

## **2009 SRI Bulletin #6**

### **Backwards Pass: Intentionally Thrown Out-of-Bounds:**

You cannot have intentional grounding on a backwards pass. It is legal for a player to intentionally throw a backwards pass out-of-bounds to stop the clock to conserve time. The ball belongs to the passing team at the OB spot unless it was fourth down and results in a change of possession.

Play: Team A's ball, 3<sup>rd</sup> down and 7 from Team B's 20-yard line. 10 seconds left in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and Team A is out of time outs. QB A12 takes the snap, drops back to pass and while under a heavy rush, intentionally throws a backwards pass which goes out-of-bounds at Team B's 24 yard line.

Ruling: Legal play. Team A's ball, 4<sup>th</sup> and 11 from B's 24 yard line. The game clock will start on the snap. Rules 2-31-5 and 7-4-1.

### **Intentional Grounding.....There's More:**

In response to last week's play involving intentional grounding in the end zone, the following question was asked:

Question: What happens if there is intentional grounding in the end zone and the pass is intercepted by B?

Answer: Yes, you can have intentional grounding on a pass that's intercepted by B. The difference here is the ball is CAUGHT by B, where in the original Bulletin play, the pass was incomplete; the ball hit the ground. In this situation, B can take the result of the play OR accept the penalty for a 2-point safety. Let's say A intentionally grounds the ball from the EZ, it's intercepted at the 2-yard line by B and advanced across A's goal line. The result of the play is a TD for Team B. That's probably the choice they will take!

### **Eligibility:**

Play: K free kicks the ball to the R-20. R30 possesses the ball near the side line and his momentum carries him out-of-bounds. Prior to R30 going out-of-bounds, he drops the ball in the field of play. R30 returns from out-of-bounds, establishes himself inbounds, picks up the ball and advances it.

Ruling: Legal play. The restrictions of Rules 9-6-1 and 9-6-2 do not apply to Team R players who unintentionally go out-of-bounds.

### **Illegal Cleats:**

Brad has asked me to remind all officials to be aware of potential illegal cleats as the weather gets wet and fields become muddy. Please review Rule 1-5-1f.

Remember, when a player is found to have illegal cleats, the Head Coach gets the UNS penalty, because he's certified that all of his players are legally equipped. Rule 9-8-1h. The Oregon difference to that rule is that the offending player is also ejected. Another thing to remember.....if you find 7 players with illegal cleats, you only walk off one 15-yard penalty but all 7 players are ejected....and it's only one UNS penalty against the Head Coach.

There is no penalty if illegal cleats are discovered during pre-game warmups, however, the player may not participate until he gets legal cleats.