



OREGON ATHLETIC
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

One Rule - One Interpretation - One Mechanic



OCEP PLAYOFF CERTIFICATION TRAINING

ISSUES FOR THE REFEREE

INTENTIONAL GROUNDING



THE RULE

THE INTENTIONAL GROUNDING IS COVERED
UNDER THE ILLEGAL FORWARD PASS RULE,
7-5-2 A-E



THE RULE

BY RULE, IT IS ILLEGAL TO:
INTENTIONALLY THROW A FORWARD PASS
INTO AN AREA NOT OCCUPIED BY AN
ELIGIBLE OFFENSIVE PLAYER TO SAVE
LOSS OF YARDAGE OR CONSERVE TIME.



THE RULE

EXCEPTION: IT IS LEGAL TO CONSERVE TIME BY INTENTIONALLY THROWING THE BALL FORWARD TO THE GROUND (SPIKING THE BALL) IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING THE BALL AFTER A HAND-TO-HAND SNAP.



GUIDELINES

A BACKWARDS PASS MAY BE THROWN TO SAVE A LOSS OF YARDAGE OR TO CONSERVE TIME.

THE BALL REMAINS LIVE UNTIL OTHERWISE DEAD BY RULE AND IS NEXT PUT IN PLAY AT THE DEAD BALL SPOT.



GUIDELINES

A MUFFED SNAP THAT HITS THE GROUND OR A PLAYER MAY NOT BE LEGALLY GROUNDED.

IF A PASSER SPIKES THE BALL AND IT HITS AN OFFENSIVE LINEMAN AND THEN THE GROUND, IT IS NOT ILLEGAL TOUCHING.

IF THE BALL HITS THE LINEMAN AND BOUNCES INTO THE AIR, IT IS LIVE.



GUIDELINES

A BALL SNAPPED IN A “SHOTGUN” FORMATION MAY NOT BE LEGALLY GROUNDED.

A “SHOTGUN” FORMATION CANNOT RESULT IN THE REQUIRED DIRECT, HAND-TO-HAND SNAP.



GUIDELINES

LOOK FOR THE ABSENCE OF ELIGIBLE RECEIVERS IN THE AREA AND THE “DUMPING” OF THE BALL TO AVOID LOSS OF DISTANCE.

THE ABILITY AND SKILL OF THE PASSER AND THE PRESSURE OF THE DEFENSE ARE ALSO FACTORS TO CONSIDER.

REFER TO CASE BOOK 7-5-2 SITUATION C, COMMENT.



GUIDELINES

THE REFEREE IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTENTIONAL GROUNDING, BUT MAY GET ASSISTANCE FROM A WING OFFICIAL.

SINCE THE REFEREE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PASSER'S SAFETY, THE REFEREE SHOULD NOT CONSULT WITH ANOTHER OFFICIAL UNTIL ALL POST-PLAY ACTION HAS BEEN CLEARED UP AROUND THE PASSER.



GUIDELINES

IF A WING OFFICIAL HAS PERTINENT INFORMATION, THAT OFFICIAL MUST GO TO THE REFEREE TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION.

THE FINAL DECISION (DELAYED FLAG OR NO FOUL) RESTS WITH THE REFEREE AS HE/SHE IS CLOSER TO THE SPOT FROM WHERE THE BALL WAS THROWN.

REMEMBER, IT LOOKS BETTER TO PICK UP A FLAG THEN TO THROW A LATE FLAG.