



2015 TACKLE RULE CHANGES FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The following rule changes, clarifications and corrections, approved by the Tackle Rules Committee, are for immediate distribution and implementation. ***(The changes are italicized and in bold type)***. They will be added to the next printed edition of the Rule Book due in May 2016.

CHANGES

RULE 4 SECTION 6 ARTICLE 3 page 25

Replace:

A teammate shall not help the ball carrier by grasping, pulling, pushing or charging into; him to assist his forward progress.

Penalty: Team A – 1,2D –L5 DR, 3D DG –L5 PBH, 3D DNG – LB PBD

Team B – L5 PBH

Rationale:

To be consistent. The rule stated only Team A (team on offence). Why, by rule, can Team B during a punt return, interception, fumble, they can push, charge, or assist the Team B ball carrier legally?

RULE 5 SECTION 2 ARTICLE 3C page 28

Replace:

c) ***The ball shall not go out of bounds in the end zone in flight without being touched by a player. The ball is immediately dead and Team b shall scrimmage at any point on or between the hash marks on its own 20 yard (20 metre) line, no option.***

Rationale:

To provide clarity. The committee agreed it should not be a penalty and we no longer use regulation and non-regulation end zones.

RULE 5 SECTION 4 ARTICLE 2G page 31

Add:

g) On any kick from scrimmage (which excludes kickoffs) where the ball enters the end zone, the receiving team being able to successfully advance the ball legally out of the end zone and retain possession, may choose to

scrimmage **at any point on or between the hash marks** at their own 20 yard (20 metre) line or where the ball becomes dead.

Note: When the ball has been legally advanced out of the end zone the point ball held will be classed the B 20 yard (20 metre) line until the ball is carried beyond the B20, for any penalties to be applied at PBH.

Rationale:

To be consistent with other rules and provide clarity. All other rules indicate on or between hash marks, this one should too to be more consistent.

RULE 6 SECTION 4 ARTICLE 7A page 38

Add:

A forward pass is incomplete as follows:

a) When the ball touches the ground, goal post assembly, an official, **a corner marker**, Downsbox marker or yardstick assembly or goes out of bounds, even if previously touched by a player

Rationale:

To be consistent with logic of rules. With last year's change to make the corner marker inbounds, we now have left the possibility that if a forward pass touches the corner marker, then is caught, this would be a completed pass.

RULE 7 SECTION 3 ARTICLE 13 page 44

Replace:

Grasping an opponent by the inside of the shoulder pads, by the inside collar of the jersey or the outside of the jersey above the numbers and using this as the primary means of causing a sudden change in the ball carrier's direction shall be ruled as Unnecessary Roughness.

Rationale:

To increase the players safety. The effects on the neck and the back of a player would be the same if the tackle is made by grabbing the outside of the jerseys above the number then by the inside collar. The outside of the jersey was included in the rule for safety reasons.

RULE 7 SECTION 3 ARTICLE 16(4) page

Replace:

4) **A player attempting to field a kick in the air;**

Rationale:

To avoid confusion by including all kick plays. The current rule only states punt returner, so it technically wouldn't apply on a kickoff or missed field goal. By including all kicks, confusion should be avoided.

REMINDER THE BELOW CHANGES TAKE EFFECT THIS YEAR

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN APPROVED WITH FULL IMPLEMENTATION TAKING EFFECT 2015 TO ALLOW TEAM'S TIME TO ACQUIRE CORRECT EQUIPMENT

RULE 4 SECTION 3 ARTICLE 1 page 22

Replace:

Legal numbers are from 1 to 99 inclusive. All Team A players shall be identified by the following approved numbering system:

Eligible Pass Receivers – 1 to 49, 80 to 99

Ineligible Pass Receivers – 50 to 79

On any given play from scrimmage, any number of positions may be occupied by inappropriately numbered players who have reported to the Referee as eligible or ineligible receivers.

RULE 6 SECTION 4 ARTICLE 4 page 37

Replace:

The following players are eligible receivers:

- a) The player at each end of the scrimmage line at the snap, wearing numbers 1-49 or 80-99
- b) Players clearly back of the scrimmage line at the snap, wearing numbers 1-49 or 80-99
- c) A Team A player wearing numbers 1-49 or 80-99 who is in forward motion from a backfield position and within one yard of the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped.
- d) All players of Team B, whether or not the pass is legally thrown.
- e) All players of Team A, if the ball is touched by a B player AFTER the forward pass has crossed the line of scrimmage or is touched by a Team A eligible receiver (may be subject to an offside pass). The touching of the forward pass by a B player BEFORE it crosses the line of scrimmage does not change the eligibility of Team A players to legally complete the pass.

RULE 6 SECTION 4 ARTICLE 5 page 37

Replace first sentence with:

Players of Team A wearing numbers 50-79 are ineligible receivers, regardless of what position they take in the line or behind the line