

Monthly Marvel August 2008

“Even with proper preparation, the athlete must be willing to fail repeatedly, practicing the impossible until it is no longer so. This journey, a seemingly endless parade of incompetence, is hard on the psyche. At every moment, it’s easier to quit than continue.



The ensuing struggle between ego and reality is won by the ego more often than not, and practice ceases in favor of easier tasks and quicker victories. This keeps experience within narrow bounds, impeding athletic progress for the sake of transient happiness.

Recognize that competence lies on the other side of slogging failure. **Make your preparations, and assault your target, never forgetting that victory is the end state of persistence.** You’ll find that the curse of the novice is no longer yours, as you’ve recognized that success comes only by embracing failure at every stage of the game.”

--Jon Gilson

Case 1: A kickoff by K1 from K’s 40 is muffed by R1 near his 20-yard line. The muff is caught by K2 at the 18 and he advances into R’s end zone.

RULING: It will be K’s ball first and 10 from R’s 18. K2 may catch or recover the muffed kick, but may not advance. The ball is dead when K gains possession. The covering official should sound his whistle to stop play immediately when the ball becomes dead.

Case 2: With fourth and 15 from midfield, K is called for illegal formation. R1 catches K1s punt, but is tackled by the face mask/helmet opening by K2. R2 knees K3 prior to the end of the run.

RULING: If R accepts the penalty for either foul by K, it is a double foul. R may decline the penalties and retain possession following enforcement of the penalty for R2s foul. In either case, R2 shall be disqualified. (9-4-11; 10-2-3)

Case 3: With third down and 20 from B's 40-yard line, A1 accidentally steps out of bounds at B's 30 while running a sideline pattern. A1 returns inbounds at the 28. Quarterback A2's forward pass is: (a) overthrown and incomplete; or (b) caught by A1 at B's 25; or (c) in flight to A1 when B1 contacts him and it falls incomplete.

RULING: In (a) and (b), it is illegal participation by A1. In (c), A1's illegal participation and B1's interference result in a double foul and replay of the down.

COMMENT: When A1 goes out of bounds voluntarily or by accident, or delays his return after being blocked out by an opponent, he commits an illegal participation foul when he returns inbounds. The spot of the foul is where he returns inbounds.

Case 4: Runner A1 is hit behind the line. The ball pops free and:

(a) is in the air; or (b) is rolling on the ground, when B1 pushes A2 in the back above the waist to get to the loose ball.

RULING: Legal in both (a) and (b). (2-3- 4c; 2-3-5b)