



GTOA Weekly Wonder

What about football? Is it a sport or a concussion?

-Jim Murray, Los Angeles Times

Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it's important.

-Eugene J. McCarthy

I don't like to lose, and that isn't so much because it is just a football game, but because defeat means the failure to reach your objective. I don't want a football player who doesn't take defeat to heart, who laughs it off with the thought, 'Oh, well, there's another Saturday.' The trouble in American life today, in business as well as in sports, is that too many people are afraid of competition. The result is that in some circles people have come to sneer at success if it costs hard work and training and sacrifice.

-Knut Rockne

In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard.

-Theodore Roosevelt

Describing an opposing team: Sure, luck means a lot in football. Not having a good quarterback is bad luck.

- Don Shula

Case 1: During a forward-pass play, eligible receiver A1 runs a pass pattern and it is obvious he will be unable to catch the pass from A2 because: (a) the pass is incomplete, striking the ground; or (b) it is well overthrown but in the general area of A1. In both (a) and (b), when it is obvious the pass will not be caught by A1, B1 aggressively contacts A1.

Ruling 1: *In (a), because this contact is following the incomplete pass, it is a dead-ball foul and would be penalized 15 yards from the succeeding spot. In (b), because the pass was still in flight when B1 contacted A1, it was pass interference even though it is obvious the pass was overthrown and is not catchable. The penalty is 15 yards from the previous spot and an automatic first down. If the pass had been touched by a teammate of A1, prior to the contact by B1, the result would be a personal foul by B1, because A1 was obviously out of the play.*

Case 2: A1 drops back and throws a screen pass to flanker A2 who is behind the neutral zone. B2 has come across the line and deflects the pass so that its flight is altered and the pass goes beyond the neutral zone. Ineligible A8 has gone beyond the expanded neutral zone before the pass is released.

Ruling 2: *Since B has touched the forward pass in or behind the neutral zone A8 is not downfield illegally.*

Case 3: A pass from A1 is thrown near the intersection of the sideline and the goal line. A2, running toward the goal line, leaps and possesses the pass at the 3-yard line and is forcibly: (a) contacted from the front by B1 so that A2 contacts the ground out of bounds opposite B's 4-yard line; or (b) contacted from the side by B1 and A2 first contacts the ground out of bounds opposite the 3-yard line; or (c) tackled from behind by B1 so that first contact with the ground by A2 is out of bounds 1 yard beyond the goal line; or (d) tackled from behind by B1 so that A2 first contacts the ground in the end zone.

Ruling 3: Completed pass in both (a) and (b). In (a) and (b), the contact by B1 changed the direction of A2 and he is given forward progress. It is an incomplete pass in (c), but touchdown in (d). In (c) and (d), the added force in the general direction the player was moving, is not considered a factor affecting his spot of landing. Therefore, when A2 landed out of bounds in (c), the pass was incomplete. Landing in B's end zone in (d) results in a touchdown.

Case 4: A is backed up to B's goal line. Call it the 7 yd line. Shotgun formation. The snap is high and over the QB's head. The ball lands in the end zone. A1 gets the ball and with his back to the field, throws it backwards over his head in an attempt to get the ball back into the field of play. Only offensive linemen and defensive players are in the area. The ball which is near the goal line and in the air is then touched by B who bats it back into the end zone. The ball never comes out of nor leaves the end zone. A2 falls onto the ball in the end zone.

Ruling 4: Intentional grounding in the end zone, safety.

Case 5: On a try, receiver A8, holds B6 in the end zone during a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone. Eligible, A2, catches the pass in the end zone.

Ruling 5: OPI with loss of down and the try is over if the pass is in the direction of A8

Quiz

1) 4th down and 11 from around the A45 yard line. A bad snap goes over the punter A32's head. A32 and B16 run toward the ball when B16 kicks the ball out to the side where B52 picks up the ball and runs in for a touchdown.

2) 3rd and 10 from the A1/2 yard line. QB A10 gets the snap and runs a QB sneak. A10 is tackled and the ball is dead with the foremost point of the ball over the goal line and part of the ball is in the end zone. After the play B96 kicks A55.

3) The kicking team kicks off from the K40 yard line. Kickoff receiver R21 is running up the sideline and catches the kickoff with one foot on the sideline at the R25 yard line.

4) 4th down and 4 from the B18 yard line. The score is A 18 - B 21. Teams A's field goal is successful. During the play B86 grabs A55's facemask and pulls him down to the ground.

5) K Punts To R From K's 40 Yard line. Before the ball goes into R's end zone, R2 holds K2 on R's 8 yard line.

Quiz Answers

1. A 1/10 @ the B40.

This was illegal kicking during a loose ball play. 15 yards against B from the previous spot.

2. Safety - 2 points for B.

After enforcement of the dead ball Personal foul by A will kick from the A10. Disqualify B96.

3. 2 options for R - a) K re-kicks from the K35 or b) R's ball at the R 35 yard line.

This is a kick out of bounds foul charged to the kicking team. The runner is OB therefore the ball is OB when he touches it.

4. 2 Options for A - a) A 1/Goal from the B9 yard line or b) Score stands and the penalty is enforced on the kickoff.

5. R's ball 1/10 from the R10.

This is a PSK enforcement (2-16-h) It is a touchback therefore the PSK spot is the R20. Enforce the hold from there. Mark off 10 yards back to the 10 yard line.