



# SAFETIES

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# OUR MISSION

- ▶ To review the rules concerning safeties and to demonstrate our knowledge of the rules by answering the quiz questions correctly.



# BACKGROUND:

- ▶ The rarest type of scoring that we normally see
- ▶ A safety scores 2 points for the defense, then the opponents put the ball in play on their 20 yard line by a free kick



# A SAFETY CAN BE SCORED IN 2 WAYS:

- ▶ 8-5-2a, 8-5-2b: As the result of a play when the offensive team is responsible for the ball being in its own end zone (except when the momentum rule applies); or
- ▶ 8-5-2c: When an accepted penalty would be enforced from the fouling team's end zone



# RULES IMPLICATIONS:

- ▶ The goal line plays an important rules part: normally we are only concerned where the foremost point of the ball is, but, when the goal line is concerned, there is a special provision
  - 5-3-4: the offense has to get the entire ball into the field of play, or else the result is a safety, even if the nose of the ball is in the field of play



# RULES IMPLICATIONS:

- ▶ There is no carryover provision for a safety, so the scoring team can either take the result of the play or have the penalty assessed, but they cannot do both
- ▶ 3-3-4-b5: We do not extend periods for fouls for which enforcement, by rule, results in a safety



# A SAFETY ON A TRY:

- ▶ The rarest of all
- ▶ Results in 1 point being awarded to A (Table 8-1)



# PLAY OF THE WEEK

- ▶ A 4/10 @ A-20. A is in a punt formation, but there is a lot of confusion as to where the A players need to line up, and, as a result, the Linesman throws a flag for illegal motion @ the snap. The snap is high over the punter's head and goes into A's end zone. The punter, A1, picks the ball up in the end zone, and sees that he has no chance to kick it because several B linemen are with a few yards of him. A1 faces the end line and throws the ball straight out of the end zone, over the end line.





# PLAY OF THE WEEK (CONT.)

- ▶ B's coach then asks:
- ▶ a) Isn't that intentional grounding, since he threw it overhand and there were no eligible receivers there?
- ▶ b) Can I have the illegal motion penalty assessed on the ensuing kickoff?
- ▶ Bonus: what are the implications if this was the last timed down of the period?



# PLAY OF THE WEEK RULING

- ▶ The only restrictions on passes, including illegal forward passes and intentional grounding, are for forward passes
- ▶ This was a backward pass by definition, since it was throw with an initial direction toward the runner's end line, per 2-31-5. There is no reference as to the method of passing.



# PLAY OF THE WEEK RULING (CONT.)

- ▶ There is no carryover provision for fouls during safeties, so B cannot have the illegal motion penalty assessed on the kickoff. Therefore, here are B's options:
  - Take the safety, have A kick off @ A-20.
  - Have the illegal motion penalty enforced, replay the down, A 4/15 @ A-15.



# PLAY OF THE WEEK RULING (CONT.)

- ▶ Bonus: If this were the last timed down of the period, we would have the following information also conveyed to B:
  - Take the safety, and we do not extend the period. If it is half time or the end of the game, no kick off.
  - Have the illegal motion penalty enforced, replay the down, extend the period.



# SITUATION #1 (5.3.4B):

- ▶ A1 receives the snap behind his own goal line. A1 advances, but is tackled and the ball becomes dead with its foremost point in the field of play, but part of the ball is in the end zone.
- ▶ **RULING:** Safety. To avoid a safety, the ball must be advanced completely out of the end zone with no part of it touching the goal line. (8-5-2)



# SITUATION #2(8.5.1 B):

- ▶ It is first down and 10 on A's 12. A fumble by A1 is still rolling slowly on A's 4-yard line. During an attempt to recover the ball, A2 pushes B1 into the ball which provides new force causing the ball to roll across the goal line where it is recovered by: (a) A3 who is downed there; or (b) A4 who advances to A's 15; or (c) B2.
- ▶ **RULING:** A2 provided a new force when he pushed B1 into the ball causing the ball to go across his goal line. Safety in (a). In (b), it is A's ball on the 15 and the next down is second and 7. In (c), it is a touchdown. (2-13-1; 7-4-2; 8-5-2b)



# SITUATION #3(8.5.2D):

- ▶ Fourth and 15 for A from its own 8-yard line. A1 is in punt formation and receives the snap in his end zone, but fumbles the ball. A1 quickly recovers and throws a forward pass to ineligible A2, who is also in the end zone. A2 muffs the ball and it falls incomplete.
- ▶ **RULING:** If B accepts the penalty for A2's illegal touching, it results in a safety. If B declines the penalty for the foul by A2, the result is B's ball first and goal from A's 8-yard line. (5-1-3c; 7-5-13 Penalty; 8-5-2c; 10-5-6)



# SITUATION #4(10.5.2):

- ▶ A's ball second and 5 from its own 9-yard line. A2 muffs the handoff and the ball rolls into A's end zone. A1 picks up the ball and is immediately tackled by B3 in the end zone. B3 grasped A1 by the face mask/helmet opening in making the tackle.
- ▶ **RULING:** If A declines the penalty, this play would result in a safety. If the penalty is accepted, it will be enforced from the goal line, making it first and 10 for A from its 15-yard line. (8-5-2b)





# SITUATION #5(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 #6(8.5.2E):

- ▶ B1 intercepts a pass on B's 4-yard line with his momentum taking him directly toward his goal line: (a) B1 fumbles on the 1-yard line, or (b) B1 is contacted by A2 and the ball comes loose on the 2-yard line. In both cases B2 recovers the ball in B's end zone and is downed there.
- ▶ **RULING:** It is a safety in both (a) and (b). Once B1 gained possession in the field of play, he is responsible for the fumble which is the force which put the ball into the end zone. Had B1 not fumbled, the momentum exception would have been in effect.



# SITUATION #7(\*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.



# SITUATION #7(\*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;
- ▶ **RULING:** Legal advance in (a).



# SITUATION #7(\*8.5.2F):

- ▶ B1 intercepts on his own 4-yard line and his momentum takes him into B's end zone.
- ▶ (b) B1 runs out of the end zone then circles back into it and is downed there.
- ▶ **RULING:** In (b), it is a safety. Once B1 advances out of the end zone as in (a) or (b), the exception is canceled and action thereafter dictates the result of the play.



# SITUATION #7(\*8.5.2F):

- ▶ B1 intercepts on his own 4-yard line and his momentum takes him into B's end zone.
- ▶ (c) B1 is hit and fumbles and A1 falls on the loose ball in the end zone
- ▶ **RULING:** Touchdown for A in (c).



# SITUATION #7(\*8.5.2F):

- ▶ B1 intercepts on his own 4-yard line and his momentum takes him into B's end zone.
- ▶ (d) B2 holds A1 in the end zone as B1 is downed there.
- ▶ RULING: In (d), the foul by B2 occurred in the end zone behind the basic spot resulting in a safety. (7-5-4; 8-2-1; 8-5-2a Exception; 10-4-3; 10-6)



# SITUATION #8(8.3.3):

- ▶ During a try, a fumble by A1 is nearly at rest on the 3-yard line when a muff by B1 is judged to be a new force causing the ball to go into B's end zone where B2 recovers and:  
(a) downs the ball in the end zone; or (b) advances to his 10-yard line.
- ▶ **RULING:** The try ends and the ball becomes dead when B2 recovers. In any ordinary down, such a dead ball in the end zone would be a safety, therefore, one point is scored for A in both (a) and (b). B cannot score during a try down. (4-2-2i; 8-1; 8-5-2b)





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