

Southeastern Football Officials Association



2023 Rules Changes

Rules Changes for 2023

Towels Do Not Have To Be The Same Solid Color

When a Player Is Inbounds After Being Out of Bounds

Players Who Should Be Defined as Defenseless Receivers

Intentional Grounding Exception

Removed “Intentional” From Pass Interference in TABLE 7-5

Changes In Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement

Clarification On The Ball Being Handed Forward On A Running Play [Six-Player – Rule 7g (NEW)]

Player Equipment: 1- 5-3a(5)a 4, 5 (NEW)



Ohj do



~~Ohj do~~

Player towels may contain one manufacturer's logo and/or one school logo neither exceeding 2¼ square inches. Towels must be a solid color but now do not have to be the same solid color for each player. Towels may not be ball- or penalty-flag colored.

Out of Bounds: 2-29-1

The definition of a player out of bounds has been modified. A player who goes out of bounds remains out of bounds until he returns inbounds without maintaining contact out of bounds.

An airborne player retains the status he had when he left the ground.

Out of Bounds: 2-29-1

The definition of a player out of bounds has been modified. A player who goes out of bounds remains out of bounds until he returns inbounds without maintaining contact out of bounds.

Incomplete

***Player jumping from in-bounds
landing out-of-bounds***



Out of Bounds: 2-29-1

The definition of a player out of bounds has been modified. A player who goes out of bounds remains out of bounds until he returns inbounds without maintaining contact out of bounds.

Incomplete

Also applies to player batting the ball while airborne

Player jumping from out-of-bounds landing in-bounds



Defenseless Receivers 2-32-16d (NEW), 9-4-3g

A receiver, including the person intercepting the pass, who is forcefully contacted by an opponent and that contact is not:

1. Incidental contact as a result of making a play on the ball;
2. Initiated with open hands; or
3. An attempt to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around the receiver.



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Intentional Grounding - Exception

The exception for intentional grounding applies to the first and only player to possess the ball after the snap ends.

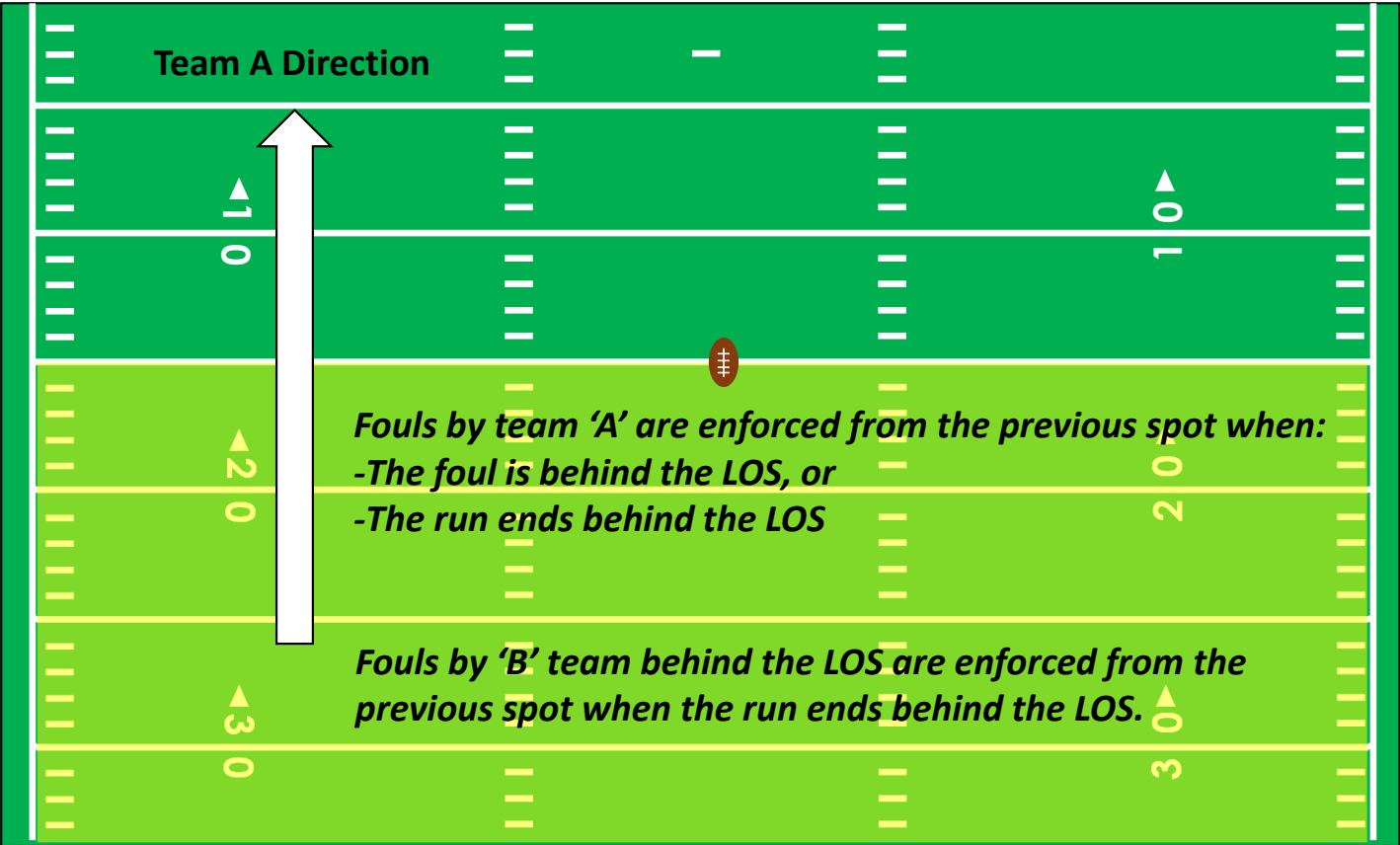
Pass Interference

By removing “intentional” from pass interference, this change puts the rule in line with how it is already enforced which is a 15-yard penalty.

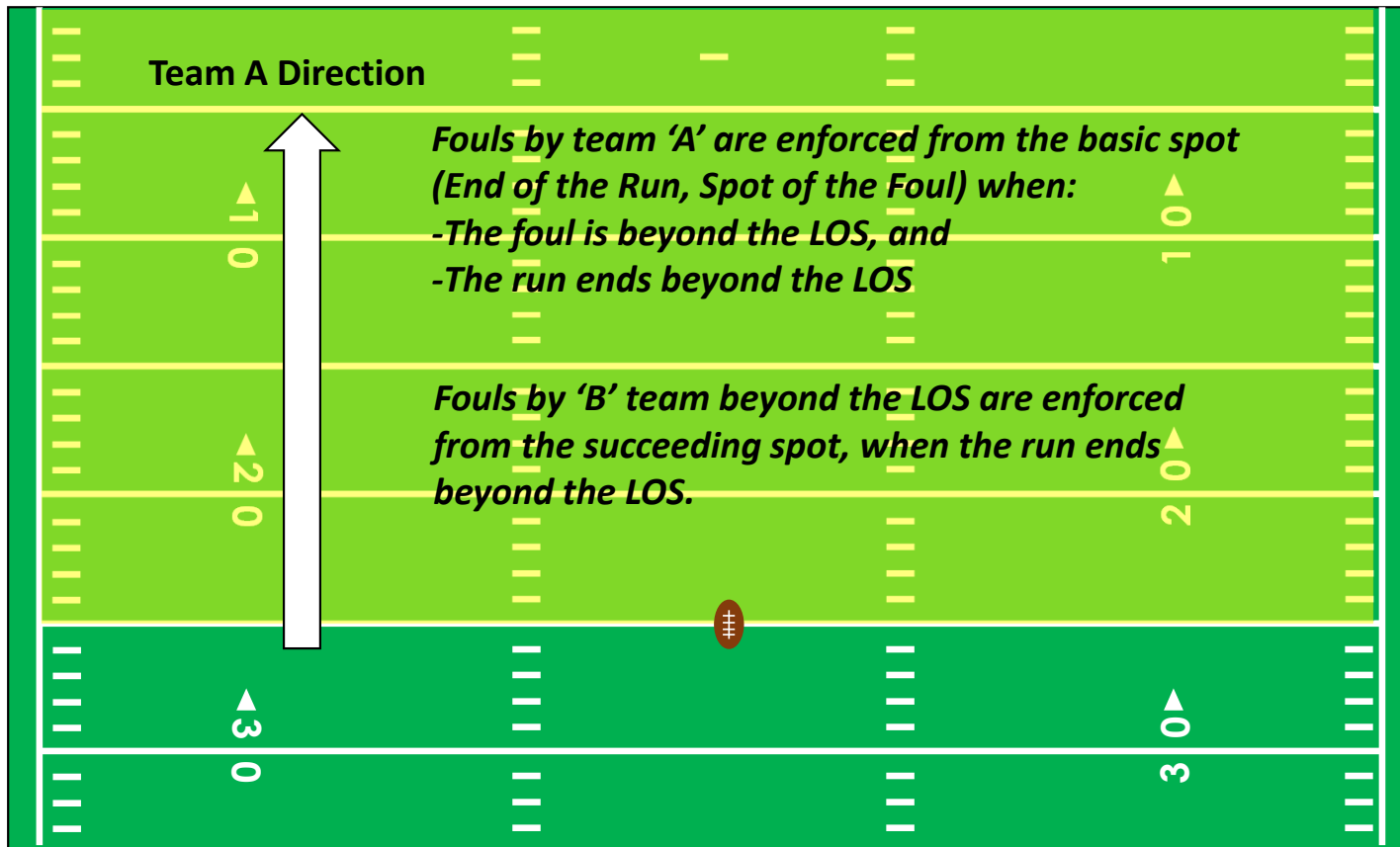
Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement 10-4, TABLE 10-4 (NEW), 10-6 (DELETED)

The basic spot for enforcement of fouls behind the line of scrimmage is the **previous spot** rather than the spot of the foul unless otherwise specified by rule. Current penalties for illegal kicking, batting and participation fouls, and provisions for offensive fouls occurring in the end zone that may result in a safety remain intact.

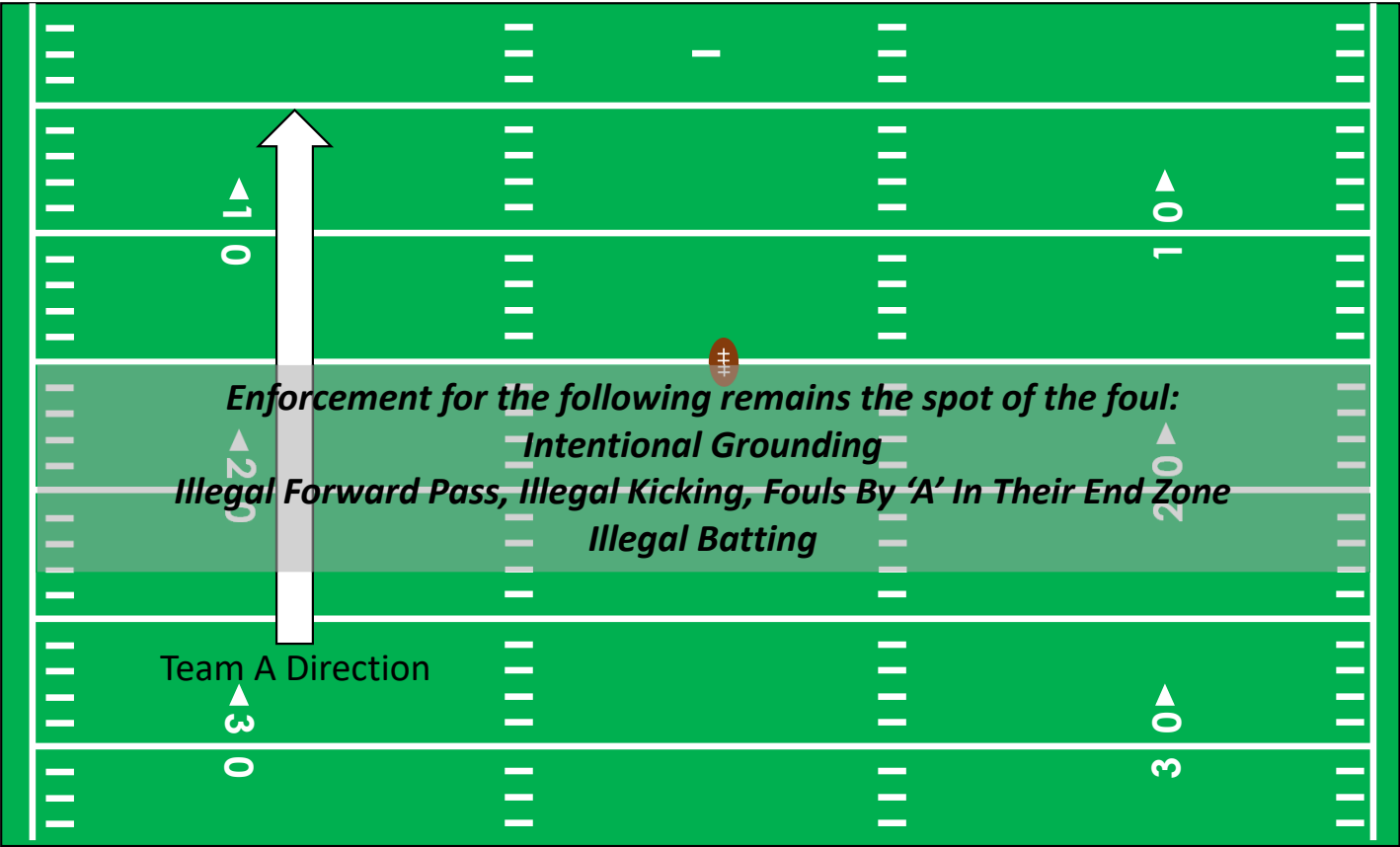
Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement



Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement



Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement



Six-Player Rule 7-g (New)

The change allows the ball to be handed forward on a running play, including to the guards/ends, while prohibiting handing the ball to the snapper provided both players are behind the neutral zone.

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2022 Rules Reminder

State associations may approve an extension of the team box.

Any game official may order the ball changed between downs.

Each player shall be numbered 0 through 99 inclusive. Any number preceded by the digit zero such as "00" is illegal.

A chop block is where one of the blocks is ***below the waist*** and one of the blocks is ***above the waist***.

When a foul is committed with less than two minutes remaining in either half, the offended team has the option to start the game clock on the snap.

When the clock is stopped to administer a penalty and Team B is the only team to foul, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds.

It is legal for a player to conserve yardage by intentionally throwing an incomplete forward pass if the passer has been beyond the lateral boundary of the free-blocking zone as established at the snap; and the pass reaches the neutral zone, including the extension beyond the sideline.

