



2014 CASE BOOK CHANGES FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Based on 2014 rule changes

Page CB3 1-8-1 Ruling: **The flags are located in bounds therefore Team A would score 1 point (1-1-8)**

Page CB11 13-5-1 Ruling: **A1 must leave the game for minimum 3 plays. The safety of the players is the important factor.**

Page CB16 3-1-1 Play: **A85** reports in as an ineligible receiver and lines up at right guard on a 2D and 4. The Play is stopped. **A85** stays in at the same position for the next play.

Page CB16 2-4-2 Play: **There is 30 seconds left in the game with Team A 3rd down and 10 and the clock is running when the Referee blows the whistle. After 15 seconds, Team A substitutes their punting unit onto the field. Ruling: Referee will stop time and Team A is allowed to substitute as per the substitution rules. However, Team A only receives the remaining 5 seconds to snap the ball.**

Page CB16 2-4-3 Play: Time is blown in and with 1 second left on the play clock, the game is stopped for a Team B injury. **Ruling: Team A is allowed a fresh 20 seconds in order to put the ball into play.**

Page CB16 2-4-4 Play: **With 60 seconds left in the game with Team A 3rd down and 10 and the clock is running when the Referee blows the whistle. Team A plans to run the play clock down to 1 second and then take a time out. When the Referee blows the whistle, the game clock starts but the play clock does not. Ruling: The Referee is to reset the game clock to 60 seconds and the play clock to 20 seconds and then restart the process.**

Page CB17 3-3-1 **Comment:** Rule 4 Section 3 Article 3. This rule states that on all scrimmage plays at least 5 interior line players must be identified as ineligible receivers and that one player must be identified as an eligible receiver at each end of the line.

Please note that there are no restrictions to exceeding these limits nor is there any restriction on the numbering of the backfield. The restriction may come with the eligibility to receive a pass.

To exaggerate, look at the following:

45 25 65 55 75 54 64 24 84

Line

This formation is legal. It has 5 interior linemen identified as ineligible receivers **65, 55, 75, 54, 64**

It has an eligible receiver at each end of the line **45 and 84** but 25 and 24, although wearing eligible receiver numbers are ineligible pass receivers because of position in the line; and 61 and 62 although in the backfield are ineligible pass receivers because of numbering.

Page CB17 3-3-3 Play: Formation:

87 83 55 75 54 64 44

26 30

23 28 29

A passing play develops as follows: as signals are being called, **A87** moves back into the backfield and A30 moves up on the line. The ball is then snapped.

Page CB21 4-2-2 Ruling: Legal play. **Even if there was a Team B player within the five yards at the time A1 touches the ball, providing that A2 was not interfering with the B player preventing him from recovering the ball.**

Page CB24 3-3-1 Play: A1 throws a forward pass to A2. A2 tips the ball at the Team A 30-yard line in an offside direction to ineligible receiver **A62** who catches it at the Team A 34-yard line.

Ruling: Offside pass to **A62**. If Team A retains possession the forward pass is ruled complete at Team A's 30-yard line.(6-3-3-3).

Page CB26 4-7-1 Play: Team A 1D and 10 on the Team A30-yard line. A1 throws a forward pass that strikes ineligible **A50** on the back of the helmet and rebounds to (a) eligible A2 or (b) linebacker A28. The ball is blown dead at the Team A50-yard line.

Page CB28 4-9-12 Play: Ineligible receiver **A64** is downfield illegally and the forward pass is thrown to him. Before he touches the ball B1 contacts **A64**.

Ruling: Illegal interference applies only against an eligible receiver. **A64** may be penalized for being downfield illegally or as an ineligible receiver of a forward pass if he is the first player to touch the ball in an attempt to catch the ball (6-4-9-b, 6-4-5).

Page CB28 4-9-13 Play: End **A82** is made ineligible because A27 steps up on the line before the snap. **A82** goes downfield on the forward pass and B1 interferes with him while the ball is in the air.

Ruling: **A82** was made ineligible to go downfield and to catch the pass by the action of A27 even though this was unknown to **A82**. **A82** was made ineligible and therefore pass interference cannot be committed against him. Penalize as an ineligible receiver downfield. (6-4-9, 8-6-3, 6-4-4)

Page CB28 4-9-15 Play: Receiver **A84** and defender B20 are moving downfield on a pass play. The pass is thrown short and **A84** slows up to be in position. B20 is between **A84** and the passer. There is no contact between **A84** and B20 but the under thrown ball strikes B20 in the back.

Ruling: B20 is entitled to his position on the field. There was no interference from contact and screening requires some type of positive action such as raising the arms or hands while not looking for the ball. If B20 moved in such a way to prevent **A84** from moving to the ball, interference could be called. In this play there was no deliberate action by B20 and with the ball striking him on the back, there should be no call. (6-4-9)

Page CB29 4-10-10 Play: **A85** runs a "down and out" pattern. As he makes his cut he pushes off B80 and makes a catch about 10 yards laterally from the point of contact.

Ruling: if the contact was caused by **A85** there are 2 situations: (1) If the ball is not in the air at the time of the contact **A85** is guilty of illegal contact with an eligible receiver (6-4-10-b) or (2) If the ball is in the air **A85** is guilty of pass interference. (6-4-10-a-note3)

Page CB31 3-8-1 Comment: **Head Leading** Blocking, **Head Leading** Tackling, Spearing

All of these infractions are similar in nature in that all of them involve the use of the helmet as the primary or sole point of force in the contact with an opponent. Spearing is normally applied to the action against a player who is unable to protect himself; Head leading blocking and Head Leading tackling are applicable to action against any player.

The use of the top or front of the helmet, to deliver a blow to an opponent is an act that puts the player in danger of serious injury since the player's neck is either in the position of acute flexion or hyperextension when the force is applied and it is under these circumstances that fractures of the vertebrae occur. (7-3-8)

The use of the head to lead in blocking or tackling is necessary and legal when it is used to centre on an opponent, maintain balance and observation and then counteract the movements of an opponent. If the head hits the opponent first, follows through and is followed by shoulder, arm or body contact, the head action should NOT be construed as illegal.

In the same way, a ball carrier running with the head down through the line may unavoidably strike an opponent in his path and follow through with his body to gain more yardage. This should also be ruled as legal.

A ball carrier is forbidden to use his head or helmet as the prime point of force in breaking a tackle. Coaches are reminded of the danger to their ball carrier in using such tactics and should not teach techniques that may lead to injury. As noted above, this does not prevent the short yardage type of play where the head is not used deliberately. However, when the ball carrier is aware of opponents in his path and uses the head or helmet in order to prevent or break a tackle, a foul for head leading tactics should be called.

The head may slide to the side and the primary force of the block or tackle is the shoulder and arms. The use of the top or front portion of the helmet to butt or ram an opponent is illegal and dangerous and should be called strictly. The following plays will illustrate the principles that should be used to decide the legality of the action.

Page CB31 3-8-2 **Ruling: In (a) legal play. A1 did not intentionally use his helmet to contact B62. In (b) the use of the helmet was intentionally. A1 could see B62 preparing to make the tackle and used the helmet to prevent it. A Head Leading Block foul must be called. (7-3-8)**

Page CB31 3-8-3 **Ruling:** In (a) rule as a **Head Leading** Block. A1 used the helmet as the prime point of force to break a tackle. In (b) this is a legal play. The prime point of force is the shoulder of A1. The helmet maybe touching the side of B24 but the force is applied to the chest of B24 by the shoulder of A1. (7-3-8)

Page CB31 3-8-4 Play: **Interior lineman A1 contacts defensive B1 by (a) driving the crown of his helmet into B1's number or (b) driving his shoulder into B1 so his helmet is contacting the side of B1's body or (c) attempting to block B1 with his shoulder but because of a defensive slant by B1 the primary contact is made with the helmet.**

Ruling: (a) Illegal – Head leading blocking. (b) Legal block – even though there is contact with the helmet at the side of the body of B1, the helmet was not used as the primary force of the block. (c) Legal block – the official must see the whole play in order to call the play correctly and must be able to read intent on the part of A1 in making a correct judgment. There will be a number of such situations where the blocker attempts a legal block but unintentionally contacts the opponent with the helmet due to the defensive manoeuvre. When this is the case the contact will probably not result in a direct blow. Head Leading blocking is an intentional act that is dangerous to both blocker and opponent. (7-3-8)

Page CB32 3-8-5 **Ruling: Illegal B1 is to be penalized for Unnecessary Roughing. Diving or forcefully contacting the head of an opponent is to be avoided**

Page CB32 3-5-6 **Play: Runner A1 breaks into the open and safety B1 tackles A1 by (a) driving his helmet into A1 and then uses his arms to pull A1 down or (b) wrapping his arms around A1 and simultaneously making contact with A1's body with his helmet.**

Ruling: In (a) the action is illegal – Head leading tackle. In (b) the primary point of the force should be the arms and shoulder of B1 and the contact with the helmet is incidental with the tackle. The tackle is legal. However, the official covering the play must be sure that the helmet was not the primary point of force. (7-3-8)

Page CB32 3-8-8 **Comment:** As mentioned earlier, officials must use good judgment in their rulings. The plays illustrate the necessity of seeing the whole play in order to judge correctly the cause of the contact by the helmet or the intent and also whether the helmet was the primary point of force.

Two questions should be asked on each such block. **(1) Was it the blocker who led with the helmet and not caused by actions of the opponent?** (2) Was the helmet used as the primary point of force against the opponent?

If both questions are answered YES – the block is illegal. If either question is answered NO – the block is legal. The same principles apply to the action of tackling. (7-3-8)

Corrections

Page CB20 Play 2-5-4 **Team A kick off**.

Page CB25 3-8-2 Ruling: Page CB25 3-8-2 Ruling: Options to Team A in each situation. In (a) accept the penalty for the offside pass made by Team B in the end zone, score 1 point and Team b 1D at B35 yard line, or allow the play to stand with **Team A 1D and 10 on the Team B 12** yard line. In (b) accept the penalty for the offside pass in the end zone and score 1 point or allow the play to stand. In either case the game is over (6-3-7, 6-3-8)