



DEFINITION OF A CATCH

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OUR MISSION

- ▶ Review the definition of a catch
- ▶ Review the “exception” [my term]
- ▶ Apply our knowledge of the definition to some game situations



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ A catch is
 - the act of establishing player possession
 - of a live ball
 - which is in flight and
 - first contacting the ground inbounds while maintaining possession



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ What's not in this year's definition:
 - “or being prevented from doing so because of contact by an opponent”



CATCH: 2-4-1

▶ A catch is

- the act of establishing player possession...

- Possession: 2-34-1: a live ball held or controlled...
- Referred to by the NCAA officials as “firm control”



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ A catch is the act of establishing player possession
 - Of a live ball...
 - Forward pass—has not touched the ground or gone OOB
 - Scrimmage/free kick—is in the field of play (not in R's end zone or OOB)
 - Backward pass—has not gone OOB



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ A catch is the act of establishing player possession of a live ball
 - Which is in flight...
 - 2-1-3: A loose ball (pass, fumble or kick) which has not yet touched the ground



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ A catch is the act of establishing player possession of a live ball which is in flight and
 - first contacting the ground inbounds...
 - 2-29-1: a player is out of bounds when any part...is touching anything, other than another player or game official that is on or outside the sideline or end line



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ A catch is the act of establishing player possession of a live ball which is in flight and first contacting the ground inbounds while
 - Maintaining possession
 - Possession has to be for a period of time
 - That period can be short or long, but it is more than “instantaneous”



CATCH: 2-4-1

- ▶ We have a “process”:
 - **Possession**: 2-34-1: **held** or **controlled**—referred to by the NCAA officials as “firm control”
 - **Maintain possession** while first contacting the ground inbounds (“surviving the landing”)
 - If the ball becomes dead prior to the process being complete, we have an incomplete pass
 - Ball hits the ground prior to receiver completing catch
 - Receiver loses control as soon as he hits the ground
 - Receiver loses control while in the air (“surviving the hit”)
 - Receiver first comes to the ground OOB



THE EXCEPTION: *4.3.3B

- ▶ A 3/7 @ B-30. A1 leaps near the sideline to attempt to catch a pass near B-30. A1 is:
 - ▶ (a) Airborne trying to make the catch and is knocked backwards by B2 attempting to make the tackle and A1 lands outside the sideline @ B-32.
 - ▶ (b) Airborne when he controls the ball attempting to complete the catch and is carried off the field by B2 landing out of bounds.



THE EXCEPTION: *4.3.3B

- ▶ A 3/7 @ B-30. A1 leaps near the sideline to attempt to catch a pass near B-30. A1 is:
 - ▶ (a) Airborne trying to make the catch and is knocked backwards by B2 attempting to make the tackle and A1 lands outside the sideline @ B-32.
- ▶ RULING: In (a), the pass is incomplete and the clock should start on the snap.



THE EXCEPTION: *4.3.3B

- ▶ A 3/7 @ B-30. A1 leaps near the sideline to attempt to catch a pass near B-30. A1 is:
- ▶ (b) Airborne when he controls the ball attempting to complete the catch and is carried off the field by B2 landing out of bounds.
- ▶ **RULING:** In (b), the covering official must determine if forward progress was stopped in the field of play. If the covering official determines that forward progress was stopped in the FOP, it is a catch and the clock should not stop. If progress was not determined to be stopped in the FOP, the pass is incomplete...



THE EXCEPTION: SUMMARY

- ▶ In order to make a catch, the player must have control, and
- ▶ The player must survive the hit, and
- ▶ The player must survive the landing, and
- ▶ The the landing must be in bounds, EXCEPT if he is CARRIED out of bounds BACKWARDS.



CATCH: 2-24-1

- ▶ We have guidelines:
 - “When in doubt” statements, found in the Officials Manual
 - Catch or not—no catch
 - Incomplete pass or fumble—incomplete pass
- ▶ Catch–fumble vs. incomplete
 - Remember our “when in doubt”: no cheap fumbles
 - To fumble, receiver had to change the status of the ball
 - If the receiver never makes a catch, he can’t fumble



VIDEOS

▶ CFO training videos

- <http://cfo.arbitersports.com>
- \$100 to register
- Videos posted throughout the year
- Division 1A games using a crew of 7
- Careful: voiceovers are for NCAA rules

▶ Bill LeMonnier's training DVD

- wlemmonnier@sbcglobal.net
- Widely available online
- High school games in the Chicago area, using a crew of 5

■ Cacpfo.org

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