

10-08-07

Play #1: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6 from A's 24 yard line. A-14 rolls out looking to pass down field to one of three receivers. B-55 is giving chase and is able to catch the QB by grasping the opening of the back of his shoulders pads ("Horse Collar") and bringing him to the ground from behind at A's 18 Yard Line.

- A) Where is the ball put into play?
- B) What is the down and distance?

Play #2: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10 from A's 40 yard line. During the offensive signal calling B-66 jumps into the neutral zone, but does not make contact with any offensive player. This action does however cause A-52 to move.

- A) Where is the ball put into play?
- B) What is the down and distance?

Play #3: 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 from A's 45 yard line. A-14 lines up in a shot-gun formation (QB is 5 yards deep) in an apparent effort to gain the first down. Instead A-14 takes the snap and punts the ball as part of a trick play. After punting the ball he is run into by B-55 who notices the punt and attempts to block it. B-55 did not tip the ball nor block it in any way. He did however run into the kicker after the ball was gone. The ball is fair caught by B at B's 20.

- A) Where is the ball put into play?
- B) Who has possession of the ball after the play?
- C) What is the down and distance?

Answers

Play 1 A: A's 18 yard line  
B: 4<sup>th</sup> and 12

NOTE: A Horse Collar is **NOT** a penalty in high school football. As described above, this was a legal play on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. A "Horse Collar" penalty only exists in the NFL.

Play 2 A: A's 45 yard line  
B: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5

NOTE: Forget all the useless information. The fact is, the defense jumped into the neutral zone, whether or not he got back prior to the snap or whether or not he caused the offense to jump does not matter. The defense jumping into the neutral zone is termed “encroachment” in high school and is considered a dead ball penalty. A defensive player does not have the option to “get back” prior to the snap. This option exists only in college and in the NFL.

Play 3 A: B’s 20 yard line

B: B retains possession after the punt.

C: 1<sup>st</sup> and 10

NOTE: The rule book is very clear about this. To be given “kicker protection” you must be lined up at least 7 yards behind the center. The fact that the QB/Kicker was lined up only 5 yards deep does not give him protection. Assuming that the contact by B-55 was a continuation of his effort to block the kick and not a personal foul than no penalty has occurred.