

**PASS INTERFERENCE** (*after pass thrown, while the ball is in the air*)



- Behind line of scrimmage
  - Team A can interfere with Team B.
  - Team B cannot interfere with any eligible A player attempting a catch.
- Defenders do not have to play the ball, however, if they are not playing the ball, they may not contact, or faceguard, a receiver.
- Face guarding is identified as hand or hands up in the air above shoulder level, and interfering with the receiver's view of the flight and arrival of the ball.
- Face guarding, and then turning to look for the ball is illegal.
- Turning to look back for the ball and then putting hands up is legal.
- A defensive player who perfectly times putting his hands and arms up in the air at the instant the ball arrives, but is not face guarding, is performing a good defensive play.
- Two players both looking at the ball and playing the ball
  - Have contact while attempting to catch the pass - is Not Pass Interference.
  - Both Offensive and Defensive players have a right to attempt to catch the pass.
  - True even if contact is a collision, as long as both are playing the ball.
- A player Offensive or Defensive, is not allowed to "go through" a receiver to get to the ball.
- Two players not playing the ball
  - Incidental contact that does not affect the pattern of an eligible receiver is Not Pass Interference.
- One player playing the ball, and the other not playing the ball
  - Contact by player not playing the ball is Pass Interference.
- A player who has gained "position" will not be considered to have impeded or restricted an opponent in a prohibited manner, if all such actions are a bona fide effort to go to, and play, the ball.
- On an under thrown pass, if a player tries to come back to play the ball and is prevented from doing so by another player's established position there is no foul.

- When an offensive player is running a pattern parallel to the sideline and the defender has inside position running beside the receiver

- if defensive player's line or position prevents the receiver from getting past him to get to the ball, it is not a foul.

- Tripping an opponent by a player in a trail position is Pass Interference

- ball not in the air illegal contact, ball in the air pass interference

- An inadvertent trip while in equal position (side by side) is not a foul.

- Pass Interference on a play where a pass is deemed clearly uncatchable is NOT pass interference

### **PLAY ACTION, SHOVEL, SCREEN PASS**

On a potential play action, shovel or screen pass play, if the QB fakes a handoff, the player he is faking to, may be contacted as if he was a ball carrier.

If a potential shovel or screen pass receiver is not involved in a fake handoff, he is treated as a receiver behind the line of scrimmage and may not be Illegally Contacted before the pass is thrown, or interfered with in the act of catching a pass.

### **OFFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE (“PICK PLAY”)**

- Officials see an offensive receiver going downfield and becoming involved in contact with a DB covering him. Then another receiver loops “under” the receiver and defender and catches a pass in the resultant open area.

- This is Not Offensive Pass Interference ( “pick play”), unless the offensive player initiated contact and is seen as creating interference (blocking) before the pass is completed across the line of scrimmage (that is illegal interference).

There is an understanding that a “pick play” occurs when an offensive receiver creates interference on a defender covering another receiver, not a defender covering him.