

FIGHTING / PUNCH / SWING and a MISS

RULE 2 DEFINITIONS SECTION 11 FIGHTING

Fighting is any attempt by a player or nonplayer to strike or engage a player or nonplayer in a combative manner unrelated to football. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with the arm(s), hand(s), leg(s) or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact.

RULE 9 CONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND OTHERS SECTION 4 ILLEGAL PERSONAL CONTACT

ART. 1 . . . No player or nonplayer shall fight.

ART. 3 . . . No player or nonplayer shall:

g. Make any other contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player (as in 2-32-16), which is deemed unnecessary or excessive and which in- cites roughness.

j. Strike an opponent with his fist, locked hands, forearm or elbow, nor kick or knee him.

ART. 7 . . . No defensive player may use the hand(s) to slap the blocker's head.

PENALTY: Arts. 1, 2, 3j – Fighting, intentionally contacting a game official, striking, kicking or kneeling – (S38-47) – 15 yards and disqualification. If a coach is the offender in Article 2, see 9-8 Penalty for disqualification procedure; **Arts. 3a through g, l, p – Other personal fouls – (S38) – 15 yards; **** Art. 7 – Slap to the head – (S38) – 15 yards; **** Arts. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 – Disqualification also if any fouls under these articles are judged by the game official to be flagrant – (S47).**

SECTION 8 NONCONTACT UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT BY NONPLAYERS

ART. 1 . . . No coach, substitute, athletic trainer or other team attendant shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner once the game officials assume authority for the game. Examples are, but not limited to:

l. A substitute leaving the team box during a fight.

PENALTY: Art. 1l – Nonplayer foul – (S27-47) – 15 yards and disqualification.

CASEBOOK

FIGHTING/NOT FIGHTING

9.4.1 SITUATION A: With the ball on B's 2-yard line and between downs, a fight starts between A1 and B1. The game officials do not know which player struck the first blow.

RULING: Disqualify both A1 and B1 and signal personal fouls against each team, but the penalties cancel. (2-11; 10-2-5b, c)

9.4.1 SITUATION B: It is A's ball, third down and 1, on A's 10-yard line. B1 tackles A1 with a hard legal tackle at the line of scrimmage. A1, feeling the tackle was unjustly harsh, jumps to his feet and attacks B1, delivering blows with his fist. In response, B1 directs a profanity toward A1.

RULING: The penalties for A1's dead-ball personal foul and B1's unsportsmanlike conduct foul would cancel. A1 shall be disqualified for fighting; B1 would remain in the game unless the game officials judged that his reaction was flagrant or it was his second unsportsmanlike conduct foul. It's A's ball fourth down and 1 on its own 10-yard line. (2-11; 9-8-1 Penalty; 10-2-5b, c)

9.4.1 SITUATION C: During B1's tackling of runner A1, he delivers a blow toward the ball in an attempt to dislodge it, but instead strikes A1 with his fist.

RULING: B1 is charged with a personal foul and disqualified for fighting. B will be assessed a 15-yard penalty.

COMMENT: This specific SITUATION is intended to depict an act which is clearly a personal foul and not inadvertent contact resulting from an attempt to dislodge the football. Game officials must continually use prudent judgment and see the entire play in order to view these types of acts in the proper context. If it is judged by the game official that this contact is excessive, but is not an act to be construed as fighting, the personal foul would result in an ejection for striking, but would not be fighting by rule. (2-11)

9.4.7 SITUATION B: In an attempt to tackle the quarterback, B1 (a) contacts offensive blocker A1 with an open hand on the head or (b) strikes A1 with a closed fist.

RULING: In (a), 15-yard penalty from the end of the run. In (b), B1 is disqualified for fighting.

9.8.1 SITUATION J: A fight breaks out between several opposing players and: (a) two substitutes from each team come onto the field; or (b) one substitute of A enters and three enter from B's team box.

RULING: In (a), the substitutes are disqualified and the penalties cancel. In (b), since all fouls are dead-ball fouls, the one 15-yard penalty on A will cancel one by B resulting in two 15-yard penalties on B. In both cases, those who were fighting will be disqualified. (2-11; 9-4-1; 10-1-1; 10-2-5a, b)