

Scrimmage Kicks (SK)

COACHES AREA

Behind the Neutral Zone

- ✓ All players can advance a SK that fails to cross NZ.
- ✓ If blocked no more than 3 yds beyond NZ, considered within or behind NZ.
- ✓ Continuity of downs is not broken if ball fails to cross NZ and remains in bounds.

Team A Fouls During the Kick

Team A live ball fouls may be enforced from the previous spot or from the spot where the subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B. (Exception: Kick catch interference is a spot foul.)

Beyond the Neutral Zone

- ✓ A cannot touch SK until it is touched by an inbounds B player.
- ✓ B can take the ball at spot of illegal touching (unless penalty is accepted or offsetting.)
- ✓ Forced touching is disregarded. (Blocked into ball / Touched by batted ball)
- ✓ If A catches or recovers a scrimmage kick that crosses the NZ the ball becomes dead. A cannot advance a kick.
- ✓ Return kick is illegal and causes the ball to become dead.
- ✓ SK beyond the NZ is a live ball foul that causes the ball to become dead.
- ✓ Joint possession belongs to B.
- ✓ No blocking below the waist.

Opportunity to Catch a Kick

- ✓ R must have unimpeded opportunity to catch firmly possess) kick beyond NZ.
- ✓ Protection terminates when ball touches ground or is muffed by B beyond NZ.
- ✓ Not a foul if an A or B player is blocked by an opponent into potential receiver.
- ✓ Foul if contact is before or simultaneous to B touching the ball.
- ✓ Penalty: 15 yards from spot of the foul.

Fair Catch

- ✓ B agrees not to advance (no more than 2 steps)
- ✓ An unimpeded opportunity to catch kick is extended to a player who muffs the kick and still has an opportunity to complete the catch. (Ball is placed where it was 1st touched if caught.)
- ✓ Must be beyond the NZ.
- ✓ B cannot block if he does not touch kick.
- ✓ Protection terminates when ball touches ground.
- ✓ Only the player making the signal has protection.

Out of Bounds

A player out of bounds may not return. (hat) Does not apply if blocked out and attempts to return inbounds immediately A player out of bounds may not return. (hat) Does not apply if blocked out and attempts to return inbounds immediately.

Untouched by B before touching the ground on or behind B goal line is a touchback

Momentum
5yd to GL

Team A bats SK in B's EZ untouched by R is a violation. B may elect a touchback. This is not canceled by acceptance of a penalty.

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Free Kicks (FK)

In the Neutral Zone

- ✓ A cannot block until ball is touched by B or crosses B's restraining line and remain beyond B's restraining.
- ✓ A can recover if touched by B.
- ✓ B can take the ball at spot of illegal touching (unless penalty is accepted or offsetting.)
- ✓ Forced touching is disregarded. (Blocked into ball / Touched by batted ball)

Before the FK

- ✓ Ball between the hash marks w/ at least 4 players on either side of ball.
- ✓ Team A behind ball except Kicker and holder
- ✓ A must have been between the 9-yard marks after the RFP.

- ✓ **B may not** block the Kicker until he has gone five yards beyond his restraining line or until the kick has touched player, official, or ground.

Clock

Clock starts when the ball is legally touched in the field of play or crosses the goal line after being touched legally by team B in its end zone.

Momentum
5yd to GL

- ✓ Untouched by B before touching the ground on or behind B goal line is a Touchback.
- ✓ FK out of bounds behind goal line belongs to B and is a Touchback.

- ✓ B must remain at least 10 yds beyond A restraining line until the ball is kicked.
- ✓ A can *recover* ball after it breaks the plane and remains beyond B restraining line OR when it touches anything beyond R restraining line.
- ✓ A can *catch* if B is not in a position to catch. But cannot advance.
- ✓ Fair catch and opportunity to catch Kick still apply.
- ✓ No blocking below the waist.
- ✓ Team A live ball fouls may be enforced from previous spot or subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B. (Exception: Kick catch interference is a spot foul.)

FK out of bounds between goal lines belongs to B at the inbounds spot.

Penalty for FK out of bounds untouched by B

- 5yds re-kick
- 5yds from subsequent dead ball belongs to Team B or
- B take ball 30 yds from previous spot.

Best options when FK is from the 40

- Ball OB *before* Team B's 35yd line – 5yd penalty from dead ball spot or 5yds re-kick
- Ball OB *after* Team B's 35yd line – 30yds from previous spot or 5yds re-kick

Out of Bounds

A player out of bounds may not return. (hat)
Does not apply if blocked out and attempts to return inbounds immediately

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