

CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION  
2007  
THE GOAL LINE GAME

1. LEAPING CATCH AT THE GOAL LINE:

A1 jumps and receives a pass 1 yard in opponent's end zone. As he receives the ball, he is tackled (or blocked) and first comes to the ground with the catch at the 1 yard line where the ball is dead. Ruling = NCAA and Federation = TD.

2. INTERCEPTION OR CATCH NEAR THE GOAL LINE:

- A. B1 intercepts a pass or catches a scrimmage or free kick between his 5 yd line and the goal line with his momentum carrying him into the end zone where the ball is dead. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = B's ball at spot of catch.
- B. Same play as above except B1 fumbles in the end zone and the ball goes out of bounds or recovered by a teammate. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = B's ball at spot of catch.
- C. B intercepts a pass or catches a kick at his 4 and his momentum carries him into the end zone where the ball is dead. B clips at the B2 during the run. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Basic spot 4 yard line. B's ball at the 1.
- D. B20 returns a fumble to the A4 where he fumbles and A30 INTERCEPTS or RECOVERS the fumble at the A2 and his momentum takes him into A's end zone where he is down. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = A's ball at the A2.

3. FUMBLE INTO THE END ZONE:

- A. A is running toward B's goal and fumbles. The ball goes:
  - a) Out of bounds beyond the end zone or
  - b) Is recovered by B in the end zone.
    - a. NCAA and Federation = Touchback.
    - b. NCAA and Federation = Touchback.
- B. A is running toward B's goal when he fumbles at the B10. The ball goes out of bounds at the B 5 yard line. Ruling: NCAA = A's ball at 10. Federation = A's ball at 5.

4. A1 ADVANCES TOWARD B'S GOAL LINE AND:

- A. Steps out of bounds at the 1 ft. line, as the ball breaks the goal line plane. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = TD.
- B. His head breaks the plane of the goal but the ball doesn't. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = No score.
- C. His knee strikes the ground at B's 1, and then he falls across the goal. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Only a TD if the ball broke the goal line plane before or as the knee touched the ground.

5. A1 MOVING FROM HIS OWN END ZONE ON A SCRIMMAGE PLAY AND:

- A. Is downed with the rear point of ball touching the goal line. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Safety.
- B. Fumbles, and the ball is muffed by B1 goes out of bounds in the end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Safety.

6. A'S SCRIMMAGE KICK IS NEAR B'S GOAL LINE WHEN:

- A. A bats an untouched kick backwards. Ruling: NCAA = Result of play or R's ball at the spot of 1<sup>st</sup> touching. If the kick breaks the plane of the goal, before the batting, it is a violation and a touchback. Federation = Rule the same for batting in the field of play. Touchback if breaks plane.

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7. (1<sup>ST</sup> AND GOAL ON B-8) RUNNING AND PASS PLAYS-GOING IN:

- A. B holds on the 11 yard line, before A scores.  
Ruling: NCAA = TD no foul as only personal fouls are enforced. Federation = TD AND HOLDING ENFORCED ON TRY OR THE KICK-OFF.
- B. B holds on the 9 before A scores.  
Ruling: SAME AS ABOVE.
- C. B holds on the 9 and the ball is dead at the 6.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = A's ball at 3 after foul.
- D. B holds on the 4 and the ball is dead at the 6.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = A's ball at 3 after foul.
- E. B holds in the end zone and the ball is dead at the 6.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = A's ball at 3 after foul.
- F. A holds at the 4 and the ball is dead at the 1.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = A's ball at 14 after foul.
- G. A holds at the 11 and the ball is dead at the 12.  
Ruling: Federation = Basic spot end of run enforce at 12.  
NCAA = Holding enforced at the previous spot. (8 yard line).
- H. A holds at the 4 and the ball is dead at the 12.  
Ruling: NCAA = Enforce at 8. Federation = Enforce at 12.
- I. B roughs the passer and the ball is dead at the 11.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = A's ball 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at 4.
- J. B roughs the passer and the ball is dead at the 6.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = 1<sup>st</sup> down at 3.
- K. B roughs the passer and A scores a touchdown.  
Ruling: NCAA = TD = THE FOUL IS ENFORCED ON THE TRY OR KICK OFF.  
Federation = TD = THE FOUL IS ENFORCED ON THE TRY OR KICK OFF.
- L. B roughs passer and after completion, A fumbles at the 6 and he recovers at 2.  
Ruling: NCAA = A's ball at the 1, first down. Federation = foul enforced at the 6, 1<sup>st</sup>-Goal=B3.
- M. B roughs the passer on 3<sup>rd</sup> down and A40 advances ball to 6 and fumbles, A80 recovers and advances to the 2.  
Ruling: NCAA and Federation = 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at 1.

8. INTERCEPTION IN THE END ZONE:

B intercepts a pass in their end zone, and does not advance the ball beyond the goal, it is a touchback. The basic spot for fouls is: NCAA and Federation = 20 yard line.

9. B CATCHES SCRIMMAGE KICK IN HIS OWN END ZONE:

- A. B laterals ball, that goes out of bounds in end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Touchback. Fed = Kick dead (Touchback).
- B. B throws an illegal pass in end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Safety. Federation = kick dead (touchback).
- C. B catches (or touches) kick in flight, then fumbles (or muffs) ball. Ruling: NCAA = Ball alive. Federation = Touchback.

10. COMPLETED PASS IN END ZONE DURING SUCCESSFUL TRY:

- A. A interferes in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA = No loss of down (Replay Try). Federation = No score, try over, loss of down.
- B. B is guilty of pass interference. Ruling: NCAA = Score 2 points. Foul isn't enforced on KO. Only a personal foul on the snapper (in scrimmage kick formation), roughing the passer or roughing the kicker or holder are enforced. Federation = SCORE 2 POINTS AND ENFORCE 15 YARDS ON KICK OFF.

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11. DURING A RUNNING PLAY FOR A TRY (2 POINTS), THERE IS A FUMBLE WHICH A OR B RECOVERS IN THE FIELD OF PLAY:

- A. B holds in the end zone while the ball is loose. Ruling: NCAA – If A doesn't score, penalize B from end of run or previous spot. If A scores, PENALTY DECLINED BY RULE. DOESN'T CARRY OVER TO KICKOFF. Federation = If A doesn't score, penalize from the end of the run. If A scores, the foul is ENFORCED ON KICKOFF.
- B. If the foul was by B in the field of play. (A RECOVERS THE BALL). Ruling: NCAA = A may replay down after enforcing the foul from the end of the run or from previous spot if the run ends behind the line. If A scores THE PENALTY IS DECLINED BY RULE NO CARRY OVER TO KO. Federation = Penalize in all cases from the end of the run and replay the down. If A scores, ENFORCE FOUL ON KICKOFF.
- C. If the foul was by A and A scores. Ruling: NCAA = Enforce foul at the spot of foul or at the end of the run (goal line) and replay the try. Federation = The rule is the same.

12. 4<sup>TH</sup> DOWN FUMBLE BY TEAM A ANYWHERE ON THE FIELD:

- A. NCAA ONLY = On 4<sup>th</sup> down or a try and prior to a change of team possessions, if team A fumbles anywhere on the field or their end zone and the ball is recovered or caught by a team A player other than the fumbler, the ball is dead and returned to the spot of the fumble. NOTE: IF A RECOVERS BEHIND THE SPOT OF THE FUMBLE, IT IS A'S BALL AT THAT SPOT. IN ALL CASES THE BALL IS DEAD AND CAN'T BE ADVANCED BY A. Federation = REGULAR FUMBLE RULES APPLY AT ALL TIMES. Play: (4<sup>th</sup>-6 on B12) A1 fumbles at the B9 and A2 recovers in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Ball returned to the B9 and it is B's ball 1<sup>st</sup> and 10. Federation = Touchdown.
- B. B holds in A's end:
  - 1) During kick.                      2) During muff at 50 and possession.
  - 2) During blocked kick behind the line, recovered by A.Ruling: NCAA and Federation = All plays enforce at previous spot.
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup> down kick blocked and goes out of bounds. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = B's ball inbounds spot, end zone safety.
- D. K takes snap on end line or blocked kick and goes out over the end line. Ruling: Federation and NCAA = Safety.
- E. Kick is blocked and ball stays in end zone:
  - 1) Recovered by A.            2) Recovered by B.    3) Recovered by A and advanced.Ruling: NCAA and Federation = 1) Safety 2) TD 3) Legal = 1<sup>st</sup> down for A if makes line to gain.

13. (2<sup>nd</sup>-8 on the A6) AND DURING A 5 YARD COMPLETED FWD PASS

- A. A holds in end zone. Ruling: In both Federation and NCAA spot foul = safety.
- B. B holds in A's end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation: enforce foul at previous spot.
- C. B roughs the passer. Ruling: NCAA AND FEDERATION. ENFORCE THE FOUL AT THE END OF LAST RUN UNLESS THE RUN IS BEHIND THE LINE THEN PREVIOUS SPOT.
- D. Illegal forward pass from end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Safety or the result of play (B's option) Federation = Safety.

14. (1<sup>st</sup> – 10 on the B14) & DURING AN INCOMPLETE LEGAL FORWARD PASS:

- A. A holds in B's end zone and pass doesn't cross the line or foul is after the ball is touched. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Not PI. Enforce 10 yards at the previous spot.
- B. Same play as above except B holds in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = not PI enforce previous spot.
- C. A holds behind line. Ruling: FEDERATION = Spot Foul. NCAA = Enforce at the previous spot.

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- D. B roughs passer after pass is thrown. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = 7 yards previous spot and automatic 1<sup>st</sup> down.
- E. A holds or blocks b in end zone before ball is thrown (pass beyond line). Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Off PI.
- F. B holds A in end zone while catchable pass is beyond the line. Ruling: NCAA = Def. PI 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at the B-2. Federation = 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at the B-7. (CATCHABLE NOT REQUIRED)
15. K KICKS FROM OWN END ZONE AND DURING R'S RETURN TO K'S 35:
- A. K or r holds in K's end zone: NCAA and Federation = Enforce at 35.
- B. R holds at the K-40. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Enforce at 40.  
FEDERATION = ANY LIVE BALL FOUL BY THE OPPONENT (OTHER THAN UNSPORTSMANLIKE/NON-PLAYER FOUL) BY EITHER TEAM THAT OCCURS DURING A TOUCHDOWN PLAY, WILL BE ENFORCED ON THE TRY OR KICK-OFF. IF THERE IS A CHANGE OF POSSESSION, THE FOUL BY THE OPPONENT HAS TO BE AFTER THE CHANGE IN ORDER FOR THE FOUL TO BE ENFORCED ON THE TRY.  
NCAA = ANY LIVE BALL FOUL BY B DURING A SUCCESSFUL FG WILL BE ENFORCED ONLY IF THE FG IS DECLINED. NO LIVE BALL FOUL CARRIES OVER TO THE KO. LIVE BALL FOULS TREATED AS DEAD BALL FOULS CARRY OVER TO THE KO IF THE FG IS ACCEPTED.  
FEDERATION = ON A SUCCESSFUL FG A LIVE BALL FOUL BY THE OPPONENT CAN BE ENFORCED EITHER AT THE PREVIOUS SPOT OR KO. LIVE BALL FOULS TREATED AS DEAD BALL FOULS ENFORCED AT THE SUCCEEDING SPOT.
- C. B holds before A's TD. Ruling: NCAA = TD good. Foul declined by rule. Federation = TD GOOD ENFORCE FOUL ON TRY OR KICK-OFF.
- D. A or B fouls after A's TD. Ruling: NCAA = Penalize ON THE TRY OR KO. FEDERATION = PENALIZE ON TRY.
16. A'S BALL 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 10 AT THE A-5. THE RUN ENDS AT THE A-2:
- A. A holds in A's end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Safety.
- B. B holds in A's end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Enforce at A-5. Federation = Enforce at the end of the run. (A-2).
- C. A or B fouls after ball is dead. NCAA and Federation = Enforce at succeeding spot (where ball is next put in play = A-2).
- D. A or B holds at A-4 Ruling: Federation = Enforce both fouls at the A-2. NCAA = Enforce both fouls at the A-2. NCAA = Enforce both fouls at the previous spot (A-5).
17. A'S BALL 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 16 AT THE B-20 ON A PASS PLAY:
- A. A interferes in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA - 15 yards previous spot NO LOSS OF DOWN. Federation = 15 yards previous spot and loss of down.
- B. B interferes in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA = 1<sup>st</sup> and goal for A at the 5. Federation = 1<sup>st</sup> down and goal at the 10.
- C. B twists the face mask of A8 on the tackle at the B-12. Ruling: NCAA = 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at B6. Federation = 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 at B6. If incidental it is 2 and 3 at B7 in both NCAA AND FED.
- D. A goes out of bounds (voluntarily) and is first to touch a pass in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Loss of down at previous spot. Federation = Illegal participation, 15yards at previous spot.
18. A'S PASS PLAY FROM THE B 20 YARD LINE:
- A. B interferes in B's end zone. Ruling: NCAA = 15 yards previous spot, 1<sup>st</sup> down at 5. Federation = half the distance from 20. 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at 10.
19. A'S SCRIMMAGE KICK IS FROM THEIR END ZONE:
- A. A holds in their end zone: 1) During kick. 2) During interval between muff by R at 50 and possession. 3) Kick is blocked and A holds while ball is loose. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Safety in all 3 plays.

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- B. B intercepts a pass in their end zone and fails to run the ball out of the end zone. During the run B clips at the B-24. Ruling: NCAA = Enforce foul at 20, 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at the B-10. Federation = Same as NCAA.
  - C. Same play as above except B's clip is in the end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Safety.
  - D. Same play as above except B's clip is at the B-12. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at the 6.
  - E. Same play as above except A grabs B's face mask (15 yards), either in the end zone or in field of play during the run. Ruling: NCAA = Foul enforced at 20, 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at 35. Federation = Same as NCAA.
  - F. B intercepts a pass at the 10 and is downed in their end zone. A grabs B's face mask (15 yards), anywhere during the run. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Foul enforced from the goal line 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at 15.
20. FIRST AND TEN AT B'S 13. A FUMBLES AT B'S 5 AND RECOVERS AT THE 4. WHILE THE BALL WAS LOOSE FROM THE FUMBLE:
- A. A holds in end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Enforce at 5.
  - B. B fouls in end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Enforce at 5.
  - C. A holds at the 8. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Enforce at 8.
21. FIRST AND TEN AT A'S 7. A FUMBLES AT A'S 5 AND RECOVERS AT THE 4. WHILE THE BALL WAS LOOSE FROM THE FUMBLE.
- A. A clips in the end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation force at the spot of the foul, Safety.
  - B. B holds in end zone. Ruling: NCAA and Federation = Enforce at 7. This is a loose ball play not a running play in Federation.
  - C. A holds at the 2. Ruling: Federation = Enforce at the 2. NCAA = Enforce the hold at the previous spot (A-7).
22. FIRST AND GOAL ON B-8. DURING A'S RUN THAT ENDS AT B'S 10:
- A. A holds in the end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Enforce at 8 (previous spot). Federation = Enforce at 10 (end of run).
  - B. B holds in the end zone. Ruling: NCAA = Enforce at 8 (previous spot). Federation = Enforce at 10 (end of run).
  - C. A holds at the 9. Ruling: Federation = Enforce at B-10. NCAA = Enforce the hold at the B-8.
23. FOULS ON SCORING PLAYS:
- A. NCAA = ANY UNSPORTSMANLIKE FOUL BY EITHER TEAM OR ANY PERSONAL FOUL BY THE OPPONENT THAT OCCURS DURING OR AFTER A TD PLAY AND BEFORE THE READY ON THE TRY IS ENFORCED ON THE TRY OR KO. (EXCEPT: OT).