



## 2017 TACKLE RULE CHANGES FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The following rule changes, clarifications and corrections, approved by the Tackle Rules Committee, are for immediate distribution and implementation. ***(The changes are italicized and in bold type)***. They will be added to the next printed edition of the Rule Book due in May 2018.

### CHANGES

#### Rule 1 Section 3 article 6 page 3

##### Article 6 – Tie Game

When the score is tied at the end of the 4th quarter and it is necessary to declare a winner, the procedure to break the tie shall be the prerogative of the governing football association, with the consideration that the safety of the athlete is of prime importance.

Any such procedures shall be communicated in writing to both teams, and to the Referee, prior to the game in which the procedure may be used. In the event that no such regulations have been prepared, the following procedure shall be used.

The following tie-breaking system will be used when a game is tied after four quarters. Amateur football playing rules apply with the following exceptions:

- a) Immediately after the conclusion of the fourth quarter, officials will instruct both teams to retire to their respective team areas. The officials will assemble at center field and review the tiebreaking procedure.
- b) The officials will escort captains to the centre of the field for the coin toss. The winner of the toss shall choose one of the following options:
  - 1) Offence or defence, with the offense at the opponent's 35-yard line to start the first series.
  - 2) Which end of the field shall be used for both series of that over time period.
- c) The loser of the toss shall exercise the remaining option for the first extra period and shall have the first choice of the two options for subsequent even-numbered extra periods.
- d) Extra periods: An extra period shall consist of two series with Team A and Team B each putting the ball in play by a snap on or between the hash marks of the 35-yard line; which becomes the opponent's 35-yard line. The snap shall be from midway between the hash marks on the 35-yard line, unless a different position on or between the hash marks is selected before the ready for play.
- e) Team Series: Each team retains the ball during a series until it scores or fails to make a first down. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead.
- f) Scoring: The team scoring the greater number of points during the regulation and extra periods shall be declared the winner. There shall be an equal number of series, as defined in (e) above, in each extra period, except if Team B scores during a period other than on the try for extra point(s). Example: On the first possession of a period Team A scores a touchdown. If the score is still tied after three extra series having been played by each team, any subsequent touchdown must be followed by a two-point conversion.
- g) There shall be no team time-outs during overtime play.

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Any such procedures shall be communicated in writing to both teams, and to the Referee, prior to the game in which the procedure may be used. In the event that no such regulations have been prepared, the following procedure shall be used.

The following tie-breaking system will be used when a game is tied after four periods. Amateur football playing rules apply with the following exceptions:

a) Immediately after the conclusion of the fourth quarter, officials will instruct both teams to retire to their respective team areas. The officials will assemble at center field and review the tiebreaking procedure.

*b) The officials will escort captains to the centre of the field for the coin toss. The winner of the toss shall choose one of the following options:*

*1) Offense or defense, with the offense at the opponent's 35-yard line to start.*

*2) Which end of the field shall be used for the overtime period.*

*c) The loser of the toss shall exercise the remaining option for the first extra period and shall have the first choice of the two options for subsequent even-numbered extra periods.*

*d) Extra periods: An extra period provides each team the opportunity to put the ball in play by a snap, on or between the hash marks of the opponent's 35-yard line, except if team B scores during a team A possession. Each team retains the ball until it scores or fails to make a first down. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead.*

*e) Scoring: The team scoring the greater number of points during an extra period shall be declared the winner. If the score is still tied after three extra periods having been played, any subsequent touchdown must be followed by a two-point conversion.*

*f) There shall be no team time-outs during overtime play.*

Reason for change: Change wording for clarity.

#### **Rule 1 section 8 article 3 note 4 (3) page 8**

Note 4: When the whistle is blown inadvertently and the ball is:

3) When the whistle is blown inadvertently on any scrimmage or return kick play with the ball not in possession of either team, the receiving team shall have the choice to:

i) cancel the current play and repeat it where it began (PLS) or

ii) take possession of the ball at the point ball is at time of whistle

Note if on a return kick from the end zone where ball hits the goal post assembly repeat play from PLS no option

Replace with

Note 4: When the whistle is blown inadvertently and the ball is:

3) When the whistle is blown inadvertently on any scrimmage or return kick play with the ball not in possession of either team, the receiving team shall have the choice to:

i) cancel the current play and repeat it where it began (PLS) or

*ii) take possession of the ball at the point it strikes the ground, a player, or goes out of bounds in flight.*

Note if on a return kick from the end zone where ball hits the goal post assembly repeat play from PLS no option

Reason for change: Change wording for clarity.

**Rule 1 section 11 article 1(b) page 10**

b) No team shall wear uniforms that blend closely with the color of the ball.

Replace with

b) No team shall wear uniforms that blend closely with the color of the ball. *Teams must wear uniforms where the numbers are easy to identify.*

Reason for changes: Numbering requirements are part of the game and it is important they are easily read.

NOTE: Due to the cost associated with changing uniforms, teams have until 2020 to fully comply to this rule.

**Rule 4 section 2 article 4 note page 22**

Note: If, in the opinion of the Referee, Team A is taking a deliberate time count penalty, the Referee may order Team A to put the ball in play legally within 20 seconds or forfeit possession to Team B.

Replace with

*Note: If, Team A has two consecutive time count penalties, the Referee will order Team A to put the ball in play legally within 20 seconds or forfeit possession to Team B.*

Reason for change: Change wording for clarity.

**Rule 6 section 4 article 8 page 38**

**Article 8 – Intentional Grounding**

a) Field of Play

If the passer in the field of play deliberately throws the ball out of bounds, or to an area where there is no eligible Team A receiver, apparently to avoid a loss of distance, penalize as for an offside pass.

Penalty: 1.2D – LD at POP, 3D – LB POP.

b) End Zone

If the passer in the end zone deliberately throws the ball out of bounds, or to an area where there is no eligible Team A receiver, penalize as follows:

Penalty: 1.2.3D – Safety touch to Team B, or option to decline the score, and accept the play as an incomplete pass.

Replace with

**Article 8 – Intentional Grounding**

*If a Team A passer deliberately throws the ball behind the line of scrimmage to the ground or Out of Bounds or to an area in which there is no eligible Team A receiver, to avoid a loss of yards, the team shall be penalized. However, Team A shall not be penalized if the passer throws the ball across the line of scrimmage to an open area or Out of Bounds*

***PENALTY:*** *Loss of Down at point from which pass was thrown. If the pass was thrown from the Goal Area, a safety touch score shall be awarded to Team B, subject to the right of Team B to decline the score and accept the play as it terminated.*

Reason for change: To provide consistency and extra protection to the QB.

**Rule 8 section 6 article 2(b) page 52**

b) If both penalties are accepted, the distance penalties will be adjusted at one of 3 points in general. These points, as shown in the following articles are – PLS, PBH at the time of the first foul, and the Point of Possession (PP).

Replace with

b) If both penalties are accepted, in general, the distance penalties will be adjusted at one of **4 points**. These points, as shown in the following articles are – PLS, PBH at the time of the first foul, the Point of Possession (PP) **or PBH at time of second foul if the first foul was No Yards, 5-yard version.**

Reason for change: Change wording for clarity

**Rule 8 section 6 article 2 (h) page 52**

h) In balancing dual penalties, Unnecessary Roughness will always be a 15 yard penalty, however the balanced application may be restricted.

Example: Team A 2D-10 on B8. A1 goes offside, B1 is called for U.R.

Ruling: A offside – 5 yards B UR 15 yards

Difference is 10 application which is restricted

Replace with

***h) In balancing dual penalties, where one of the penalties is normally non restricted (Pass Interference, Unnecessary Roughing or Rough Play) the balanced application will be restricted.***

Example: Team A 2D-10 on B8. A1 goes offside, B1 is called for U.R.

Ruling: A offside – 5 yards B UR 15 yards

***Difference is a 10-yard application which is restricted***

Possession A 1D and Goal on the B4

Reason for change: Change wording for clarity

**EDITORIAL CHANGES ( type o's)**

**Summary of Abbreviations page ix** Add 1.AFD Automatic First Down and renumber balance

**Rule 4 section 1 article 5 page 21** Change to (Exception: Rule 8, Section 3, Article 3(a))

**Rule 5 section 4 article 1 (b)c page 30** Add text deleted in error

Penalty: – in field of play – L15 from PBT – in goal area – L15, penalty applied at 10-yard line

**Rule 8 section 6 article 4 page 52** Second paragraph change Blocking from the Rear to Illegal Block