

New Rules

1. Team A has scored a touchdown and is preparing for the Try. The kicker comes out with a “kicking ball” to attempt a one-point Try. Ruling: Illegal. The team must use the same ball used during the series unless the officials rotate the ball out of play.
2. On the ensuing kickoff following a score, Team K’s kick is muffed at the R-30, and recovered by K at that spot. Team K had provided three balls for approval prior to the game. It requests a new ball for the next series. Ruling: Legal. A ball may be changed for the new series.
3. A 1/10 on the B-25. After the ball has been snapped it is discovered wide receiver 00 is running on a slant pattern and receives the ball at the B-30. Ruling: A 2/5 at the B-30.
4. A 2/7 on the B-35. At the snap Linemen A67 and A59 double team Nose guard B38 with blocks both below the waist. Runner A31 runs for an apparent first down at the B-45. Ruling: Legal play.
5. A 2/9 at the A-35. Team A is down by a score of 20-17. On the play B52 is called for defensive holding on a completed pass to the B-27. The clock was stopped with 2:00 remaining. Ruling: A 1/10 at the B-25. Team A has the option of starting the clock on the snap.
6. A 1/10 at the A-35. Team A is down by a score of 20-17. On the play B52 is called for defensive holding on a completed pass to the B-3. The clock was stopped with :37 seconds remaining in the second half. Ruling: A declines the penalty for holding, but requests the clock start on the snap.
7. A 1/10 at the B-21 with 1:44 left in the first half and A driving. QB A11 receives the snap in shotgun formation and is immediately under pressure. He moves laterally 5 yards and throws a forward pass into an area unoccupied by an eligible receiver at the B-9. The pass goes out of bounds in flight at the B-12. Ruling: A2/10 at the B21.

2021 Rules

8. 1/10 on the A-30. A22 is legally in motion at the snap and within the free-blocking zone. A22 blocks B3 (who is in the zone at the snap) below the waist as part of an immediate, initial action following the snap, and within the FBZ. Ruling: Legal block.
9. 2/7 on the 50. At the snap A67, B34, and B29, were all on the LOS and in the FBZ. A67 is in the gap and takes a step to block to get to B34 and initiates a block below the waist before the zone disintegrates. Ruling: Illegal Block.

III. The Game, Field, Players, Equipment

10. Prior the game, the home team provides three balls to the R for testing and marking. On all three, they say, "The Acme Firecracker Company, Wile E. Coyote, President" stamped on the ball. The balls also have the school mascot stamped on the opposite panel. Ruling: The balls are illegal.

11. At the time of the pre-game walk, Umpire John Jones is tied up in traffic on I-95 and lets the crew know he will be late. Ruling: The Referee may designate another crew member to inspect the equipment and talk with the coaches.

12. Prior to the game the visiting coach approaches the Umpire during the pre-game walk and alerts him that B99 has a mouth protector that is completely clear and fitted by his dentist. Ruling: Illegal.

13. During a time-out the coach of the home team calls his team over to the sidelines to conduct a conference between the nine-yard marks and the sideline. While conferring with his QB, he uses a tablet computer to illustrate a play formation. Ruling: Illegal.

14. Wireless access goes down during a time-out. The coach of Team B, who is conferring with his team, alerts the Referee. Ruling: The Referee should tell the opposing coach, who should then cease to use his wireless access.

15. Prior to the game, the Team A coach informs the officials his players are wearing gloves that have the NOCSAE label, but not the SIFA label. Ruling: The gloves may not be worn.

IV. Definitions

16. With :17 left in regulation time, K just tied the score, 27-27. K3 attempts a pop-up kick from the K-40 by driving the ball into the turf and pooching it over the first line of the kick. Ruling: Dead-ball foul. Kill the play and penalize K 5 yards. K kicks from the K-35.

17. 3/7 from the A-35. A11 drops back to pass and is under a heavy rush. He is hit and loses possession. At the time of the hit his arm was going forward, but the ball ends up landing behind him. Ruling: Incomplete pass, 4/7 from the A-35.

18. 3/8 on the B-40. Airborne receiver A88 catches a legal forward pass near the sideline on the B-25. Defender B54 contacts him from the front, knocking A88 backwards and out of bounds, where he lands at the B-27. Ruling: Complete Pass.

19. Inside the boundary lines, during a scrimmage kick down, the neutral zone shall not be expanded into the end zone.

20. Under the definition of a “defenseless player” can be, but not limited to, a passer, receiver, runner, pitch man, blocker, punt or kickoff receiver, a player on the ground, a player receiving a blind-side block not committed with open hands, kicker (after the ball is kicked, but not roughing), player obviously out of the play.

V. Timing/Substitutions

21. 4/5 on the R-30. R12 enters and takes a position as a punt-returner and the player he replaces leaves the field. A decides to go for it. R12 leaves the field. Ruling: Legal play.

22. K 4/7 at the K-40. K3’s punt is blocked and stays behind the line. Personal protector K82 picks up the loose ball and runs to the K-48 where he is downed. Ruling: K 1/10 on the K-48. Clock starts on the Snap.

23. A 2/7 at midfield. During the last timed down of the first quarter, A34 gains 10 yards and fumbles at the B-40. An official inadvertently sounds his whistle while the ball is loose. A67 was called for holding at the A-48 during the live-ball period. Ruling: Replay down at A-38 after changing ends to begin the second quarter.

24. A 1/10 on the B-15 with time running out in the first half and A trying to score. A11 is positioned in a shotgun formation 5 yards deep, receives the snap and immediately throws the ball to the ground to stop the clock. Ruling: Legal play. Start the clock on the Snap.

25. A’s 3/5 play results in a first down at the B-20. Team A coach requests a time out as one of his three allotted timeouts. After the time out is called, A66 a right tackle is seen with a bleeding wound. The official sends him off to be tended. Ruling: A66 may not return to play if the wound is bandaged during the time out.

26. 3/7 at the 50. B44, thinking he’s the 12th player on the field, runs off the field on his opponent’s sideline. Ruling: 3/2 from the B-45.

27. A 2/3 at the B-40 and :03 on the clock, Runner A43 goes for a first down and is tackled at the B-35 by B93. B93’s helmet comes off during the tackle. Time runs out in the first half. Ruling: B93 must sit out one down in the second half.

28. With :10 left in the first quarter, A 1/10 at the B-25. A32 gets a handoff is downed at the B-20 inbounds. :06 seconds remain. B94 is called for twisting and turning A32’s facemask. The penalty is accepted, the clock starts on the Ready. Ruling: If the clock runs out before the snap, A must be allowed 25 seconds to run the play.

29. 2/7 on the A-45. On the last play of the first half runner A43 makes a first down, and is tripped up by B93 at the B-45. After being grounded, A43's helmet comes off as a result of the play's action. Ruling: A43 must leave the game for one down to start the second half.

VI. Ball in Play, Dead Ball, Out of Bounds

30. 1/10 at the 50. On a sweep to the right side A44 runs to the B-40 is hit and fumbles. The ball rolls to the B-36, where A22 and B68 attempt to recover it. B68 recovers while his foot is touching the sideline. Ruling: A 1/10 at the B-36.

31. On 4/7 K3's punt is fair caught at midfield by R21. The captain requests a timeout. After the timeout he tells the Referee he wishes to snap the ball. On 1/10 B78 is called for pass interference. The penalty is assessed. The captain asks to free kick for goal. Ruling: The captain has no option.

32. 4/7 from the R-21. K3 comes in for an apparent FG attempt with K12 as the holder on the R-28. At the snap, K12 receives the snap with his knee on the ground and flips the ball to K27 who is dragging in front. K27 runs for a 9-yard gain. Ruling: K 1/10 at the B-12.

33. 3/7 from the B45. A11 rolls out to pass and throws to A44, who is covered by B37. B37 interferes with A44, who is able to tip the high pass, which is intercepted by B23. While the ball was loose, the calling official blew an inadvertent whistle before the interception. Ruling: After peace is restored, penalize the DPI. A1/10 from the B-30. Give earplugs to wing on B's side.

34. 3/7 at the B-27. Runner A33 runs a sweep to the left side and is running along the sideline when he is contacted by Safety B29 who is touching the sideline. A33 runs into the end zone. Ruling: TD, Try on B-3.

35. During a Try from the K-3, K3's kick hits off lineman K67 behind the neutral zone and goes through the uprights above the crossbar. Ruling: No score.

36. 4/7 from the R-21. K3 comes in for an apparent FG attempt with K12 as the holder on the R-28. At the snap the ball goes high causing K12 to rise in order to secure it. K3 remains in kicking position. K12 returns with his knee on the ground to hold the attempt. Ruling: The ball remains alive.

VII. Series, Down, Possession After Penalty

37. 2/7 on the B-20. A11 throws a legal forward pass to A33, who is tackled hard by B77 at the B-4. A33 comes up and is flagged for a personal foul on B77 in retaliation for the hit. Ruling: A 1/goal at the B-19.

38. 4/4 on the B-27, A17 runs to the B-24, where he is stopped, and is piled on by B67. Ruling: B 1/25 at the B-12.

39. A 3/16 at the A-24. A11 takes the snap and is under duress, when he throws a legal forward pass in the direction of A42 at the A-39. Safety B29 intercepts the pass and runs for an apparent touchdown. It is discovered the down was incorrect and should have been 2/16. Ruling: A 2/16 at the A-24.

40. 3/7 at the B-27. Team A decides to try a field goal with just 0:07 on the clock. The attempt is blocked and stays behind the neutral zone before bouncing out of bounds at the B-39. There are 0:02 on the clock when the ball is declared dead. Ruling: B 1/10 at the B-39.

41. 4/4 from the 50. K3 punts from his 37. His punt is caught by R33 at the R-10, and he begins to advance. During his run, K43 grabs his facemask (pull and twist) at the K-40. He runs to the K-35, where he is hit and fumbles. The ball is recovered by K65 at the K-33. Ruling: R 1/10 at the K-20.

42. 4/5 on the A-30. A11 throws a legal forward pass toward A88 at the A-29 (screen play). B29 is in position to intercept, and lineman A67 turns and bats the ball down and incomplete. Ruling: Illegal touch. B1/10 at the B-35.

VIII. Free Kicks

43. On a free kick attempt from the K-40, K-3 is positioned on the K-30. K players are within the five-yard zone and legal. After the ready for play, K23 steps back and has one foot in the zone, and one foot behind the K-25. Ruling: Legal.

44. On a free kick attempt from the K-40, K-3 is positioned on the K-30. K players are within the five-yard zone and legal. After the ready for play, K23 crosses in front of K-3 and kicks the ball. Ruling: Legal.

45. On a kickoff from K's 40, the ball is muffed by R17 at the R-15 and remains in the air. K44 catches the ball at the R-13 and runs into the end zone. Ruling: K 1/10 at the R-13.

46. On a free kick from the K-40, K-3 is positioned nine yards behind the K restraining line. Following the Ready-for-Play signal he approaches the ball. When he reaches the K-35, K56 crisscrosses in front of him and kicks the ball. Ruling: Legal play.

47. On a free kick from the K-40, K-3 is positioned inside the K-35 along with the rest of K. Following the Ready-for-Play signal he approaches the ball. K56 cuts in front of him and kicks the ball. Ruling: Legal play.

48. On a free kick from the K-40, K is huddled within the K-35. K-3 raises his hand to signal he is ready from the huddle. Following the Ready-for-Play signal, K uses a "jail break" formation. Ruling: As long as all requirements are met, this is legal.

49. On a free kick from the A-40, the ball rolls out of bounds at the B4. Before the ball goes out of bounds, B2 blocks A2 at the knees at the B-16. Ruling: A Kick at A-40. Fouls offset.

50. On a kickoff return, R12 attempts a forward hand-off to R13 at the R-20. The hand-off is muffed and hits the ground. R13 picks it up and runs to the R-34, where he is tackled. R 1/10 on R-15 following penalty.

51. On an on-side kick attempt from the K-40, the ball fails to go the required 10 yards, where K98 falls on the ball at the K-38. Ruling: Flag K for illegal procedure, re-kick at the K-35.

52. On an onside kick attempt from the A-40, the ball is muffed at the R-48 by K22, then goes out of bounds at the K-49. Ruling: R 1/10 at the K-44 is R so elects.

IX. Scrimmage Kicks, Fair Catch

53. 3/7 on the R-15. The score is K 24, R 26. On the last play of the game, K attempts a field goal. Players 48, 24 and 31 line up in the formation between the ends, with 24 as the snapper. K3 kicks the ball through the uprights. Ruling: Illegal formation. K 3/12 from the R-20, and have the riot police on stand-by.

54. 4/15 on the 50. R22 and R23 are deep receivers, with R23 about seven yards ahead of R22. The kick comes to R22 at the R-20, where he catches the ball and runs to the A-35. While the ball was in the air, B23 gave a valid fair catch signal. Ruling: Delay of Game. R 1/10 at the R-15.

55. 4/13 from the K-45. K3's punt is caught by R77 at the R-20 and downed. While the ball is in the air, R17 is flagged for a block in the back. K88, meanwhile, was not on the line of scrimmage, and is called for illegal formation. Ruling: K 4/13 from the K-45 or R 1/10 at the R-10 (PSK).

56. 4/7 from the K-46. K3 punts the ball to the R-17, which is caught by R58 and run back for a TD. Following the snap and before the kick ended, K67 was called for holding at the K-45. Ruling: R has the option of taking the holding penalty on the Try or on the succeeding kick.

57. Team A's field goal attempt is snapped at Team B's 18. The wobbly kick lands on the 15 and takes a bounce that puts it back behind the neutral zone. It is recovered by A17, who runs for a touchdown. Ruling: TD. A try on B-3.

58. 4/14 from the K-40. K3's punt goes high into the air. R43 makes a valid fair-catch signal, but runs away from the ball as it comes down, takes a bounce and heads toward the end zone. R43 seeing K92 may ground the ball inside the 5, blocks K92 at the R-6. The ball goes into the end zone. Ruling: Illegal

block, R 1/10 at the R-3.

59. On Team K's punt from its own 48 yard line, R17 muffs the punt at the R-7. While the ball is loose, K77 pushes R43 in the back and immediately recovers the ball at the B-5. Ruling: K 1/goal on B-5.

X. Scrimmage Plays, Blocking, Running Plays, Alignment

60. A 3/Goal from the B-7. A67 takes his final position over the ball and gets ready to snap, following the Ready-for-Play signal. A67 attempts to snap the ball, but B89 successfully swipes the ball out of his hand as he moves it backwards. Ruling: Legal play.

61. To be legally on the line of scrimmage an interior lineman must: A. Have his helmet break the plan of a line drawn through the snapper's waist. B. Be in position parallel to the neutral zone. C. May be of any number if on fourth down.

62. 1/10 on the A-40. A's linemen have taken their positions and snapper A69 has made his preliminary adjustment prior to the snap. QB A11 wants to change the play and before going under center, A69 releases the ball and stands to talk to A11. Ruling: Legal play.

63. After the ball is marked "Ready for Play," each Team A player who participated in the previous down, or substitute, must come within the nine-yard marks momentarily before the snap.

64. 1/10 at the B-25. A11 hands off to A49 on a dive play. Lineman A67 in the FBZ blocks B43, who is also in the zone. They disengage and A67 blocks B43 in the FBZ below the waist. The ball is still in the zone. Ruling: Legal.

65. 2/7 at the B-27. Prior to the snap, linebacker B52 charges toward the neutral zone, but stops before entering, and is within the Free Blocking Zone. At the snap he is within one yard of the neutral zone, and is blocked below the waist by A-55 who is on LOS and in the Free Blocking Zone. On the play, Runner A34 runs for a touchdown. Ruling: TD. A Try on B-3.

66. 3/7 on the A-45, A86 and A33 come out to the same side with A86 outflanking A33 on the line of scrimmage. A86 is in a 2-point stance, A33 assumes a 3-point stance. On signal both players shift to the other side of the line. Ruling: False Start.

67. 2/7 at the B-22. QB A11 comes to the line of scrimmage. After the team was set for a second, Back A33 goes into motion. While he is in motion, lineman A67, who was in a two-point stance, assumes a three-point stance. After one second the ball is snapped. Ruling: Legal.

XI. Passing Plays

68. 2/7 from the A-45. A11 attempts a long pass down to the B-25. A89 and B94 are running downfield. B94 does not play the ball, and puts his arms up to inhibit the vision of A89 as the ball comes toward him. The pass falls incomplete. Ruling: A 1/10 from the B-40, DPI.

69. 2nd and 7 from the 50, A88 is forced out of bounds by B13. He comes back in bounds and is first to touch a forward pass, which deflects off his hands and into the hands of teammate A34. A34 takes the ball to the B-41, where he is downed. Ruling: A 1/10 at B-41.

70. 4/7 on the B-15. A11 drops back to make a legal forward pass to A44, a back that is on the B-20. Receiver A88 ran his pattern, and blocked B67 at the B-11, prior to the catch. The catch is made, and A44 runs for a TD. Ruling: TD. Try on B-3.

71. 2/8 from the B-40. A44 and A87 are split to the right side in a spread formation. Both line up on the LOS with A44 covered by A87. At the snap, A44 goes downfield and A87 drops back for a screen pass. A44 catches the ball at the B-37 and runs to the B-28. Ruling: A 1/10 at the B-28.

72. 1/10 on the B-35. A11 throws a pass to airborne A34, who has the ball in his hands. While still in the air, he flips the ball to teammate A88, who muffs it. The ball falls to the ground. Ruling: A 2/10 at the B-35.

73. First and 10 on the B-40 at the near hash mark. QB A11 throws a swing pass to A32 who is positioned on the opposite hash mark. He catches the ball at the B-44, and is immediately tackled. On the play B22 roughed A11. Ruling: A 1/10 on B-25.

74. 2/2 on the B-15. With :56 left in the game, A11 is trying to spike the ball to stop the clock. In his haste, A11 snaps and spikes the ball while his linemen are going down into their final sets. Ruling: 2/7 on B-20. Start the clock on the snap if B so elects.

75. 2/21 at B-30. End A88 is interfered in an attempt to catch A11's legal forward pass at the B-21. Ruling: 1/10 at the B-21.

76. A 2/7 on the B-45. QB A12 scrambles to his right and throws a legal forward pass downfield to A88, who runs to the B-12 and is downed. While the pass was in the air, Defender B29 grabs and twists A12's facemask. Ruling: Tack on Roughing the Passer penalty to last completed run. A 1/goal at the B6.

77. 3/goal at the B-7. Airborne receiver A88 catches a legal forward pass near the sideline at the intersection of the goal line. While still in the air, defender B54 grasps and momentarily holds him, before carrying him out of bounds backwards near the 1-yard line. Ruling: Incomplete pass.

XII. Scoring, Momentum, Touchback, Safety, Force

78. Team A scores on the last timed down of the game to make the score A20, B21. On the successful kick try, B44 roughs the kicker. Ruling: A may choose to re-play the Try after enforcement or penalize B in the overtime period.

79. 2/10 from the B-20. B24 intercepts a legal forward pass on the B-4 and his momentum carries him into the end zone. Prior to entering the end zone, he fumbles on the B-1. The ball rolls into the end zone, where it is recovered by B56. Ruling: B 1/10 at the B-4.

80. A 3/7 from the B45. A11 rolls out to pass and throws to A44, who is open in the end zone. The ball is short and caught by B22 at the 3. His momentum forces him back into the end zone. An inadvertent whistle sounds while B22 is in the end zone. Ruling: Safety or A 3/7 from the B45.

81. A 3/14 on the B-40. On a legal forward pass by A11, A88 is held on the B-37 prior to the throw. The pass is complete to back A44, at the B-42 who runs for a score. Ruling: TD. Try on B-1-1/2 or Try on B-3, A kickoff from 50.

82. 3/G from the B-7. Back A43 takes a handoff and runs toward the pylon on the near side. He is hit at the three-yard line and fumbles. The ball hits the pylon and rolls out of bounds. Ruling: B 1/10 on the B-20.

83. 4/7 on the K-12, Kicker K3 attempts to punt from his end zone. The ball goes high and short and bounces at the K-6. In his attempt to recover the ball and advance it, K67 muffs the ball back into the end zone, where K11 recovers it. Ruling: Safety.

84. K3 kicks off to start the second half. The ball is rolling on R's 7 when R intentionally kicks the ball into his own end zone, when he sees an opponent ready to fall on it. Ruling: Touchback.

XIII. Use of Hands, Batting, Conduct of Players

85. 3/7 on the B-40. Defensive back B47 sees receiver A88 running a crossing route while A46 is taking the under route. As they near each other, B47 takes aim at A88 and makes contact above A88's shoulders with his own shoulder pads. Ruling: Legal Play.

86. 2/8 on the B-45. A46 takes a hand off and runs around the right end and is tackled at the B-5. During the run, defender B73 is getting up off the ground, when Tackle A77 runs toward him at the B-40 and contacts him helmet-to-helmet. Ruling: Targeting a defenseless play. Penalize 15 yards from the spot of the foul. DQ A77 if considered flagrant.

87. 2/5 from midfield. On close line play on an inside handoff, A67's helmet comes completely off (not due to penalty) during the down. Runner A43 runs for a long gainer. When the play moves forward, B76 hits A67, who is without his helmet. The play ends at the B-20. Ruling: 1/goal from the B-10.

88. 3/7 from the A-35. On close line play, A67's helmet comes off (not due to penalty) at the A-35. Ball carrier A43 is hit and fumbles at the A-37. A67, who is on the ground, secures the ball at the A-35. Ruling: Illegal Participation, penalize from basic spot, 3/22 from A-20.

89. A 2/7 at the A30. Team A has already been given one warning about coaches in the restricted area along the sidelines. A coach is in the area at the snap and the L trips over him during the play. Ruling: Penalize from basic spot, five yards.

90. A 4/3 on the K-45. A3's punt lands on the R-2 and is heading toward the goal line when K55 bats the ball backward to prevent it from going into the end zone. It bounces on the R-3, where it is downed by K76. Ruling: Illegal batting. Penalize 15 yards from the previous spot.

91. 2/G on the B-3. A48 gets hit at the line of scrimmage and the ball pops into the air. B76 and A77 try for the loose ball. B76 bats the ball forward and then recovers the ball at the B-10. Ruling: Legal.

XVI. Penalty Enforcement

92. During the last timed down of the first half, 2/13, A-5. A11 retreats into his own end zone to attempt a pass, but is downed for an apparent safety. During the down, Linebacker B77 is called for defensive holding on Receiver A88 during the play. Ruling: A 2/3 from the A-15, extend the period for an untimed down.

93. A 3/7 from the B-20. B44 intercepts a pass in the end zone. B44 attempts to run the ball out but is downed in the end zone. While he was running, B54 holds on the B-6. Ruling: B 1/10 on the B-3.

94. On a successful kick-try to tie the game, kicker K3 is roughed. Ruling: A has the option of replaying the down and going for two points. Only option.

95. 3/7 at the B-40. A43 is called for illegal motion on a run that ends at the B-30. A67 doesn't like the way he was contacted by B43 and gives him a two-handed shove after the play is whistled dead. Ruling: A 3/27 at the A-40.

96. 3/7 at the B-40. A43 is in motion and cuts up field prior to the snap. A11 gets the snap and throws a pass to end A88, but the pass is overthrown and intercepted by B42. B42 returns the interception to the 50. During his run, B54 blocked in the back at the B-43. Ruling: B 1/10 at the B-33.

97. Third and 10 from the B-35. A11 takes the snap and runs wide, pitching back to A33. A33 catches the ball behind the neutral zone and runs to the B-10 where he is downed. Prior to the pitch, there is holding by A67 on the B-37. Ruling: A 3/22 from the B-47.

98. A 3/6 on the B-26, A32 gets a handoff and runs for a touchdown. During the run, B17 incidentally grabs the facemask of A32. Ruling: Penalty declined by rule.

99. If a foul occurs during a down, the basic spot is determined by the action that occurs during that down.

100. A 2/goal from the B-6. A43 is illegally in motion. A12's legal forward pass is intercepted by B93 in the end zone and returned to the 50. During his run, B64 was called for an illegal block in the back at the B-40. Ruling: Offsetting fouls. A 2/goal at the B-6.