



**CANADA**

## **2022 TACKLE RULE CHANGES FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The following rule changes, clarifications, and corrections, approved by the Tackle Rules Committee, are for immediate distribution and implementation. ***(The changes are italicized and in bold type)***. They will be added to the next printed edition of the Rule Book due in May 2022.

## **Rule 1 Section 5 article 1 page 4**

Time shall start on the signal of the Referee when:

- a) The ball, following a kickoff, touches, or is touched by a player of either team, in bounds.
- b) The ball is ready to be scrimmaged.
- c) The ball is snapped after a "time count" foul, or after a timeout due to the noise of the crowd.
- d) The ball is snapped following a requested time out.
- e) The ball is snapped following an incomplete forward pass, or the ball being carried out of bounds, after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half.
- f) The ball is snapped immediately following a play during which possession changes after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half. This includes the change of possession after a score of 1 or 3 points when the ball is put into play by a scrimmage.
- g) The ball is snapped on a play immediately following a kickoff, a kick from scrimmage, a return kick, or an open field kick after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half.
- h) The ball is snapped after the penalty application for a foul that occurs after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half. The non-offending team may decline the penalty and permit time to resume as though a foul had not occurred.
- i) Following a time out or after the 3-minute warning and the game clock is being held from the previous play, and the play is stopped for a procedural penalty by either Team, the game clock shall be held until the snap of the ball whether the yardage is accepted or not.

Replace with

## **Rule 1 Section 5 article 1 page 4**

***The below timing rules may be amended by individual leagues to shorten games into an allotted time slot. No timing change may be made that will lengthen a game.***

Time shall start on the signal of the Referee when:

- a) The ball, following a kickoff, touches, or is touched by a player of either team, in bounds.
- b) The ball is ready to be scrimmaged.
- c) The ball is snapped after a "time count" foul, or after a timeout due to the noise of the crowd.
- d) The ball is snapped following a requested time out.
- e) The ball is snapped following an incomplete forward pass, or the ball being carried out of bounds, after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half.
- f) The ball is snapped immediately following a play during which possession changes after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half. This includes the change of possession after a score of 1 or 3 points when the ball is put into play by a scrimmage.
- g) The ball is snapped on a play immediately following a kickoff, a kick from scrimmage, a return kick, or an open field kick after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half.
- h) The ball is snapped after the penalty application for a foul that occurs after the 3-minute warning signal has been given in any half. The non-offending team may decline the penalty and permit time to resume as though a foul had not occurred.
- i) Following a time out or after the 3-minute warning and the game clock is being held from the previous play, and the play is stopped for a procedural penalty by either Team, the game clock shall be held until the snap of the ball whether the yardage is accepted or not.

Reason for change: Clarity.

### **Rule 1 section 6 article 4 page 6**

Change of Possession occurs as follows:

- a) Scrimmage Play – Team A is in possession until it loses possession (*ie: fumble, blocked kick*). Team B is in possession when a B player gains possession. *Until Team A or Team B gains possession, the ball is in neither team’s possession and is defined as a «loose ball.»*
- b) Forward Pass – Team A is in possession until the pass is ruled incomplete, or the ball is intercepted by Team B. Team B is in possession when a B player intercepts the pass.
- c) Scrimmage Kick – Team A is in possession until the ball is kicked. Team B is in possession when a B player gains possession. *Until Team B or Team A gains possession, the ball is in neither team’s possession and is a ball «in flight.»*
- d) Return Kick – Team B is in possession until the B player has kicked the ball, which is then «in flight» until either Team A or Team B regains possession.
- e) Kick Off – Neither team is in possession prior to the kickoff. Team B is in possession when a B player gains possession. *Until Team B or Team A gains possession, the ball is in neither team’s possession and is a ball «in flight.»*

Note: These definitions will apply when penalty applications are involved with before change of possession, loose ball, ball in flight, or after change of possession.

Replace with

### **Rule 1 section 6 article 4 page 6**

Change of Possession occurs as follows:

- a) Scrimmage Play – Team A is in possession until it loses possession (*ie: fumble, blocked kick*). Team B is in possession when a B player gains possession. *Until Team A or Team B gains possession, the ball is in neither team’s possession and is defined as a «loose ball.»*
- b) Forward Pass – Team A is in possession until the pass is ruled incomplete, or the ball is intercepted by Team B. Team B is in possession when a B player intercepts the pass.
- c) Scrimmage Kick – Team A is in possession until the ball is kicked. Team B is in possession when a B player gains possession. *Until Team B or Team A gains possession, the ball is in neither team’s possession and is a ball «in flight.»*
- d) Return Kick – Team B is in possession until the B player has kicked the ball, which is then «in flight» until either Team A or Team B regains possession.
- e) Kick Off – Neither team is in possession prior to the kickoff. Team B is in possession when a B player gains possession. *Until Team B or Team A gains possession, the ball is in neither team’s possession and is a ball «in flight.»*

Note: ***If a kicked ball other than a kickoff is legally touched by a player of either team such touching shall be deemed to be possession.***

These definitions will apply when penalty applications are involved with before change of possession, loose ball, ball in flight, or after change of possession

Reason for change: Clarity

### **Rule 1 section 8 article 1 page 7**

#### **Section 8: Dead Ball (CB7)**

##### **Article 1**

The ball becomes dead when:

ADD Paragraph

***k) a ball carrier begins, simulates, or fakes a foot-first slide.***

Reason for change: Clarity and player safety

## **Rule 1 section 10 article 8 page 10**

### **Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds**

A player who goes out of bounds either by intent or misjudgment, or to use the out-of-bounds area to their advantage, must not participate further in that play. A player who goes out of bounds because of contact with an opponent, a missed block or tackle, or who slides out of bounds on a slippery field may legally return to the field and participate in the play. The point of the foul (PF) is the point where the illegal participation occurs.

Note: This article does not apply to a ball carrier who goes out of bounds, which makes the ball automatically dead.

Penalty: Team A 1.2D L10 PLS PP PF or PBH-DR

3D DG L10 PLS PP PF or PBH-DR

3D DNG LB-PBD

Team B L10 PP PF PBH or PLS

If such a player reaches back into or re-enters the field of play and touches or recovers a “loose ball” (asper rule 1-6-4).

Penalty: LB PF

Replace with

### **Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds**

***A player who goes out of bounds because of contact with an opponent, a missed block or tackle, or who slides out of bounds on a slippery field may legally return to the field and participate in the play.***

***A player who goes out of bounds either by intent or misjudgment, or to use the out-of-bounds area to their advantage, must not participate further in that play.***

***Penalty: L10 PF***

***The point of the foul (PF) is the point where the illegal participation occurs.***

***If such a player reaches back into or re-enters the field of play and touches or recovers a “loose ball” (asper rule 1-6-4).***

***Penalty: LB PF***

***If such a player reaches back into the field of play and touches a kickoff.***

***Penalty: Ball is dead at spot of touch with possession awarded to team that touched the ball along with 10-yard penalty for illegal participation.***

Reason for change: Clarity and to remove loophole on kickoff plays.

## **Rule 1 section 13 article 2 page 14**

### **Article 2 – Playing Coach**

A coach who is playing with the team shall be considered as a player when on the field. A coach who is operating as a trainer shall be restricted to trainer’s duties while attending an injured player on the field, and refrain from performing coaching duties at that time.

Penalty: L5 PBD.

MOVE to

**RULE 7-4 Objectionable Conduct**

Reason for change: Consistency of call

## Rule 4 section 1 article 6 page 21

### Article 6 – Blocking below the Waist Zone

Blocking below the waist zone is defined as an area between the offensive tight ends or positions ordinarily occupied by the tight end, within 2 yards of the defensive side of the line of scrimmage extending back to the initial position of the quarterback or kicker.

### Replace with

### Article 6 – Blocking below the Waist Zone

Blocking below the waist zone is defined as an area **bounded by the outer shoulder of** the offensive tight ends or the positions ordinarily occupied by the tight end, within 2 yards of the defensive side of the line of scrimmage extending back to the initial position of the quarterback, **running back (in normal position)** or kicker.

Reason for change: Clarity

## Rule 5 section 1 article 1 page 27

### Section 1: Definitions (CB20)

### Add paragraph

**J) An onside player is a member of the kicker's team who is behind the ball at the instant it is kicked towards the opponent's deadline.**

**k) An offside player is a member of the kicker's team who is not onside.**

**An offside player becomes an onside player when the ball, after being kicked towards the opponent's deadline, touches an opponent, the kicker, or another onside player.**

**Exception if on a kick from scrimmage a Team B player touches the ball before it crosses the line of scrimmage, such touching does not put an offside player onside.**

Reason for change: **Clarity.**

## Rule 5 section 2 article 3b page 28

### Article 3 – Legal Kick Off

b) The ball shall not go out of bounds at the sideline unless touched by a player.

Penalty: B option – L5 kick off repeated

- possession at the out-of-bounds point
- possession 25 yards in advance of point of kick off

### Replace with

### Article 3 – Legal Kick Off

b) The ball shall not go out of bounds at the sideline unless touched by a player. **A player who catches the ball must come down in bounds to gain possession. If a player was the last to touch the ball, either that player or the ball must come down in bounds for possession to be awarded.**

Penalty: B option – L5 kick off repeated

- possession at the out-of-bounds point
- possession 25 yards in advance of point of kick off

Reason for change: Clarify and consistency.

## **Rule 5 section 4 article 2e page 31**

### **Article 2 – Miscellaneous**

- e) If, under this article, the ball is motionless on the ground, and the receiver feints as if to pick up the ball.
- i) The receiver may be tackled without penalty.
- ii) If the receiver touches the ball first, whoever recovers the ball shall retain possession.
- iii) If the tackler touches the ball first, it shall be whistled dead, and possession awarded to the receiving team at that point, with no distance penalty.

### **Replace with**

- e) If, under this article, the ball is motionless on the ground, and the receiver feints as if to pick up the ball.
- i) The receiver may be tackled without penalty.
- ii) If the receiver touches the ball first, whoever recovers the ball shall retain possession.
- iii) If an **offside player touches** the ball first, it shall be whistled dead, and possession awarded to the receiving team at that point, with no distance penalty.
- iv) If an onside player touches the ball first, whoever recovers the ball shall retain possession**

Reason for change: Clarity.

## **Rule 6 section 4 article 6d page 37**

### **Article 6 – Completed Forward Pass**

- d) When an eligible receiver catches a pass while off the ground, inbounds, but is tackled or contacted by an opponent so that he/she lands out of bounds, the pass shall be ruled complete at the furthest point of advance.

### **Remove Paragraph**

Reason for change: consistency

## **Rule 7 section 4 page 46**

### **Section 4: Objectionable Conduct (CB33)**

**Add paragraph moved from rule 1**

**f) A coach who is playing with the team shall be considered as a player when on the field. A coach who is operating as a trainer shall be restricted to trainer's duties while attending an injured player on the field, and refrain from performing coaching duties at that time.**

Reason for change: Consistency of call

## **Rule 9 section 1 article 3 page 53**

### **Article 3 – Offside**

A player is offside if the ball has last been touched by a teammate behind him/her.

Exceptions – Lateral or onside pass

– Hand off pass

– Forward Pass

An offside player is put onside when (a) the ball touches an opponent or (b) the ball is touched by the kicker or onside player, except for a dribbled ball.

**Remove complete article**

Reason for change: Other rules already cover