
- (e) The Succeeding Spot: The spot at which the ball will next be put in play (i.e., the spot of the ball after enforcement for a foul, or, if there has been no foul, the spot at which the ball became dead).

Article 5: Basic Spot. The Basic Spot is a reference point that is used to determine the Spot of Enforcement for fouls committed during (i) a run which is not followed by a change of possession, or (ii) a fumble or a backward pass beyond the line of scrimmage or when there is not a line of scrimmage.

- (a) For fouls committed during a running play which is not followed by a change of possession, the Basic Spot is the dead-ball spot.
- (b) When the spot of a backward pass or fumble is beyond the line of scrimmage, or when there is not a line of scrimmage, and there is a foul during the backward pass or fumble, the Basic Spot is the spot of the backward pass or the spot of the fumble.

A.R. 14.26 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 is downed on the A35. Defensive B1 illegally uses his hands at the A45 during run.
Ruling: The defensive foul is in advance of the basic spot. Penalize from the basic spot (A35). A's ball first-and-10 on A40.

A.R. 14.27 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 is downed on the A35. Offensive player A2 holds at the A45.
Ruling: The offensive foul is in advance of the basic spot. Penalize from the basic spot (A35). A's ball second-and-15 on A25.

A.R. 14.28 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 is downed on the A40. An offensive player holds at the A35.
Ruling: The offensive foul is behind the basic spot. Penalize from the spot of the foul (A35). A's ball second-and-15 on A25.

A.R. 14.29 Second-and-10 on A30. Quarterback A1 is downed on the A40. Offensive player A2 held on the A25.
Ruling: Penalize 10 yards from the previous spot as the offensive foul was behind the line of scrimmage. A's ball second-and-20 on A20.

A.R. 14.30 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 is downed on the A25. An offensive player held on the A32.
Ruling: A's ball second-and-20 on the A20. The offensive runner was downed behind the line of scrimmage. Enforcement is from the previous spot. Team B has option of refusing the penalty and taking the result of the play which would then be A's ball third-and-15 on the A25.

Article 6: Three-and-One Method of Enforcement. For fouls committed during a run, or a fumble or a backward pass beyond the line of scrimmage or when there is not a line of scrimmage, the penalty is enforced from the Basic Spot if:

- (a) the defense fouls in advance of the Basic Spot;
- (b) the defense fouls behind the Basic Spot; or
- (c) the offense fouls in advance of the Basic Spot.

If the offense fouls behind the Basic Spot, enforcement is from the spot of the foul (three-and-one method of enforcement).

Exceptions for fouls committed by the offense:

- (1) Fouls committed by the offense behind the line of scrimmage, except for fouls committed in the end zone, are enforced from the previous spot. See Rule 8-2-1 for enforcement for intentional grounding.
- (2) If the offense commits a foul in its end zone that is accepted, it is a safety.
- (3) If the offense commits a foul beyond the line of scrimmage and the Basic Spot is behind the line of scrimmage, enforcement is from the previous spot. If the dead-ball spot is in the offensive end zone, it is a safety, regardless of where the foul occurs.
- (4) If the offense commits a foul in the defense's end zone prior to scoring a touchdown, enforcement is from the goal line.

Exceptions for fouls committed by the defense:

- (1) If the spot of a foul by the defense occurs on or beyond the line of scrimmage, and the Basic Spot is behind the line of scrimmage, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot.

- (2) When the spot of a foul by the defense is behind the line of scrimmage and the Basic Spot is behind the line, enforcement is from the spot of the foul or the Basic Spot, whichever is more beneficial for Team A. If Team A is short of the line of scrimmage after enforcement from the spot of the foul or the Basic Spot, the ball shall be placed at the previous line of scrimmage, and no additional yardage assessed.
- (3) If the spot of the foul by the defense and the dead-ball spot are in the offense's end zone, enforcement is from the goal line.

Section 4 Spots of Enforcement

Article 1: Foul Before or At the Snap.

Item 1: Before the Snap. A foul that occurs prior to the snap is enforced from the succeeding spot, and the down remains the same, unless enforcement of the foul results in a first down.

Item 2: At the Snap. A foul that occurs at the snap is enforced from the previous spot, and the down is repeated, unless enforcement of the foul results in a first down.

Article 2: Foul Committed During Running Play. For a foul committed during a running play when there is not a subsequent change of possession during the down, the Basic Spot is the dead-ball spot. The three-and-one method of enforcement is used (see Section 3, Article 6).

Note: A foul during a run prior to a forward pass or kick from behind the line is enforced as a foul during a passing play or during a scrimmage kick.

Article 3: Foul Committed During Running Play Before Change of Possession. When a defensive foul occurs during a running play, and the run in which the foul occurs is followed by a change of possession, the ball reverts to the offensive team, and the foul is enforced from (a) the spot of the foul or (b) the spot where the player lost possession, whichever is less beneficial to the offensive team. If the spot of enforcement is behind the offense's goal line, the penalty is enforced from the goal line. However, if the defensive foul occurs during a play from scrimmage, and after the enforcement of the penalty the ball is still behind the previous line of scrimmage, the ball shall be placed at the previous line of scrimmage.

Note: If there are Multiple Fouls by the defense, the enforcement shall be that which is most beneficial to the offense.

When the offense commits a foul during a running play, and the run in which the foul occurs is followed by a change of possession, the defense must decline the penalty to retain possession. However, if the foul by the offense was a personal foul or unsportsmanlike conduct foul, the defense may elect to retain possession, and the penalty shall be enforced from the dead-ball spot.

A.R. 14.31 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 goes to the A40 where he fumbles and B1 recovers. During A1's run, B2 held on the A32.

Ruling: Penalize from the spot of the foul or fumble, whichever is less beneficial to A. A's ball first-and-10 on A37.

A.R. 14.32 Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 goes to the A40 where he fumbles and B1 recovers. During A1's run, B2 held on the A45.

Ruling: Enforce from the spot where the offensive player A1 lost possession as the foul was in advance of where he lost possession. A's ball first-and-10 on A45.

A.R. 14.33 Second-and-10 on A30. QB A1 scrambles to A20, fumbles and B1 recovers. During A1's scramble, B2 holds at A22.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on A30. Enforcement is from the spot of the foul or fumble, whichever is less beneficial to A, but the ball must at least get back to the previous line of scrimmage.

Article 4: Foul Committed after Change of Possession (End Zone Enforcement). If there is a foul by either team after a change of possession, and the dead-ball spot is in the end zone, enforcement shall be as follows.

(a) Fouls by Team A:

- (1) If the impetus that sent the ball in touch was provided by Team B, enforcement is from the goal line. See Note below for exception when a player's momentum carries him into the end zone.
- (2) If the impetus that sent the ball in touch was provided by Team A, enforcement is from the 20-yard line.

(b) Fouls by Team B (Team A impetus):

- (1) If Team B does not attempt to advance the ball, regardless of whether its foul occurs in the end zone or in the field of play, enforcement is from the 20-yard line.
- (2) If Team B attempts to advance the ball, and the spot of its foul is in the end zone, the result is a safety.

Note: If a Team B player's original momentum carries him into his end zone, where the ball is declared dead in his team's possession, the dead-ball spot is considered to be the spot at which the player established possession. See 11-5-1-Exc. 2.

(c) Fouls by Team B (Team B impetus):

- (1) Regardless of whether the foul is in the field of play or in the end zone, the result is a safety.

Note: Dead-ball fouls by either team are enforced from the succeeding spot.

- A.R. 14.34** Receiver B1 fumbles after catching a punt on his one-yard line. The ball enters the end zone where B1 recovers and attempts to run it out. B1 is downed in the end zone. During B1's run A1 clipped anywhere.
Ruling: Enforce from the goal line. B's ball first-and-10 on B15.
- A.R. 14.35** B1 intercepts a pass in his end zone, attempts to run it out, but is tackled there. During B1's run A1 clips anywhere.
Ruling: Enforce from the B20. B's ball first-and-10 on B35.
- A.R. 14.36** B1 intercepts a pass in his end zone and gives himself up by going to the ground. B2 grabs A1 by the facemask (anywhere) as B1 is going to the ground.
Ruling: Enforce from the B20. B's ball first-and-10 on B10.
- A.R. 14.37** B1 intercepts a pass in his end zone and runs with the ball. B2 clips during B1's run anywhere in the field of play. B1 is downed in the end zone.
Ruling: Enforce from the B20. B's ball first-and-10 on B10.
- A.R. 14.38** B1 intercepts a pass in his end zone and runs with the ball. B2 clips in the end zone during B1's run. B1 is downed anywhere.
Ruling: Safety. Safety kick B20.
- A.R. 14.39** B1 intercepts a pass at his 2-yard line and his original momentum carries him into the end zone where he is eventually downed after trying to run it out. During the run, A2 blocks low anywhere.
Ruling: Enforce from the spot where possession was gained which is considered the dead-ball spot. B's ball first-and-10 on B17.
- A.R. 14.40** B1 intercepts a pass at his 4-yard line and his original momentum carries him into the end zone where he is eventually downed after trying to run it out. During the run, B2 blocks low:
a) at the B6.
Ruling: Enforce from the spot where possession was gained which is considered the dead-ball spot. B's ball first-and-10 on B12.
b) at the B2.
Ruling: Enforce from the spot of the foul which is behind the dead-ball spot. B's ball first-and-10 on B1.
c) in the end zone.
Ruling: Safety. Safety kick B20.
- A.R. 14.41** B1 intercepts a pass at his 2-yard line and takes the ball back into his own end zone while trying to avoid a tackle and is downed there. During the run, B2 blocks low anywhere.
Ruling: Safety. Safety kick B10. Result of the play is a safety so the personal foul carries over to the safety kick.

Article 5: Foul Committed During Passing Play. If there is a foul by either team from the time of the snap until a forward pass thrown from behind the line ends, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot. A pass play ends and a running play begins at the instant that a pass is caught.

Exceptions:

- (a) Intentional grounding is a loss of down at the spot of the foul, or a loss of down and a 10-yard penalty from the previous spot, whichever is less beneficial for the offense. If the foul occurs less than 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage, but more than half the distance to the goal line, the ball shall be placed at the spot of the pass. (If the pass is thrown from the end zone, it is a safety).
- (b) Pass interference by the defense is enforced at the spot of the foul. If it occurs in the fouling team's end zone, the ball will be placed at the one-yard line, or half the distance to the goal line from the previous spot, whichever is more beneficial to the offense.
- (c) It is a safety when the offensive team commits a foul behind its own goal line.
- (d) If there is a personal foul or unsportsmanlike conduct foul by the defense prior to the completion of a forward pass thrown from behind the line, enforcement is from the previous spot or the dead-ball spot, whichever is more beneficial to the offense. If the passing team is fouled and subsequently loses possession after a completion, the passing team retains possession of the ball, and enforcement is from the previous spot.
- (e) If there is a personal foul or unsportsmanlike conduct foul by the offense prior to an interception of a forward pass thrown from behind the line, enforcement is from the dead-ball spot. If the intercepting team subsequently loses possession, the penalty is enforced from the spot of the interception, and the intercepting team retains possession.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES:

- (1) The penalty for a forward pass from behind the line after the ball has been beyond the line, or for a second forward pass from behind the line, is enforced from the previous spot, unless the spot of the pass is behind the passer's goal line, in which case it is a safety.
- (2) If a forward pass is thrown from beyond the line of scrimmage, or when there is no line of scrimmage, it is a foul during a running play.

- A.R. 14.42** Second-and-10 on A40. Quarterback A1 standing at the A27 intentionally grounds the ball.
Ruling: A's ball third-and-23 on the A27.
- A.R. 14.43** Second-and-10 on A12. Quarterback A1 standing at the A3 intentionally grounds the ball.
Ruling: A's ball third-and-19 on the A3.
- A.R. 14.44** Second-and-15 on A4. Quarterback A1 throws a legal pass which is incomplete. A2 held in end zone.
Ruling: Safety, SK A20.

Article 6: Foul During a Backward Pass or Fumble.

- (a) When the spot of a backward pass or fumble is beyond the line of scrimmage, or when there is not a line of scrimmage, and there is a foul during the backward pass or fumble, the Basic Spot is the spot of the backward pass or the spot of the fumble. The three-and-one method of enforcement is used (see Section 3, Article 6).
- (b) When the spot of a backward pass or fumble is behind the line of scrimmage, all fouls committed by either team, including a foul by Team B in Team A's end zone, are enforced from the previous spot, except a foul by the offense in its end zone is a safety.

Note 1: If Team B gains possession in its end zone, and the impetus was provided by Team A, if Team B fumbles or throws a backward pass in the end zone and fouls while the ball is loose, the spot of the fumble or the backward pass is considered to be the B20-yard line.

Note 2: If a Team B player's original momentum carries him into his end zone, where he fumbles the ball, the spot of the fumble is considered to be the spot at which the player established possession. See 11-5-1-Exc. 2.

A.R. 14.45 First-and-10 on A20. A1 runs to the A34 and fumbles the ball. B1 recovers at the A32. During the loose ball, B2 held anywhere.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on the A39.

A.R. 14.46 First-and-10 on A20. A1 runs to the A24 and fumbles the ball. A1 recovers at the A25. During the loose ball A2 held:

a) on the A22

Ruling: A's ball first-and-18 on the A12.

b) on the A19

Ruling: A's ball first-and-20 on the A10.

A.R. 14.47 First-and-10 on A20. A1 runs to the A34 and fumbles the ball. B1 recovers at the A32. During the loose ball B2 held anywhere.

Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on the A39.

A.R. 14.48 B1 intercepts a pass in his end zone. He attempts to run it out, but fumbles and the ball goes out of bounds at the B3. During the loose ball:

a) A2 blocks low anywhere.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on the B35.

b) B2 blocks low on the B2.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on the B1.

c) B2 blocks low in the end zone.

Ruling: Safety. Safety kick B20.

A.R. 14.49 B1 intercepts a pass on the B2 and his original momentum carries him into the end zone. He attempts to run it out, but fumbles and the ball goes out of bounds at the B4. During the loose ball:

a) A2 blocks low anywhere.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on the B17.

b) B2 blocks low on the B4.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on the B1.

c) B2 blocks low in the end zone.

Ruling: Safety. Safety kick B20.

Article 7: Foul During Free Kick Play. If there is a foul during a free kick, enforcement is from the previous spot, and the free kick is made again. However, if the kicking team commits a foul prior to the end of the kick, and the receiving team retains possession throughout the down, it will have the option of enforcing the penalty at the previous spot and replaying the down or adding the penalty yardage to the dead-ball spot.

Exceptions:

- (a) A personal foul (blocking) after a fair-catch signal is enforced from the spot of the foul.
- (b) A foul for fair-catch interference is enforced from the spot of the foul.
- (c) A foul for interference with the opportunity to make a catch is enforced from the spot of the foul.
- (d) A foul for an invalid fair catch signal is enforced from the spot of the foul.
- (e) A foul for intentionally forming an illegal wedge, whether during the free kick or during the return, is enforced from the spot of the foul.
- (f) For a free kick out of bounds, see Rule 6, Section 2, Article 3.
- (g) For a free kick illegally touched, see Rule 6, Section 2, Article 4.
- (h) Double fouls are enforced according to customary rules.

Note: The dead-ball spot for free kicks that result in a touchback is the 20-yard line.

A free kick ends when Team B establishes possession. Fouls by Team A prior to the time that Team B establishes possession are offensive fouls. If Team A legally recovers a free kick, there is no change of possession. After Team B establishes

possession, a running play begins, and fouls that occur thereafter are enforced from the dead-ball spot or the spot of the foul (three-and-one method).

Article 8: Foul During Scrimmage Kick Play. If there is a foul from the time of the snap until a legal scrimmage kick ends, enforcement is from the previous spot. This includes a foul prior to a legal kick, and running into or roughing the kicker (12-2-10). If the offensive team commits a foul in its own end zone, it is a safety.

Exception 1: Unless the kick is a missed field goal attempt, if there is a foul by the kicking team, the receiving team will have the option of taking the penalty at the previous spot and replaying the down, or adding the penalty yardage on to the dead-ball spot.

Note 1: The dead-ball spot for kicks that result in a touchback is the 20-yard line.

Note 2: If there is a foul for an illegal touch inside the five-yard line, the receiving team also has the option of accepting a touchback.

Exception 2: Fair catch interference, interference with the opportunity to make a catch, an invalid fair catch signal, or a personal foul (blocking) after a fair catch signal are enforced from the spot of the foul.

Exception 3: If the receiving team commits a foul during a kick that crosses the line of scrimmage, the penalty for its infraction will be enforced as if it had been in possession of the ball at the time the foul occurred (a post-possession foul), provided that the receiving team does not lose possession of the ball at any time during the down. The penalty shall be enforced from whichever of the following spots is least beneficial to the receiving team:

- (a) The spot where possession is gained;
- (b) The spot where the ball becomes dead; or
- (c) The spot of the foul.

Note: If the least beneficial spot is in the end zone, the spot of enforcement is the 20-yard line.

Exception 4: If the receiving team commits a foul during a kick that crosses the line of scrimmage, and there is a “first touch” violation by the kicking team, if the receiving team possesses the ball and subsequently loses possession, the ball reverts to the receiving team, and its penalty shall be enforced from the spot where possession was gained by the receiving team, or the spot of the foul, whichever is less beneficial to them.

Note 1: The spot of the “first touch” violation is not used.

Note 2: If a distance penalty for a foul by the receivers is enforced, the violation by the kickers is disregarded.

When Team B establishes possession of the ball, a scrimmage kick ends, and a running play begins, and fouls that occur thereafter are enforced from the dead-ball spot or the spot of the foul (three-and-one method).

Article 9: Dead Ball Foul and Foul Between Downs. A Dead Ball Foul is a foul that occurs in the continuing action after a down ends, or a taunting foul that occurs at any time. The penalty for a Dead Ball Foul is enforced from the succeeding spot, and the down counts.

A Foul Between Downs is a foul that occurs after the end of the down and after any continuing action resulting from the down, but prior to the next snap or free kick. The penalty for a Foul Between Downs is enforced from the succeeding spot, and the down counts, but it cannot be combined with a Live Ball Foul or a Dead Ball Foul to create a Multiple or Double Foul. A Foul Between Downs is always enforced separately from any other foul. A foul against an official, regardless of when it occurs, is always treated as a Foul Between Downs. See 12-3-1-g-pen.

Exceptions:

- (a) If there is a personal foul by either team following the end of the second or fourth periods, the penalty yardage will be enforced on the second-half kickoff or the kickoff in overtime, unless it is part of a Double Foul (See Section 5).
- (b) If there is an unsportsmanlike conduct foul or taunting foul by either team following the end of the second or fourth periods, the penalty yardage will not be enforced, unless it is part of a Double Foul (See Section 5). However, if the foul occurs after any continuing action resulting from the down, the penalty yardage will be enforced on the second-half kickoff or the kickoff in overtime.

Item 1: Dead Ball Foul by Team A. If there is a Dead Ball Foul by Team A after a down in which Team A has made a first down, after enforcement of the penalty it will be first-and-10 for Team A. If there is a Foul Between Downs after a down in which Team A has made a first down, after enforcement of the penalty it will be first-and-25 for Team A.

Item 2: Dead Ball Fouls by Both Teams. Dead Ball Fouls by both teams are offset at the succeeding spot, and the down counts, but any disqualified player or players must be removed pursuant to Rule 5, Section 2, Article 7.

Item 3: Live Ball and Dead Ball Fouls. Live Ball Fouls and Dead Ball Fouls combine to create Double Fouls or Multiple Fouls, and all customary rules for enforcement apply.

Exceptions:

- (a) If there is a 5-yard vs. 15-yard Double Foul on the last play of a half, and the 15-yard penalty is for a Dead Ball personal foul by either team, the penalty yardage will be enforced on the second half kickoff or the kickoff to start

overtime. If the Dead Ball Foul is an unsportsmanlike conduct or taunting foul, the penalty yardage will not be enforced. In either case, there will be no extension of the period. See Section 5, Article 1, Exception (a).

- (b) If the scoring team commits a Dead Ball Foul after a score, and its opponent's Live Ball Foul is not for unsportsmanlike conduct or unnecessary roughness, the opponent's foul is disregarded, the score counts, and the offensive team's Dead Ball Foul is enforced on the kickoff. If the opponent's foul is for unsportsmanlike conduct or unnecessary roughness, the score counts, and both fouls are enforced on the kickoff.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

- (a) When a foul occurs simultaneously with the ball becoming dead, it is considered to be a Dead Ball Foul.
 (b) The succeeding spot for a foul that occurs after a touchdown and before a whistle for a Try is the next kickoff.
 (c) The time between downs includes the interval during all timeouts (including intermissions). See 3-38-1.

- A.R. 14.50** Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 goes out of bounds on the A35. Offensive player A2 then clips B1 either on the A40 or A30.
Ruling: A's ball third-and-20 on A20. Dead ball foul so down counts and enforce from succeeding spot.
- A.R. 14.51** Fourth-and-10 on A30. A punt goes to the B30 where kicking team player A1 downs it, after which:
 a) kicking team player A2 clips any place on the field.
Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B45.
 b) receiver B1 commits a personal foul any place on the field.
Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B15.
- A.R. 14.52** Third-and-8 on B12. A legal forward pass is incomplete. After the incompleteness:
 a) B1 knocks A1 to the ground.
Ruling: Enforce from the succeeding spot (B12). A's ball first-and-10 on B6.
 b) A1 clips.
Ruling: Enforce from the succeeding spot (B12). A's ball fourth-and-23 on B27.
- A.R. 14.53** Fourth-and-5 on B14. A legal forward pass is incomplete, after which A1 clips B1 and B2 knocks A2 to the ground.
Ruling: Fouls are offset at the succeeding spot. B's ball first-and-10 on B14.
- A.R. 14.54** Third-and-five on A30. Offensive team is offside and runner A1 gets tackled at the line of scrimmage. A2 clips just before the ball is declared dead.
Ruling: If defensive team B declines both penalties, it is fourth-and-five on the A30. If the penalty for clipping is enforced, it is third-and-20 on A15, since it was a live ball foul.

Section 5 Fouls by Both Teams (Double Fouls)

Article 1: Double Foul Without Change of Possession. If there is a Double Foul (3-12-2-c) during a down in which there is not a change of possession, the penalties are offset, and the down is replayed at the previous spot. If it is a scrimmage down, the number of the next down and the line to gain is the same as for the down in which the fouls occurred.

Exception:

If one or more fouls by one team includes a 15-yard penalty, and the penalty for the foul or fouls committed by the other team is for a five-yard penalty without an automatic First Down, a loss of down, or a 10-second runoff (15 yards versus five yards), the 15-yard penalty is enforced from the previous spot, and the five-yard penalty is disregarded. Five vs. 15 enforcement cannot be declined by the team that committed the minor foul, except as described in (ii) below. See 4-8-2-c-Exc. 2 and 14-4-9-Exc. (a) and (b) for dead ball fouls at the end of a half.

- (i) If one of the fouls is a Dead Ball Foul for delay of game for spiking the ball and the opponent's foul is a Live Ball Foul, the team that committed the delay of game foul, in addition to Article 1 and Exception (a), will have the option to decline the foul committed by its opponent and be assessed the penalty for delay from the dead-ball spot.
 (ii) If both fouls are Dead Ball Fouls or are treated as such (14-4-9), the penalties are offset, and the ball is next put in play at the succeeding spot.

Note: Disqualification of one or more players is enforced, even though the penalties are offset.

- A.R. 14.55** Second-and-20 on A30. Runner A1 goes to the A35. During the run A2 holds B1 who then punches A2.
Ruling: Disqualify B1. Penalties offset. A's ball second-and-20 on A30.
- A.R. 14.56** Second-and-10 on A30. Runner A1 is out of bounds on the A40, after which A2 clips any place. Team B was offside.
Ruling: A's ball second-and-25 on A15. 5 vs. 15 enforcement.
- A.R. 14.57** Third-and-eight on B10. A2 is offside and B1 slugs on the B6 during the play. Runner A1 scored on the play.
Ruling: Disqualify B1. A's ball first-and-goal on B5. 5 vs. 15 enforcement.
- A.R. 14.58** Second-and-10 on B40. B2 is offside and A1 completes a pass to eligible receiver A3 who is tackled at the B17. A3 then gets up and spikes the ball in the field of play.
Ruling: A's ball first-and-10 on B22 (decline B's foul and enforce A's from dead-ball spot).
- A.R. 14.59** Second-and-10 on A30. A1 is downed at the A35, A1 and B2 strike each other with their fists.
Ruling: Fouls offset at succeeding spot and both players are disqualified. A's ball third-and-5 on A35.

A.R. 14.60 Fourth-and-10 on B18. A forward pass falls incomplete in the end zone, after which A1 clips B2 who then strikes A1.
Ruling: Disqualify B2. B's ball first-and-10 on B18.

Article 2: Double Foul with a Change of Possession. If there is a Double Foul during a down in which there is a change or changes of possession, including if one of the fouls is a post-possession foul by Team B during a scrimmage kick, the team last gaining possession will keep the ball after enforcement for its foul, provided it did not foul prior to last gaining possession ("clean hands").

If the team last in possession does not have "clean hands" when it establishes possession, the penalties offset, and the down is replayed at the previous spot.

Exceptions:

- (a) If Team A fouls during a kickoff, punt, safety kick, fair catch kick, or field goal attempt prior to the change of possession, Team B may elect to replay the down at the previous spot.
- (b) If a safety results from the enforcement of a foul by Team B, the down is replayed at the previous spot.
- (c) If both teams foul after the last change of possession (Double Foul After Change of Possession), the team last in possession shall retain the ball at the spot of its foul or the dead-ball spot, whichever is less beneficial for it. If its foul is a Dead Ball Foul, the ball is put in play at the dead-ball spot. If the least beneficial spot is normally a touchback, the ball is placed on the 20-yard line. If it is normally a safety, the ball is placed on the one-yard line. On kicking plays, Team B shall also have the option in (a) above.

A.R. 14.61 Second-and-10 on B40. Offensive Team A is offside. B1 intercepts a forward pass and runs it back to the A30. On the runback, B2 clips on the B45.

Ruling: Team B gained possession prior to its foul so it keeps ball and foul is enforced. B's ball first-and-10 on B30.

A.R. 14.62 On the kickoff to start the game, kicking team player A1 is offside. Receiver B1 catches the ball in the end zone and runs it back to the A20. On the runback, B2 clips on the A26.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on A41.

A.R. 14.63 Fourth-and-10 on A40. Kicking team player A1 is offside. A punt hits on the B20 where receiver B1 picks it up and runs to the 50. On B's runback, B2 clips on the B40.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B25.

A.R. 14.64 Fourth-and-10 on A40. Kicking team player A1 is offside. A punt hits on the B20 where receiver B1 picks it up and runs for a touchdown. After B1 scores, B2 clips on the A10.

Ruling: Touchdown Team B. Kickoff B20. Clean hands score.

A.R. 14.65 Second-and-10 on B45. B1 intercepts a pass on the B10 and runs it back to the A30. On the runback, B2 clips on the A35 and A1 piles on runner B1 after he is tackled on the A30.

Ruling: Team B retains ball at spot of its foul. B's ball first-and-10 on A35.

A.R. 14.66 B1 receives a kickoff in the end zone and clips there. The runner advances to the B25 and is piled on by A1.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B1.

A.R. 14.67 A kickoff is illegally out of bounds on the B30. After the ball is out of bounds:

- a) A1 clips and B2 blocks below the waist.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B30 or rekick A35.

- b) A1 clips and B1 punches A1.

Ruling: B's ball first-and-10 on B30 or rekick A35. B1 disqualified.

A.R. 14.68 Second-and-10 on B30. Offensive A1 offside. B1 intercepts in the end zone and clips there. Runner B1 is downed on the B10.

Ruling: Replay. A score cannot result from one of the fouls of a double foul. A's ball second-and-10 on B30.

A.R. 14.69 Second-and-five on B45. Team A is offside. B1 intercepts a pass on the B10 and runs it back to the B30 and is tackled and fumbles on the B30 where A1 recovers. On B1's run, B2 clipped on the B25.

Ruling: A's ball second-and-5 on B45. Team A did not get ball clean so fouls offset.

A.R. 14.70 B1 receives a kick at the B10, advances to the B40 and fumbles when he is tackled. A2 recovers. During B1's run, B2 clips at the B30, after which A1 trips B3.

Ruling: Rekick A35. Team A did not get ball clean.

A.R. 14.71 Second-and-10 on B45. B1 holds tight end A1 on the line of scrimmage. B2 intercepts the ball on the B10 and runs it back to the B30 where he is tackled, fumbles, and A2 recovers the ball. A2 runs to the B20. On A2's run, A3 holds on the B25.

Ruling: Team A keeps the ball as it gained possession prior to its foul. A's ball first-and-10 on B35.