

2009 SRI Bulletin #5

Kick Off Formation:

Please note, the kicking team DOES NOT have to have a certain number of players on each side of the kicker.

Roughing the Snapper:

Rule 9-4-6 affords the snapper additional protection during a field goal attempt or a scrimmage kick. A defensive player shall not charge directly into the snapper. This protection ends when the snapper is able to protect himself, blocks, or otherwise moves to participate in the play. "Protect himself" means the snapper has had time to look up and regain his balance. Snapper protection exists whether or not there is a kick.

Play: K34 is lined up directly behind snapper K78 but his hands are not under the snapper. K17 is positioned 9-yards behind the LOS and is directly behind K34 and K78. If K17 receives the snap, is K78 afforded snapper protection?

Ruling: If K34 is in position to receive a direct hand-to-hand snap, it is not a scrimmage-kick formation and snapper K78 is not afforded protection. The location of K34's hands and the fact that deep back K17 received the ball are both immaterial. Rule 2-14-2.

Play: Immediately after K58 snaps from a scrimmage-kick formation and before he has a chance to look up to defend himself, R75 tries to shoot the gap between K58 and guard K62. In the process, R75 places a hand on and pushes down on K58's right shoulder, causing him to fall to the ground.

Ruling: Legal play by R75 because he did not play directly through K58. Rule 9-4-6.

Intentional Grounding in the End Zone:

If a pass is intentionally grounded from Team A's end zone, the result is a safety whether the penalty is accepted or declined. Since the ball belongs to the passing team at the spot of the pass, Team B does not have the option to take the ball at any other spot. Rules 7-5-2 Pen, 8-5-2c, and 10-5-2.

