



# Do We Have A Touchdown, Touchback Or A Safety? Force And Momentum

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Revised 15 May 2011



# Our Mission

- ▶ Review questions from the 1st scrimmage
- ▶ Go over the concept of force and momentum
- ▶ Show that we have understood these concepts by answering the situations correctly



# Questions

- ▶ Lightning Guidelines–page 99
  - “When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen...
- ▶ Horse collar: 9-4-3k
  - Grab the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey of the runner
- ▶ Encroachment: 7-1-6
  - Is a dead ball foul, even if it is against the defense



# Force

- ▶ The concept of force answers the question:
  - **How did the ball get into the end zone?**
- ▶ Force is defined in 2-13-1: the result of energy exerted by a player which provides movement of the ball
  - It is only used in connection with the goal line and in only one direction: from the field of play into the end zone



# Force 8-5-1

## ▶ 5 acts can provide initial force:

- A carry
  - A kick
  - A pass
  - A fumble
  - A snap
- } Loose ball

- ## ▶ If the ball is put into the end zone by one of these 5 acts, even though its direction may have changed because of other touching, it is an initial force



# Force 8-5-1

- ▶ By 2-13-1, a new force comes in 3 ways, if a player
  - Kicks a grounded loose ball
  - Bats a live ball that has touched the ground, or
  - Muffs a grounded live ball
- ▶ A new force cannot be applied to a ball in flight, per 2-13-3
- ▶ When a grounded loose ball is muffed and goes into an end zone, the covering official has to decide whether the original force was such that the ball would have gone into the end zone regardless of the muff. If in doubt, the original



# Force Is Never a Factor:

- ▶ When a non-scoring kick goes into R's end zone, it is always a touchback, regardless of who touches the ball (2-13-4a)
- ▶ When a fumble or backward pass is declared dead in the opponent's end zone with no player in possession (2-13-4b)
  - This should be extremely rare, since we have a grounded live ball
  - By rule, this is a touchdown, unless it is the result of an inadvertent whistle 98-2-1c)



# Force 8-5-1

Initial Action	Batted, Muffed While In Flight	Batted, Muffed When Grounded
Forward pass	Force Is The Initial Action	Dead ball
Backward pass (includes snap)		Bat or Muff May be a new force
Kick		
Fumble		



# Safety 8-5

- ▶ A safety scores 2 points for the defense and the opponents must then put the ball in play on their own 20 yard line by a free kick
- ▶ A safety can be scored in 2 ways:
  - As a result of a down (8-5-2a, 8-5-2b) when the offensive team is responsible for the ball being in its own end zone (except when the momentum exception applies); or
  - When an accepted penalty would be enforced from the fouling team's end zone (8-5-2c)



# Safety 8-5

- ▶ Example: A 1 / 10 @ A-2. Quarterback A1 receives the snap, drops back into the end zone and is tackled there by B2.
  - RULING: Safety
- ▶ Normally, the dead ball spot is under the foremost point of the ball, but it is not when A's goal line is involved, per 5-3-4
  - Team A must get the entire ball out of their end zone or it is a safety
  - If A1 is tackled and the point of the ball is on the 1" line, in the field of play, it is a safety, since the entire ball has to be in the field of play



# Safety by Penalty

- ▶ A safety by penalty is scored when an accepted penalty is enforced from the offending team's end zone:
  - A 1 / 10 @ A-5. A1 is flagged for holding while he is in the end zone. RULING: Safety if the penalty is accepted.



# Momentum Exception

## 8-5-2a Exception

- ▶ If a defensive team player is inside his 5 yard line when he
  - Intercepts a forward pass, or
  - Catches/recovers a kick, backward pass or fumble, and
- ▶ His momentum carries him into the end zone where the ball becomes dead there in his team's possession or it goes out of bounds in the end zone, then
- ▶ The defensive team gets the ball at the spot where possession was obtained, which is why we throw a bean bag at the momentum spot



# Momentum Exception

## 8-5-2a Exception

- ▶ Philosophy: We just learned what a safety is, but there are times when we don't want to penalize a great defensive effort:
  - Example: A1's long pass is intercepted by B2 @ B-3. B2 takes 2 strides and is in his own end zone when he is tackled by A3.
  - Without the Momentum Exception, we have a runner carrying the ball into his own end zone where it is declared dead



# Touchback 8-5-3

- ▶ A touchback occurs when a team is responsible for the ball being in the opponent's end zone (in contrast to a safety, where the ball is in their own end zone) or when it goes out of bounds in the opponent's end zone
- ▶ Most often occur on kicks
  - The ball is dead when a non-scoring kick breaks the R's goal line plan, whether it was touched or not by either team
  - "A kick is a kick until it is possessed or is dead by rule"



# Touchback 8-5-3

- ▶ Also a touchback when any scoring kick touches a K player in the end zone, or
- ▶ Has obviously failed after breaking the plane of R's goal line (6-3-1)



# Touchback 8-5-3

- ▶ Can also result from an interception or a fumble during a scrimmage down:
  - B intercepts a pass in B's end zone and is downed.  
RULING: Touchback.
- ▶ It is also a touchback if a fumble is recovered by opponents in their end zone, or if a fumble goes out of bounds in the opponent's end zone



## Situation #1 (\*6.3.1A)

- ▶ A scrimmage kick by K1 comes to rest on R's 6-yard line. R1 attempts to recover and advance, but muffs the ball so that it rolls into the end zone where: (a) R2 downs the ball; or (b) R3 recovers and advances out of the end zone; or (c) K2 recovers and downs the ball in the end zone.
- ▶ **RULING:** The ball became dead as soon as it broke the plane of R's goal line. It is a touchback in (a), (b) and (c). The kick had not ended because muffing does not constitute possession, therefore, it is a kick into R's end zone which is an automatic touchback. The covering official



## Situation #2 (\*6.2.5B)

- ▶ K2, running toward R's end zone, leaps in the air to catch K1's punt which is in flight. K2 has the ball in his grasp over the 1-yard line, but first touches the ground in R's end zone. No player of R is in position to catch the punt.
- ▶ **RULING:** R can take the ball at the spot of first touching, his own 1-yard line, or take a touchback since K2 has not possessed the ball until he came to the ground in the end zone. (6-3-1)



## Situation #3 (\*8.4.1 B)

- ▶ K has the ball on R's 40-yard line for a free kick. The ball is in this position following: (a) a fair catch; or (b) an awarded fair catch; or (c) a safety followed by a couple of dead-ball penalties. In all three cases, K1 place kicks the ball between the uprights and over the crossbar.
- ▶ **RULING:** Field goal in (a) and (b), and touchback in (c). (8-4-1, 2; 8-5-3a(1))



## Situation #4 (\*8.5.1A)

- ▶ R1 returns the second half kickoff to K's 10 and fumbles:
  - (a) the ball rolls into K's end zone; or
  - (b) K1 attempts to recover and forces the ball into his own end zone.
- ▶ In both cases, the ball is in K's end zone and no player of either team attempts to recover. The referee, after waiting a few seconds, sounds his whistle.
- ▶ **RULING:** It is a touchdown for R both in (a) and (b) as the fumbling team retains possession. (8-2-1c; 8-5-2b)



## Situation #5 (\*8.5.2C)

- ▶ K1's punt is blocked on K's 5-yard line and the ball is slowly rolling near the goal line. R1 attempts to recover and just barely touches the ball. The ball then rolls into the end zone where K2 falls on it.
- ▶ **RULING:** The covering official will have to judge whether or not a new force resulted from R1's touch. The official must decide whether the original force was such that the ball could have gone into the end zone regardless of the muff. If the covering official has doubt, he will rule that the force was supplied by the kick, thus resulting in a safety.



## Situation #6 (4.2.2F)

- ▶ K1 punts from midfield and R1 gives a fair-catch signal at R's 10-yard line. R1 muffs the catch and the ball bounces toward R's end zone.
  - (a) R2 recovers at the 1-yard line and his momentum takes him into the end zone where he is tackled; or
  - (b) R3 recovers and is downed on R's 2-yard line; or
  - (c) K2 recovers and is downed on R's 5.
- ▶ **RULING:** In (a), it is R's ball on the 1-yard line because the ball became dead when R2 recovered following the fair-catch signal.
- ▶ In (b), it is R's ball on the 2; and in
- ▶ (c) it is K's ball on the 5-yard line.



# Situation #7 (8.5.2H)

- ▶ R1, while in full stride at his 2-yard line
  - (a) catches a punt over his shoulder; or
  - (b) recovers a grounded punt.
- ▶ His momentum carries him into his end zone where he is downed.
- ▶ **RULING:** In (a) and (b) the ball would belong to R at the spot where the punt was caught or recovered as the momentum exception applies.



## Situation #8 (10.4.4E)

- ▶ R1 catches a punt on his 4-yard line and his momentum carries him behind his goal line where he is downed in the end zone. After the kick has ended, but before the ball becomes dead:
  - (a) K1 holds in R's end zone; or
  - (b) K1 holds at R's 5-yard line; or
  - (c) R2 holds in the end zone.
- ▶ **RULING:** If R accepts the penalty in either (a) or (b), it will be R's ball first and 10 from its 14-yard line. R will put the ball in play by a snap. If R declines the penalty in either (a) or (b), the ball will be put in play by R at the 4-



## 10.4.4E Comment

- ▶ When the “momentum” exception applies and the ball becomes dead behind the goal line, if the penalty for a foul by either team is accepted, the end of the run is the spot where the kick, fumble or pass was caught or recovered. The penalty is enforced under the all-but-one principle. If “momentum” is not involved, the end of the run is the goal line. (8-5-2a Exception; 10-3-3c)



## Situation #9 (\*4.2.3D)

- ▶ A1 throws a forward pass from his own 40-yard line. B1 intercepts on his 2-yard line and circles back into his end zone. While B1 is in the end zone, the covering official inadvertently sounds his whistle.
- ▶ **RULING:** Since B1 is in possession, B has the option of accepting the results of the play at the time of the whistle or asking for a replay of the down. Since the result of the play would be a safety, B would normally choose to replay the down. (4-2-3c; 8-5-2a)



## Situation #10 (\*8.5.2F)

- ▶ B1 intercepts on his own 4-yard line and his momentum takes him into B's end zone.
  - (a) B1 advances out of the end zone and runs to his own 35-yard line; or
  - (b) B1 runs out of the end zone then circles back into it and in both cases is downed there; or
  - (c) B1 is hit and fumbles and A1 falls on the loose ball in the end zone; or
  - (d) B2 holds A1 in the end zone as B1 is downed there.
- ▶ **RULING:** Legal advance in (a).
- ▶ In (b), it is a safety. Once B1 advances out of the end zone as in (a) or (b), the exception is



# Situation #11 (10.5.4B)

- ▶ During the last timed down of the first half, A1 retreats into his own end zone to attempt a pass, but he is downed there. During the down there is holding in the end zone by: (a) A2, or (b) by B1.
- ▶ **RULING:** In (a), it is a safety and B would score 2 points whether the penalty is accepted or declined since the run ended in the end zone and the foul was in the end zone. If B accepts the penalty, the period is not extended with an untimed down. In (b), if the penalty is accepted it will be enforced from the goal line and the period is extended



## Situation #12 (7.5.2H)

- ▶ B1 leaps in the air over his 2-yard line and has A's pass in his grasp. He returns to the ground in his end zone inbounds.
- ▶ **RULING:** B1's interception was not completed until he returned to the ground inbounds. He now possesses a live ball in his own end zone and may attempt to run it out or down it in the



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