

Free & Scrimmage Kick Play Situations Based on the 2018 New Rules

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In order to help officials understand the new Rules (6-1-9b, 6-1-9b penalty, 10-4-2 Exception, & 10-5-1j) concerning penalties on kick plays, the following plays are offered to show the difference between the new Rules and other penalty enforcements on kicks.

Free Kicks

Fouls committed by K before the ball is kicked are dead ball fouls and are penalized at the succeeding spot. Fouls such as: (1) no K player, other than the kicker and holder for a place kick, may be beyond their free kick line, (2) no K players, other than the kicker, may be more than 5 yards behind the kicking team's free kick line, and (3) at the time the ball is kicked, at least 4 K players must be on each side of the kicker. The new Rule option on kicks does not apply to these situations.

Once the ball is live, (legally kicked), any foul (A. Committed by K; B. During the kick; C. R has possession when the down ends) falls under the new Rule option of having the penalty enforced at the succeeding spot. The spot of first touching cannot be a succeeding spot since the Rule states the right of R to take the ball at the spot of first touching by K is cancelled if the penalty is accepted for any foul committed during the down. Remember that all the past options still apply as well. Also, remember that when possession is gained, the kick has ended and fouls after possession are enforced as a running play and the new kicking Rule penalty option does not apply.

Play 1. K1's onside free kick goes OOB untouched by R at K's 48 YL. Ruling: R has the choice of having K re-kick from K's 35 YL; take the ball at K's 48 YL; take the ball 25 yards beyond K's FK line with a R, 1/10 at R's 35 YL; or under the new Rule option, enforce a 5 YD penalty from K's 48 YL, R, 1/10 at K's 43 YL. Remember, R can only accept one option.

Play 2. K1's untouched onside free kick has only gone 7 YDS when K27 illegally blocks R35. R24 recovers at K's 49 YL. Ruling: The illegal block can be enforced at the previous spot with K re-kicking at K's 30 YL, or under the new Rule option R can have it enforced at K's 49 YL (succeeding spot), making it R, 1/10 at K's 39 YL.

Play 3. K1's FK from K's 40 YL goes out of bounds at R's 10 YL. During the kick K27 commits an illegal block on R19. Ruling: R has the following options: enforce the 10 YD penalty at the previous spot and have K re-kick from K's 30 YL; take the ball at the out of bounds spot, R's 10 YL; take the ball 25 yards beyond the previous spot, R's 35 YL; or under the new Rule option enforce the 10 YD penalty at R's 10 YL. The new kicking Rule penalty cannot be enforced at the spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot as that is separate penalty enforcement and can't be combined with the new kicking Rule penalty.

Play 4. K1's untouched onside free kick has only gone 7 YDS when K27 illegally blocks R35 into the ball. K12 then recovers the ball at K's 49 YL. Ruling: K27 has fouled for blocking before being eligible to touch

the ball. Also, since R35 was blocked into the ball he is deemed not to have touched it. Ruling: R has the following options: (a) accept the 10 YD penalty for the blocking foul from the previous spot and have K re-kick at K's 30 YL, (b) take the ball at the dead ball spot, K's 49 YL or, (c) under the new Rule option, enforce the penalty from K's 49 YL making it R, 1/10 at K's 39 YL.

Play 5. During K1's free kick, K27 illegally blocks R35. R10 touches the ball and then K27 falls on the ball at R's 35 YL. Ruling: R's only option is to have the penalty enforced at the previous spot, K's 40 YL, as the new Rule option would not apply because R "did not keep the FB".

Play 6. During K1's free kick, K27 illegally blocks R35. R12 returns the ball for a TD. Ruling: Under the new Rule option R can only have the penalty enforced on the Try.

Play 7. During K1's free kick, K27 illegally blocks R35 while the ball is loose. R6 recovers the ball and during the return fumbles the ball with K12 recovering. During K12's return he fumbles, and R16 recovers at R's 25 YL. Ruling: R has the option of having the penalty enforced from the previous spot with K re-kicking from K's 30 YL; taking the ball at the dead ball spot, R's 25 YL, or under the new Rule option, having a 10 YD penalty enforced from the succeeding spot, R's 25 YL making it R, 1/10 at R's 35 YL. Remember, R must be next to put the ball in play for the new Rule option to apply.

Scrimmage Kicks

Once the ball is live, (legally snapped), any foul (A. Committed by K; B. During the kick; C. R has possession when the down ends) falls under the new Rule option of having the penalty enforced at the succeeding spot. The spot of first touching cannot be a succeeding spot since the Rule states the right of R to take the ball at the spot of first touching by K is cancelled if the penalty is accepted for any foul committed during the down. Remember that all the past options still apply. Also, remember that when possession is gained, the kick has ended and fouls after possession are enforced as a running play. The new kicking Rule option penalty does not apply.

Play 1. K, 4/5 at K's 35 YL. K has 5 players in the backfield. K1's scrimmage kick goes: (a) only 10 YDS downfield with R16 making a FC at K's 45 YL, or (b) hits at R's 35 YL and bounces all the way to R's 15 YL. Ruling: In (a) R can have K re-kick after a 5 YD penalty at the previous spot, K's 35 YL, or under the new Rule option enforce a 5 YD penalty at K's 45 YL (succeeding spot). In (b), under the new Rule option the penalty would be enforced from R's 15 YL making it R, 1/10 at R's 20 YL or they could have K re-kick after a 5 YD penalty from the previous spot, K's 35 YL. It is important the Wing officials know the options as R's HC may want to re-kick in certain situations.

Play 2. K, 4/5 at K's 35 YL. K has 5 players in the backfield. K's scrimmage kick goes OOB at R's 45 YL. Ruling: R can have K re-kick after a 5 YD penalty at the previous spot, K's 35 YL; put the ball in play at their 45 YL; or under the new Rule option, enforce the penalty at R's 45 YL making it R, 1/10 at the 50 YL.

Play 3. K, 4/5 at K's 35 YL. K commits a holding foul at K's 30YL during the kick. R12 returns the ball to K's 10 YL. Ruling: R can have the penalty enforced at the previous spot making it K, 4/20 at K's 20 YL; or

under the new Rule option, R can have the penalty enforced half the distance at K's 10 YL, making it R, 1/G at K's 5 YL.

Play 4. K, 4/5 at K's 35 YL. K has 5 players in the backfield. K's scrimmage kick hits at R's 30 YL and comes to rest at R's 10 YL. After the ball is dead, R commits a personal foul. Ruling: Be careful with this play. If R elects to have the penalty enforced at the previous spot, the dead ball personal foul will give K a first down. Therefore, R will have the penalty enforced from the succeeding spot, R's 10 YL making it R 1/10 at R's 15 YL. The dead ball foul will then be enforced making it R, 1/10 at R's 7 ½ YL.

Play 5. K1's scrimmage kick is returned by R22 to (a) K's 20 YL or (b) for a TD. During the kick, K16 commits a personal foul penalty against R35. Ruling: In (a) under the new Rule option, R can have the foul enforced at the succeeding spot, K's 20 YL making it R, 1/G at K's 10 YL. In (b) R, under the new Rule option, can have the penalty enforced on the Try only.

Play 6. K1's FG attempt from R's (a) 13 YL, or (b) 24 YL is no good. During the kick K79 is guilty of holding. Ruling: In both (a) and (b) the result of the play is a TB; therefore, under the new Rule option R can have the penalty enforced at the succeeding spot, R's 20 YL making it R, 1/10 at R's 30 YL.

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