

2010 SCFOA  
Football Rules & Mechanics Examination



1. Each team shall begin the game with eleven (11) players.
2. The Referee's decisions are final in all matters pertaining to the game.
3. The officials' jurisdiction extends through the Referee's declaration of the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> period or overtime.
4. Yardline markers, constructed of soft, pliable materials, if placed on the ground, should be no closer than 5 yards to the sideline.
5. The coaches' area is a minimum of a 2-yard belt between the front of the team box and the sideline, and becomes a restricted area when the ball is live.
6. Each goal-line mark shall be entirely in its end zone so the edge toward the field of play and its vertical plane is the actual goal line.
7. When properly placed, the goal line pylons are inbounds at the intersection of the sideline and the goal line extended; thus when a ball touches the pylon it has broken the plane inbounds.
8. The uprights shall extend a minimum of 20 feet above the ground.
9. As with other game equipment, the Umpire shall decide whether the game ball meets specifications.
10. All line-to-gain equipment and down indicator rods shall have flat lower ends covered by protective caps.
11. Decisions involving penalties shall be made before any charged timeout is granted either team.

12. A coach's pregame verification to the Referee and Umpire that all players are properly equipped in compliance with the rules includes the required helmet exterior warning label.
13. It is not a foul to break a huddle with more than 11 players as long as the replaced player(s) begin(s) to leave the field within 3 seconds.
14. Penalty-marker colored gloves are not legal.
15. Grabbing the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey of the runner and subsequently pulling that opponent to the ground is a horse-collar.
16. A player, nonplayer or coach may be in the restricted area when the ball is live.
17. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.
18. An offensive player may push, pull or lift the runner to assist his forward progress.
19. An authorized conference is permitted during the intermission between periods.
20. A player's helmet shall be secured by a properly fastened chin strap with at least 4 attachment points.
21. Knee pads are required for players and shall be worn over the knee and under the pants.
22. Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production are legal and do not require any additional padding.
23. A simultaneous catch or recovery is a catch or recovery in which there is joint possession of a live ball by any two players who are inbounds.
24. A dead ball is a ball not in play.
25. When considering whether clipping and/or blocking in the back has occurred, if the official has doubt, the contact is legal and not from behind.
26. A valid fair-catch signal is the extending and lateral waving of one arm, at full arm's length above the head, by any R player.
27. The field of play is the area within the boundary lines and the end lines.

28. During a free kick it is first touching if the ball is touched in the field of play by any K player before it crosses R's free-kick line and before it is touched there by any R player.
29. A scrimmage formation requires a minimum of 7 Team A players legally on their line at the snap.
30. A flagrant foul is a foul so severe or extreme that it places an opponent in danger of serious injury, and/or involves violations that are extremely or persistently vulgar or abusive conduct.
31. No foul causes a live ball to become dead.
32. A player is in the free-blocking zone when any part of his body is in the zone at the snap.
33. The neutral zone disintegrates once the ball leaves the zone.
34. Spearing is an act that can be committed only by defensive players.
35. An interception is the catch of an opponent's pass or fumble.
36. When the ball is loose following an illegal kick, it is treated as a fumble.
37. It is impossible to fumble a free-kick or a scrimmage kick.
38. The neutral zone may expand into the end zone.
39. Runner, A1, is running near the sideline when he is touched by B1 who has fallen and is partially lying out of bounds. **RULING:** The ball becomes dead at that spot.
40. Prior to releasing the ball on a pass, if the potential passer is contacted, and the ball is released, it is a forward pass if his arm was moving forward on contact.
41. A forward pass has gone beyond the neutral zone if at any time during the pass, the entire ball is beyond the neutral zone.
42. A passer is a player who throws a legal or illegal forward pass.
43. A live ball is always in possession of a team.
44. The snap ends when the ball touches the ground or any player.
45. The previous spot is where the ball was last snapped or free kicked.

46. Touching refers to any contact with the ball. Touching by an official in the field of play or end zone is ignored.
47. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the Referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.
48. If an inadvertent whistle was the only reason the clock was stopped, the clock shall always start with the ready-for-play signal.
49. When a team's permissible charged time-outs have been used, its captain and coach should be notified.
50. During the same dead-ball interval, no substitute shall become a player and then withdraw and no player shall withdraw and re-enter as a substitute unless a penalty is accepted, a dead-ball foul occurs, there is a charged time-out or the period ends.
51. During a down, a replaced player or substitute who enters the field but does not participate, constitutes illegal substitution.
52. The ball becomes dead immediately when the kickers catch or recover a free-kick anywhere.
53. When the helmet comes completely off a player who is in possession of the ball, the ball becomes dead and the down is ended.
54. After a 4<sup>th</sup> down incomplete forward pass, the ball is placed at the previous spot (exactly as it was for the 4<sup>th</sup> down play) so the rear point of the ball becomes the foremost point for the ensuing 1<sup>st</sup> down. The line-to-gain equipment is then repositioned.
55. The free-kick lines are always 10 yards apart.
56. In the first period during a live ball the defensive coordinator for the home team is accidentally contacted in the restricted area by the LJ and is flagged. This happens again with the same defensive coordinator in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. **Ruling:** The Head Coach for the home team is disqualified following the second incident.

57. The right of team R to take the ball at the spot of 1<sup>st</sup> touching of a kick by K is canceled if R touches the kick and thereafter during the down commits a foul or if the penalty is accepted for any foul committed during the down.
58. Receivers who give a valid or invalid fair catch signal are afforded protection.
59. No receiver may advance the ball after a valid or invalid fair catch signal has been given by any R player.
60. K may catch, touch, muff, or bat a scrimmage kick in flight beyond the neutral zone if no player of R is in position to catch the ball.
61. The snapper may lift the ball for lateral rotation but may not rotate end-for-end or change the location or fail to keep the long axis of the ball at right angles to the line-of-scrimmage.
62. If a false start causes B to encroach, the penalties offset and the down is replayed.
63. A down may start with a legal or illegal snap.
64. At the snap, at least seven A players, numbered 50-79, must be on their line-of-scrimmage unless the numbering exception is being used in a scrimmage kick formation.
65. The penalty for illegal handing is 15 yards and loss of down.
66. Only one legal forward pass may be thrown during the down.
67. If the penalty for an illegal forward pass is accepted, measurement is from the previous spot.
68. Pass eligibility rules do not apply to an illegal forward pass.
69. Pass interference restrictions only apply beyond the neutral zone.
70. The penalty for illegal touching by an ineligible is 5 yards and loss of down.
71. QB, A1, drops back into his own end zone and while under a heavy rush, intentionally throws the ball away to avoid being tackled in the end zone.  
**RULING:** A safety is the result whether or not the penalty is accepted for the illegal pass.
72. A player shall not trip an opponent including the runner.

73. Hurdling is a personal foul.
74. There is no “celebration penalty” as such, according to the NFHS football rules code. Any delayed, excessive or prolonged act by which a player attempts to focus attention upon himself is a non-contact unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
75. The head coach plus a maximum of three assistant coaches may be in the restricted area prior to the ball becoming live.
76. The distance penalty for any foul must be accepted.
77. When a live-ball foul by one team is followed by a dead-ball foul by the opponent, the penalties offset and the down is replayed.
78. A dead-ball foul is not coupled with a live-ball foul to create a double or multiple foul.
79. The enforcement spot is the end of the last run for roughing the passer when the last run ends beyond the neutral zone and there has been no change of team possession.
80. K1 punts and the kick sails over R1’s head and comes to rest at R’s 3 yard line, as R1 chases after the ball. R1 runs by and scoops up the ball at the 3 yard line and his momentum carries him and the ball into his end zone, where he slips and falls to the ground. **RULING:** Safety
81. On the opening kickoff, from K’s 40 yard line, K1 nearly misses the ball and squibs it a short distance. K3, in an attempt to recover the ball at K’s 44 muffs the kick to K’s 36, where K4 muffs the loose ball back to K’s 42, where R1 recovers and is downed. **RULING:** R may take the ball at K’s 44, 36, or 42.
82. 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 from A’s six yard line. A1 muffs the snap and the ball is forced into A’s end zone by lineman, B7. A1 manages to recover the ball in his own end zone and intentionally throws an incomplete forward pass to avoid being tackled. **RULING:** Whether B accepts or declines the penalty, the result will be a safety.

83. B1 intercepts A1's pass at B's 20 yard line. During B1's return, a whistle is sounded inadvertently. Team B accepts the result of the play, placing the ball in play at the spot of the ball when the whistle sounded. **RULING:** The clock will start on the ready-for-play.
84. During the last play of the 1<sup>st</sup> period, B1 intercepts at B's 10 yard line and returns the ball to B's 35 yard line, where he throws an incomplete illegal forward pass. Team A accepts the penalty. **RULING:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 for B at B's 30 yard line and the period is extended for an untimed down.
85. No live-ball foul causes the official to sound his whistle immediately.
86. Runner, A1, is running a sweep toward the Linesman's side of the field when he is hit and loses his balance and falls onto the back of teammate, A2. No part of the runner's body, except a hand and his feet touch the ground and A1 rolls off his teammate and continues his run for a long gain. The Linesman, out of position, blows his whistle to indicate that the runner was down. **RULING:** The inadvertent whistle rules should be applied with Team A having options.
87. It is possible for a 0-0 game that goes into overtime to end with a 5-0 score.
88. In overtime, anytime that Team B scores the game is over.
89. In overtime, no try will be attempted if the winner of the game has been determined.
90. The Referee shall instruct the visiting captain to call the toss prior to tossing the coin.
91. Proper concentration and "seeing the ball" will prevent most inadvertent whistles.
92. If severe enough, a coach may be disqualified on the first unsportsmanlike foul.
93. The Commissioner and any affected director(s) may ask for and receive the resignation of any official, certified or not, who though making a passing grade on the examination, does not endeavor to uphold the code of ethics for officials, and who has little or no regard for his fellow officials or the schools for which he works.

94. Any official who fails to fill his appointment will pay the home school the amount of the game fee he was to receive.
95. An official must work a minimum of four (4) varsity games during the regular season to be eligible for a play-off assignment.
96. From A's 30 yard line, Team A is in punt formation (*scrimmage kick*) with A3 in position to receive the long snap. Snapper, A7, rolls the ball back to A3, who goes to a knee to recover the ball. After gaining control of the ball, A3 rises and begins to run around the right end. At A's 25, B5 catches A3 from behind and grabs the inside back of A3's shoulder pads and pulls him to the ground. As A3 is falling to the ground, he fumbles the ball, which is recovered by B8 who returns it for a touchdown. **RULING:** The horse collar by B5 occurred during a loose ball play, thus the penalty will be enforced from the previous spot.
97. Possession of a live ball in the opponents' end zone is always a touchdown.
98. A1 throws a legal forward pass toward A2 who is streaking down the left side of the field. A8, who is running down the right side of the field, well away from the direction of the pass, interferes with B6. **RULING:** This is not pass interference by A8 since the action occurred away from the direction of the pass.
99. An illegal snap or other snap infraction causes the ball to remain dead.
100. During every time-out officials should check with each other regarding the number of time-outs remaining for each team.



1 T	26 T	51 T	76 F
2 T	27 F	52 T	77 F
3 T	28 T	53 T	78 T
4 T	29 T	54 T	79 T
5 T	30 T	55 T	80 F
6 T	31 T	56 T	81 T
7 F	32 T	57 T	82 F
8 T	33 F	58 F	83 F
9 F	34 F	59 T	84 F
10 T	35 T	60 T	85 T
11 T	36 T	61 T	86 T
12 T	37 T	62 F	87 T
13 T	38 F	63 F	88 T
14 F	39 F	64 F	89 T
15 T	40 T	65 F	90 T
16 F	41 T	66 T	91 T
17 T	42 F	67 F	92 T
18 F	43 T	68 T	93 T
19 T	44 T	69 T	94 T
20 T	45 T	70 T	95 F
21 T	46 T	71 T	96 F
22 T	47 T	72 F	97 T
23 F	48 F	73 T	98 F
24 T	49 T	74 T	99 T
25 T	50 T	75 F	100 T