

May 2021 Study Guide

We continue our excursion through the rule book. The rules we encounter this month- Rules 5 and 6- begin the “meat” of officiating that we will progressively encounter.

Rule 5-1-2

Note that in considering a new series the down, the presence of illegal acts during the down and whether Team A had non-player or unsportsmanlike fouls or Team B had any dead ball fouls **MUST** be considered after any down but fourth.

After fourth down a new series shall be awarded **ONLY** after considering any act during the down **EXCEPT** non-player or unsportsmanlike fouls. Fundamental to both situations is that non-player and unsportsmanlike fouls are always succeeding spot fouls.

Rule 5-1-3e

Regardless of the down- admittedly scrimmage kicks on anything but fourth down are rare- in nearly all instances the ball belongs to Team R. Rule 5-1-3f describes one of those exceptions.

Rule 5-1-5

Similar to 5-1-3 with some exceptions. **What are they?**

Rule 5-1-6 First Touching

First touching occurs at different times and location limits on scrimmage versus free kicks. **This will be asked in depth on Rule 6.** Crews must know these specifics. What cancels the right of Team R to take the spot of first touching?

Rule 5-2

Many of us find this rule wordy but it lays the foundation for enforcement if:

- A. The penalty is declined
- B. There is a double foul
- C. Post-scrimmage kick enforcement
- D. Kick-catch interference
- E. Fouls by K during kicks and Team R options
- F. Fouls **BEFORE** and **AFTER** change of possession

- G. Loss of down aspect to any foul
- H. Fouls simultaneous with the snap

It is easy to miss correct application of enforcement and these fundamentals are critical. Coaches are often confused on these situations.

Rule 5-2-5

Crews should know when a series of downs ends. This DOES NOT mean loss of possession.

Rule 6

This is one of the most critical rules of football as one fourth of plays involve kicking of some sort. During kicks there is moving contact and transition of 22 players. There are special rules involving formations, numbering and these plays pose challenges in correct application of blocking and tackling rules.

Rules 6-1-1 and 6-1-2

What are Team K and Team R free kick lines in all situations- free kick after an awarded fair catch, kickoff after a score altered or unaltered by a penalty, kickoff after a safety. What form of kick is legal in these situations?

Rule 6-1-3 and 6-1-4

Crew question: What are Team K and R free kick formation limitations and when do they begin?

Rule 6-1-5 and 6-1-6

When can Team K recover a free kick? When can they advance after recovery?

Rule 6-1-7

This is also part of Rule 5.

- A. What defines first touching by K on a free kick?
- B. Where must it occur?
- C. When does Team R lose the right to take this option

Rule 6-1-8

What three events require a repeat free kick?

Rule 6-1-9

What are options given to Team R if a free kick goes out of bounds untouched by Team R? This is a very common occurrence and rule options have changed in recent years.

Let's switch our emphasis to scrimmage kicks although there are similarities

Rule 6-2-1

Myth: Teams must be in legal scrimmage kick formation to execute a legal scrimmage kick. Importantly, numbering exclusions apply only if teams are using one of two legal scrimmage kick formations.

Rule 6-2-2

When and where can Team R catch or recover a scrimmage kick and advance?

Rule 6-2-3 and 6-2-4

When can Team K catch, recover and advance a scrimmage kick?

Rule 6-2-5

What defines first touching by K on a scrimmage kick? Are there limitations as to where this can occur?

Rule 6-2-6

This rule is CRITICAL to understanding how we rule on blocked or touched scrimmage kicks.

Rule 6-2-3, Table 6-4 and Rule 6-5

These rules concentrate on similar aspects of free and scrimmage kicks:

- A. Touchback (This is very different from pro and college rules)
- B. Possession
- C. Where, how and when a kick becomes dead
- D. Fair Catch
- E. Options after a fair catch for Team R- next snap location in particular
- F. Invalid and illegal fair catch signals. The definitions of these are often confused. How enforced?
- G. Where a fair catch can be made? Are there limits based on the line

of scrimmage.

QUESTIONS: Some may be repeated. Just go with it please

First Touching

1. Team K opening kickoff bounces several times and is muffed by Team K player at the Team R 35-yard line. Team R runner retrieves the ball, has a short run and fumbles. Team K recovers. The officials offer Team R the spot of the Team K muff as a spot of first touching allowing Team R to have possession and a new series. The officials are correct.
 - A. True
 - B. False

New Series

3. After a fourth down a new series of downs shall be awarded only after considering the effect of any act during the down including non-player and unsportsmanlike fouls
 - A. True
 - B. False

Free Kicks

4. The kicking team must have five players on each side of the kicker at the kick maintaining a balanced formation.
 - A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kicks

6. Concerning scrimmage kicks which statement is TRUE:
 - A. During a punt the kicker remains a kicker until the ball is in flight beyond the neutral zone
 - B. The player in scrimmage kick formation becomes a kicker as soon as he fields the snap from center
 - C. Batting of a scrimmage kick by R in or behind the expanded neutral zone is ignored
 - D. A scrimmage kick which is grounded beyond the expanded neutral zone may be batted by any player

Fair Catch

7. A fair catch cannot be made of a free kick in the neutral zone

- A. True
- B. False

Free Kicks

14. Concerning kicks which statement is TRUE:
- A. Once Team R gains possession of a free kick blocking below the waist is legal
 - B. If a grounded free kick becomes dead inbounds because of joint possession by Team K and R the ball belongs to Team K.
 - C. A fair catch may not be made of any free kick until it has crossed Team R free kick line
 - D. After a free kick has touched the ground and is loose beyond Team R's free kick line players may push or pull each other to recover the ball.
 - E. A free kick touched by R in the field may be recovered by Team K in Team R end zone for a touchdown.

Enforcement and New Series

15. Team A cannot gain a first down if Team A fouls during the down and the penalty is accepted .
- A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kicks

16. Team K punts. Receiver muffs the ball off his shoulder and the ball is free on the ground when the receiver attempts to pick it up and muffs it into the end zone where it is recovered by Team K. This is a touchdown for Team K.
- A. True
 - B. False

Fair Catch

17. Team K punts on fourth down. The receiver calls for a fair catch and muffs the kick three yards behind the line of scrimmage on a wind blown punt. Team K recovers. They will have a new series 1/10 at the spot of recovery.
- A. True
 - B. False

Kick Fundamentals

22. Concerning kicks which statement is TRUE:
- A. If the receiving team is the last to touch a free kick before it goes out of bounds it is still a foul on the kicking team.
 - B. The kicking team may advance a recovered punt that is muffed beyond the line of scrimmage by the receiving team.
 - C. If Team R first touches a free kick in the neutral zone it is ignored if the touching was caused by K players pushing or blocking R players into the ball
 - D. A grounded punt beyond the expanded neutral zone may be batted in any direction by a K player

Punts

23. A punter fumbles the snap and then kicks the ball off the ground. This is legal as long as he kicks the ball with his knee, lower leg or foot.
- A. True
 - B. False

Dead Ball

24. Team K recovers a blocked scrimmage kick in or behind the neutral zone. The ball has not been touched beyond the expanded neutral zone. The ball becomes dead at the spot of recovery and the down counts.
- A. True
 - B. False

Free Kick

25. After the ball is marked ready for play Team K has two players more than five yards from Team K free kick line. This is a dead ball foul and a five yard penalty.
- A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kicks

26. A field goal attempt is successful if part of the ball passes over the uprights of the goal posts.
- A. True

B. False

Fair Catch

27. After a fair catch Team R may start a new series anywhere between the hash marks on the yard line the fair catch is made

- A. True
- B. False

Free Kick

31. After the ball is marked ready for play Team K has two players more than five yards from Team K free kick line. This is a dead ball foul and a five yard penalty.

- A. True
- B. False

Free Kick

38. After the ball is marked ready for play Team K has two players more than five yards from Team K free kick line. This is a dead ball foul and a five yard penalty.

- A. True
- B. False

Scrimmage Kicks

39. A field goal attempt is successful if part of the ball passes over the uprights of the goal posts.

- A. True
- B. False

Fair Catch

40. After a fair catch Team R may start a new series anywhere between the hash marks on the yard line the fair catch is made

- A. True
- B. False

Kick Fundamentals

43. Concerning kick fundamentals which statement is TRUE:
- A. A field goal attempt blocked and recovered in or behind the neutral zone may be advanced by R but not K.
 - B. Any kick which is not a scoring attempt becomes dead when it breaks the plane of Team R goal line
 - C. If K35 is the only player to touch a free kick that goes out of bounds at the Team R 14 yard line the kick down may be replayed after a five yard penalty
 - D. A free kick may be recovered in Team R end zone by Team K
 - E. B and C are true

Free Kick

44. When a free kick ends with the ball out of bounds a new series is awarded to Team R at the out of bounds spot if R is first to touch the ball in bounds
- A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kick

45. Team K punts on fourth down and the ball is muffed by R21 five yards past the line of scrimmage. The ball bounces back to the kicker K80 who gains possession and runs throwing a forward pass one yard behind the line of scrimmage which is incomplete . Which statement is TRUE:
- A. This is an illegal forward pass as the ball was touched beyond the expanded neutral zone . Team R will begin a new series after accepting the five yard penalty from the spot of the pass with a loss of down.
 - B. Team R declines the penalty for an illegal forward pass and begins a new series at the previous spot
 - C. Team K will begin a new series at the previous spot.
 - D. Both A and B are true

Free Kicks

46. Concerning free kicks which statement is FALSE:
- A. While the ball is rolling five yards past Team K's free kick line K21 blocks R56 above the waist and from the front.

Team R had not initiated any contact against Team K Players. This contact is illegal and is a ten yard penalty.

- B. The free kick down is ended when Team K catches or recovers a free kick anywhere
- C. Pop-up kicks are illegal
- D. A free kick untouched by Team R goes out of bounds at the R 4 yard line on the Team R sideline. Team R requests the ball be placed in the middle of the field on the R 35 yard line to begin a new series. This should be honored.

Scrimmage Kicks

47. Concerning scrimmage kicks which statement is TRUE:
- A. A legal scrimmage kick can only be made from behind the neutral zone and before a change of possession
 - B. No scrimmage kick may be legally batted
 - C. Team R may catch or recover a punt anywhere and advance
 - D. Momentum exception only applies to a grounded scrimmage kick

Fair Catch

48. R34 makes a valid fair catch signal moving to make a catch of a free kick near the sideline and muffs the ball into the air. K45 tackles R34 preventing him from further attempt to catch the ball. Which statement is TRUE:
- A. This is legal contact
 - B. This is kick-catch interference and should be flagged
 - C. This is holding and should be flagged
 - D. This is a foul during a loose ball play and should be enforced from the previous spot
 - E. C and D are true

Case Play-Scrimmage Kick

50. Team K attempts to punt on fourth down. The kicker muffs the snap, runs and kicks the ball two yards beyond the line of scrimmage. The ball nearly comes to a rest where a kicking team member falls onto the ball and “downs” it.
- A. One of the options the head coach should understand is that

if he declines the penalty for the illegal kick it will be Team K ball 1/10 at the spot of recovery.

- B. The penalty for the illegal kick includes loss of down
- C. Team K will repeat the kick after a ten yard penalty from the previous spot as a loose ball play
- D. Team K will repeat the kick after a ten yard penalty from the spot of the kick
- E. A and D
- F. A and C

Case Play- Foul During a Free Kick

51. Opening kickoff. The loose ball is rolling down field when a Team R player intentionally kicks the ball at the R 20- yard line and it goes out of bounds at the R 10-yard line.
- A. Team R 1/10 at the R 10- yard line after a ten yard penalty
 - B. Ten yard penalty against Team R from the previous spot as this was during a loose ball play. Re-kick from midfield
 - C. Team R 1/10 from the R 5- yard line after enforcement of the illegal kick half the distance from the end of the kick.

Case Play- Free Kick Out of Bounds

53. The opening kick off is rolling near the sideline. A receiver picks up the ball at the R 8-yard line with his foot on the sideline. The result of the play:
- A. Team R 1/10 at the R 8- yard line
 - B. Free kick out of bounds untouched by R with multiple options given to Team R head coach

Free Kick

54. When a free kick ends with the ball out of bounds a new series is awarded to Team R at the out of bounds spot if R is first to touch the ball in bounds
- A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kick

55. Team K punts on fourth down and the ball is muffed by R21 five yards past the line of scrimmage. The ball bounces back to the kicker K80 who gains possession and runs throwing a forward pass one yard behind

the line of scrimmage which is incomplete . Which statement is TRUE:

- A. This is an illegal forward pass as the ball was touched beyond the expanded neutral zone . Team R will begin a new series after accepting the five yard penalty from the spot of the pass with a loss of down.
- B. Team R declines the penalty for an illegal forward pass and begins a new series at the previous spot
- C. Team K will begin a new series at the previous spot.
- D. Both A and B are true

Free Kicks

56. Concerning free kicks which statement is FALSE:

- A. While the ball is rolling five yards past Team K's free kick line K21 blocks R56 above the waist and from the front. Team R had not initiated any contact against Team K Players. This contact is illegal and is a ten yard penalty.
- B. The free kick down is ended when Team K catches or recovers a free kick anywhere
- C. Pop-up kicks are illegal
- D. A free kick untouched by Team R goes out of bounds at the R 4 yard line on the Team R sideline. Team R requests the ball be placed in the middle of the field on the R 35 yard line to begin a new series. This should be honored.

Scrimmage Kicks

57. Concerning scrimmage kicks which statement is TRUE:

- A. A legal scrimmage kick can only be made from behind the neutral zone and before a change of possession
- B. No scrimmage kick may be legally batted
- C. Team R may catch or recover a punt anywhere and advance
- D. Momentum exception only applies to a grounded scrimmage kick

Fair Catch

58. R34 makes a valid fair catch signal moving to make a catch of a free kick near the sideline and muffs the ball into the air. K45 tackles R34 preventing him from further attempt to catch the ball. Which statement is TRUE:

- A. This is legal contact

- B. This is kick-catch interference and should be flagged
- C. This is holding and should be flagged
- D. This is a foul during a loose ball play and should be enforced from the previous spot
- E. C and D are true

Case Play- Free Kick Out of Bounds

63. The opening kick off is rolling near the sideline. A receiver picks up the ball at the R 8-yard line with his foot on the sideline. The result of the play:
- A. Team R 1/10 at the R 8- yard line
 - B. Free kick out of bounds untouched by R with multiple options given to Team R head coach

Correct Answer: B

Feedback: Rule 6-1-9, Casebook 6.1.9 Situation C

Free Kick

64. When a free kick ends with the ball out of bounds a new series is awarded to Team R at the out of bounds spot if R is first to touch the ball in bounds
- A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kick

65. Team K punts on fourth down and the ball is muffed by R21 five yards past the line of scrimmage. The ball bounces back to the kicker K80 who gains possession and runs throwing a forward pass one yard behind the line of scrimmage which is incomplete . Which statement is TRUE:
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 - D. Both A and B are true

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Case Play- Free Kick Out of Bounds

72. The opening kick off is rolling near the sideline. A receiver picks up the ball at the R 8-yard line with his foot on the sideline. The result of the play:
- A. Team R 1/10 at the R 8- yard line

- B. Free kick out of bounds untouched by R with multiple options given to Team R head coach

Free Kick

73. When a free kick ends with the ball out of bounds a new series is awarded to Team R at the out of bounds spot if R is first to touch the ball in bounds
- A. True
 - B. False

Scrimmage Kick

74. Team K punts on fourth down and the ball is muffed by R21 five yards past the line of scrimmage. The ball bounces back to the kicker K80 who gains possession and runs throwing a forward pass one yard behind the line of scrimmage which is incomplete . Which statement is TRUE:
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 - C. Team K will begin a new series at the previous spot.
 - D. Both A and B are true

Free Kicks

75. Concerning free kicks which statement is FALSE:
- A. While the ball is rolling five yards past Team K's free kick line K21 blocks R56 above the waist and from the front. Team R had not initiated any contact against Team K Players. This contact is illegal and is a ten yard penalty.
 - B. The free kick down is ended when Team K catches or recovers a free kick anywhere
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 - C. This is holding and should be flagged
 - D. This is a foul during a loose ball play and should be enforced from the previous spot
 - E. C and D are true

Kick Fundamentals

78. Concerning kick fundamentals which statement is TRUE:
- A. A kick ends when a new force is applied after the ball has been grounded
 - B. A free kick ends as soon as the ball is touched beyond the neutral zone
 - C. A free kick may be recovered by Team K in Team R end Zone
 - E. All above are false

Free Kick

79. A grounded free kick is recovered in the field of play by K past the Team R free kick line. There was no first touching by K. A new series is awarded to Team K.
- A. True
 - B. False

Fouls by Team K

79. The next down after a free kick is always a free kick for fouls by K

prior to or during a free kick.

- A. True
- B. False

Fair Catch

80. An illegal fair catch signal foul comes under Post-scrimmage enforcement.

- A. True
- B. False

