

## 2009 SRI Bulletin #1

Penalty Enforcement: (Rules 8-2-2, 8-2-3, 8-2-4 and 10-5-1f)

Play: B intercepts A's pass and returns it for a touchdown. Before the change of possession there is a non-player foul on A's coach for being in the restricted area. Does the scoring team have the option to have the penalty enforced on the try/subsequent kickoff or just the try?

Ruling: A non-player foul is a non-player foul; the change of possession is immaterial. Team A's coach got the flag while his team was on offense when the ball was live. Team B intercepted, scored, and Team A is now the opponent of the scoring team. Non-player fouls committed by the opponent of the scoring team while the ball is live can be enforced either on the try or on the subsequent kickoff.

Kevin Hatfield, Portland Football Rules Interpreter has created a simplified statement regarding the above rules:

- Live ball fouls by the touchdown scoring team will cancel the touchdown.
- Live ball fouls by the opponent of the touchdown scoring team may be enforced on **EITHER** the try **OR** the subsequent kickoff.
- Unsportsmanlike or non-player fouls by the touchdown scoring team, occurring while the ball is live, may **ONLY** be enforced on the try.
- Unsportsmanlike or non-player fouls by the opponent of the touchdown scoring team, occurring while the ball is live, may be enforced on **EITHER** the try **OR** the subsequent kickoff.
- Unsportsmanlike, non-player, or any other foul, by either team, occurring after the touchdown, and up until the initial ready for play on the try, may be enforced on **EITHER** the try **OR** the subsequent kickoff.

Question: Are fouls that occur simultaneous with snap considered live ball fouls for the sake of penalty enforcement on touchdown scoring plays?

Answer: Fouls occurring simultaneous with the snap are live ball fouls for penalty enforcement purposes.