



2013 SCFOA
Football Rules & Mechanics Examination

Use a #2 pencil to **COMPLETELY** fill in the correct answer.
To change your answer **ERASE COMPETELY & CLEANLY** and mark again. Make no extra marks on the answer sheet; they may be picked up as incorrect answers.

Answers are either True or False = [A] or [B]

OR

Multiple Choice = [A], [B], [C], [D]

***** **INCORRECT MARKINGS:** [ll] [o] *****

Follow the instructions and properly mark your answer sheet!

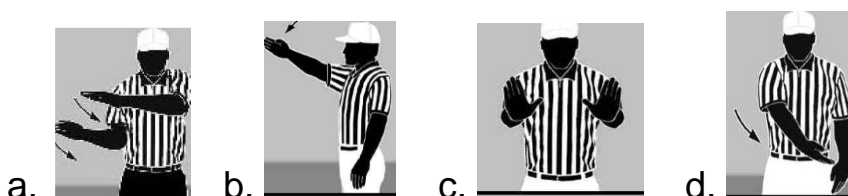
DO NOT LEAVE the exam room UNTIL your answer sheet has been reviewed and found ACCEPTABLE by the Proctor!

1. During the pre-game warm-ups, the home team is observed wearing towels that are solid black with a small Nike logo on it. **RULING:** Legal
2. Near the end of the game Team A trails and has used all of its allotted time outs; but is driving at B's 22 yard line. During a 3rd down running play, The Umpire observes A60 pull a gold colored towel from under his jersey. A60 drops the towel on the ground. Mistakenly, the Referee stops the clock at the end of the down, thinking that the towel is a penalty flag. **RULING:** Multiple foul on Team A: 1) illegal equipment; 2) Unsportsmanlike conduct, 3) trying to influence the decision of an official.
3. During the first quarter between downs, the Coach of Team A is observed talking to someone on his cell phone. **RULING:** Legal
4. A80 jumps straight up to make a catch in the middle of the field at his own 40 yard line. He possesses the ball and is hit by B7 and carried backward to his own 37 where he is taken to the ground. When A80 hits the ground, still in possession of the ball, his helmet comes completely off. **RULING:** A catch has been made; forward progress is ruled at A's 40 yard line. A80 does not have to sit out one play.
5. K1 punts from his own 20 yard line. R1 signals for a fair catch at R's 30 but is contacted by K2 before he can make the catch. Kick catching interference is called by the BJ. The Referee offers the following penalty options: Team R may take a 15 yard penalty enforced from the spot of the foul and an awarded fair catch; Team R may ask for a replay of the down following a 15 yard penalty enforced from the previous spot; Team R may take the results of the play. **RULING:** These are correct options.

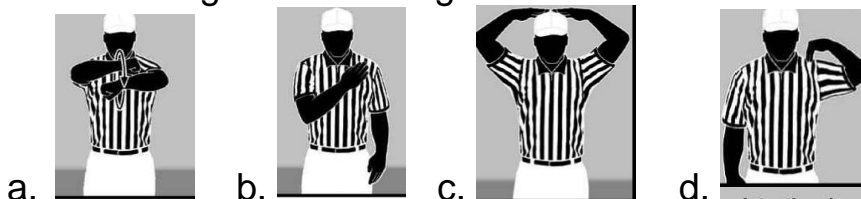
6. On the first play in overtime, A10 fumbles on B's 8 yard line. The ball bounces at the 6 yard line and there B50 deliberately bats (*forces*) the ball into his own end zone and the ball goes across the end line. **Ruling:** If accepted, the penalty against Team B is enforced from the end of A10's run half the distance to the goal, *to the 4 yard line*. The down will be replayed making it 1st and goal. If the penalty is declined, Team B will next put the ball into play from the 10 yard line.
7. On 4th down, A1 passes toward A2. A2 is flagged for offensive pass interference as the overthrown ball is caught by A4 for an apparent first down. **RULING:** If the penalty is accepted, it is Team B's ball, 15 yards behind the previous spot.
8. Since offensive pass interference no longer carries a loss of down provision, a period will not be extended when this foul is called. Acceptance and enforcement of this penalty will carry over into the next period if accepted.
9. On 2nd down and 10 from A's 30 yard line, A6 had his helmet pulled off by B1, who had grabbed and pulled A6's facemask. A short pass by A1 is intercepted by B2. Seeing the pass intercepted B1 drops A6's helmet and then blocks A6. **RULING:** Multiple foul by B1.
10. A passer is a player who throws a legal forward or backward pass.
11. While it is possible to have several running plays during a down, with each one having its own basic spot of penalty enforcement, there can only be one loose-ball play during a down.
12. Helping the runner carries a 15 yard penalty.
13. No series can ever start on a down other than first.
14. Fouls that occur after an inadvertent whistle can only be dead-ball fouls.
15. 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.
16. The Referee may correct an obvious timing error after a period has officially ended, if discovery is prior to the second live ball following the error.
17. It is a touchback when A1 fumbles on B's 2 yard line and the fumble causes the ball to go into B's end zone and out-of-bounds over the end line.

18. If A1 is in his own end zone when he intentionally grounds a forward pass, it is a safety even if Team B declines the penalty.
19. It is possible to have more than one spot of first touching during a scrimmage kick.
20. When the game officials arrive at the game site 45 minutes before the scheduled game time, both teams are warming up. 5 minutes later several fights break out at different areas on the field. The officials witness the fights. The teams are separated by game administration, security and coaches. 30 minutes before game time both teams have left the field to return to their locker rooms. **RULING:** The officials can take no penalty enforcement action, but can note the incident on the game report.
21. Only Team A may score on a try.
22. The penalty for both offensive and defensive pass interference is 15 yards.
23. The moisture absorbing towel worn by a player may be ball or penalty flag colored.
24. It is unsportsmanlike conduct for a player whose helmet comes completely off during a down to continue to participate beyond the immediate action in which the player is engaged.
25. A live ball is in player possession or is loose.
26. A player cannot fumble before gaining possession of the ball.
27. No foul causes loss of possession of the ball.
28. Possession of a live ball in the opponent's end zone is ALWAYS a touchdown.
29. A down begins when the ball becomes live and ends when it becomes dead.
30. A game official's whistle seldom kills the ball. It is already dead by rule.
31. A kick always ends as soon as any player touches the ball.
32. First touching of a kick by K is always ignored if the penalty is accepted for a foul during the down.
33. A scrimmage kick recovered in or behind the neutral zone may be advanced by K or R.

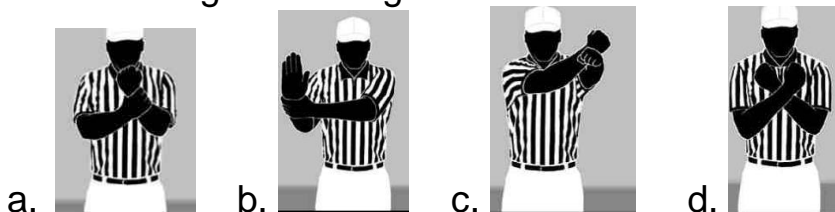
34. Forward pass interference can occur beyond or behind the neutral zone.
35. No live ball foul causes the covering official to sound his whistle immediately.
36. The distance penalty for any foul may be declined.
37. A shift or feigned charge that simulates action at the snap or any act that is clearly intended to cause B to encroach is a false start.
38. The neutral zone may expand into the end zone.
39. Which one of the following signals indicates Roughing the Passer?



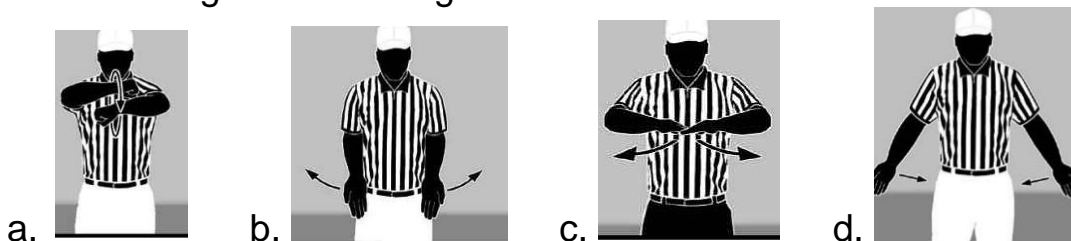
40. Which is the signal for an Illegal Substitution?



41. Which is the signal for Illegal Use of Hands/Arms?



42. Which is the signal for an Illegal Shift?



43. Officials may use any approved signal to communicate to the Referee what foul was called instead of verbally reporting the foul to the Referee.
44. A catch is the act of establishing player possession of a live ball in flight and first contacting the ground inbounds while maintaining possession of the ball.
45. When an illegal forward pass touches the ground, the ball becomes dead.
46. An inadvertent whistle ends the down.
47. The line-to-gain (*chains*) and down markers shall have flat lower ends that are covered by protective caps.
48. 0 or 00 are legal numbers for a player's jersey.
49. Knee and ankle braces that are unaltered do not require any additional padding.
50. The free-blocking zone disintegrates and the exception for a player to block below the waist and/or the exception for an offensive lineman to clip and/or block in the back is not to continue after the ball has left the zone.
51. Team K's punt is beyond the neutral zone and is first touched by K6. R2 picks up the ball, returns it 10 yards, and fumbles. The ball is then recovered and downed by K9. R5 clipped during R 2's return. **RULING:** Since the ball was first touched by K6, R may elect to take the ball at that spot and then have the foul for R5's clip enforced.
52. Team K's punt from his own 10 yard line is blocked, never crosses the neutral zone, and ends up in Team K's end zone where R2 and K2 simultaneously recover the ball. **RULING:** Safety.
53. On a kickoff, K4 touches the ball at his own 48 yard line. As the play continues, R2 gains possession and returns the ball to R's 45 yard line where he is hit and fumbles the ball. K6 recovers the ball and is tackled. **RULING:** The first touching by K4 gives Team R the option of taking the ball at K's 48 yard line.
54. Team K's kick try is blocked at the line of scrimmage. The ball remains behind the neutral zone and is recovered by K2 who scoops up the ball and runs it across the goal line. **RULING:** Two points are scored for Team K.
55. The touching of a low scrimmage kick by any player is ignored if the touching is in or behind the expanded neutral zone.

56. Team K is in scrimmage kick formation. R7 charges as K1 is preparing to punt. R7 contacts K1 as he begins his kicking motion, but before his foot touches the ball. K1 then is able to kick the ball. **RULING:** Legal, K1 is not a kicker until he actually kicks the ball.
57. The normal halftime intermission is 15 minutes, followed by an additional mandatory 3 minute warm-up period.
58. The Referee shall notify the captain and the head coach when a team's timeouts for that half or overtime period have been used.
59. A legal football shall have one set of either 8 or 12 evenly spaced laces confined within 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches from each end of the ball.
60. K1 punts from his own 25 yard line and the ball is first touched by K2 at R's 20 yard line. R1 picks up the ball and gets turned around and runs the ball through his own end zone and over the end line. **RULING:** A safety is scored. There are no other options on this play.
61. There are no specific rule book provisions regarding crowd noise in the NFHS Football rules book.
62. There is no foul if a team requests an excess timeout. Officials should simply deny the request. If such a request is erroneously granted, play should resume as soon as thereafter as the error is identified.
63. During an injury timeout, an authorized conference can be held only in front of the team box outside the 9 yard marks.
64. On the first possession of overtime, Team A scores a touchdown. During the successful kick try, B1 is called for running into the holder. **RULING:** Team A has the option of taking the penalty and going for two points or taking the one point try and having the penalty enforced against Team B on their possession, thus making it first and ten from the 15 yard line.
65. If the score is tied at the end of regulation play, a three minute intermission will precede the overtime coin toss. During this time the officials shall gather at midfield to review overtime procedures. At the coin toss, the winner of the toss will be given the same options as at the beginning of the game: offense, defense, which end of the field or to defer his option.

66. In overtime Team A has 2nd and goal on Team B's eight yard line. Team B is flagged for pass interference in the end zone. **RULING:** The penalty is enforced from the previous spot, half the distance and the next down will be 1st.
67. Loss of player possession by unsuccessful execution of attempted handing is an incomplete pass and not a fumble.
68. A maximum of three coaches are permitted in the restricted area when the ball is live.
69. A forward pass has gone beyond the neutral zone if at any time during the pass, the entire ball is beyond the neutral zone.
70. A muff is the touching of a loose ball by a player in an unsuccessful attempt to secure possession.
71. A backward pass is a pass thrown with its initial direction parallel with or toward the runner's end line.
72. The snap begins when the snapper first moves the ball legally other than in adjustment.
73. 4th down at K's 20 yard line and K1 sets up to punt. The punt is blocked and rolls along the ground behind the line of scrimmage. K1 chases the ball and illegally kicks it as it is rolling along the ground. The kicked ball goes downfield to K's 45 yard line where K4 picks up the ball and runs for an apparent touchdown.
RULING: The illegal kick is treated as a fumble. If Team R declines the penalty for the illegal kick, the result is a touchdown for Team K.
74. The succeeding spot is where the ball would next be snapped or free kicked if a foul had not occurred.
75. If a false start causes B to encroach, only the false start is penalized.
76. An illegal snap or other snap infraction causes the ball to remain dead.
77. Before the ball is marked ready for play, each player of Team A who participated in the previous down and each substitute for Team A and Team B must have been, momentarily, between the 9-yard marks, before the snap.
78. A scrimmage down may start with a legal or illegal snap.
79. At the snap at least seven Team A players shall be on their line of scrimmage.

80. Players on the same team may not participate during the same down while wearing identical numbers. The penalty for this foul is illegal participation.
81. Contrary to most other rule enforcements, when in doubt, contact to and with the helmet should be ruled as a foul by game officials.
82. All members of SCFOA shall conform to the mechanics and procedures prescribed by the SCFOA officials manual.
83. Wildcat player, R1 signals for and makes a fair catch. The Wildcats' coach wishes to put the ball in play by a free kick. In the confusion that follows, since this is a rare occurrence, the Wildcats are flagged for a sideline warning before the kick is made. The Wildcats' now wish to put the ball in play by snapping the ball instead of a free kick. **RULING:** Legal
84. Team K may catch, touch, muff or bat a scrimmage or free kick in flight beyond the neutral zone if no player of Team R is in position to catch the ball.
85. If a free kick goes out of bounds between the goal lines touched inbounds by R, the ball is put in play by R at the inbounds spot.
86. There are two types of plays for penalty enforcement, loose ball plays and running plays.
87. Enforcement of a penalty cannot take the ball more than half the distance from the enforcement spot to the offending team's goal line.
88. Clipping and/or blocking in the back should not be called unless the game official sees the initial contact.
89. 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
90. An illegal fair catch signal can only be given by a runner.
91. Batting is intentionally or accidentally slapping or striking the ball with the arm or hand.
92. A blocker may not initiate contact with his arm or hand against an opponent above the opponent's shoulder.

93. Prior to the game, the home team's head coach identifies the offensive coordinator as the designated coach to request time outs. In the 3rd quarter the head coach of the home team is ejected and the defensive coach becomes the replacement head coach. The replacement head coach now wants to request time outs for the home team. **RULING:** This will be allowed.
94. The Referee has authority to rule promptly, and in the spirit of good sportsmanship, on any situation not specifically covered in the rules.
95. Each team shall provide at least one legal game ball to the Referee at the time the game officials assume authority for the contest.
96. Play cards must be worn on the arm or wrist.
97. 3rd and 20 for Team A from A's own 10 yard line. A1 is prevented from catching a legal forward pass due to interference by B2. The pass falls incomplete. **RULING:** After enforcement of the pass interference penalty, it will be 3rd and 5 from A's 25 yard line.
98. Team K snaps the ball from the 50 yard line and K1 punts the ball downfield. R2 catches the kick at R's 14 yard line and returns it to his own 35 yard line. While the kick is in flight beyond the expanded neutral zone, R6 clips K5 at R's 20. **RULING:** If the penalty is accepted it will be enforced from R's 14 yard line, half the distance to R's goal line. Resulting in 1st and 10 for Team R from R's 7 yard line.
99. QB, A1, throws a legal forward pass that is tipped by B6 and the pass goes high in the air. As the ball is coming down but still in flight, an official sounds his whistle. **RULING:** The whistle was blown during the pass, thus the ball is returned to the previous spot and the down is replayed.
100. On 2nd down and 8 from Team A's 25 yard line, runner, A2, gains 5 yards to the 30 and is still running when an official sounds his whistle. **RULING:** Team A may put the ball in play, 3rd and 3 at the 30 yard line, or choose to replay the down from the 25 yard line.

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