

11-19-07

Play #1: 4th and 15 from B's 40 yard line. Team A punts the ball, lands at B's 8 yard line takes two bounces and bounces across the goal line. A-86 is covering on the punt, he is able to jump from the 2 yard line and knock the ball back into the field of play prior to it touching the ground in the end zone, where it is finally downed by A-87 at B's 6 yard line.

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

Play #2: 1st and 10 from A's 45 yard line, A-13's pass attempt is intercepted by B-55 who returns the ball to A's 15 yard line. During the interception return, B-32 holds at A-25 yard line.

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

Play #3: 1st and 10 from A's 16 yard line, A-14 throws an incomplete pass, after the play the referee notices that the Defense just ran the previous play with 12 men.

- A) Is this a penalty?
- B) What is the down and distance?
- C) Where is the ball put into play?

Answers:

Play 1 A: 1st and 10
B: A's 20 yard line.

NOTE: For any kick to be considered a touchback, it only needs to cross the goal line. Whether the ball touches the ground in the end zone is irrelevant. The rule book explains the goal line as a "plain" that reaches an infinitive height into the air, as soon as this plain is broken, a touch back has occurred.

Play 2 A: 1st and 10
B: A's 35 yard line.
C: B (the team that intercepted the ball) will retain possession.

NOTE: Since the penalty occurred after the change of possession, the ball will remain with the defensive team, but because Holding is considered a spot foul if it occurred behind the end of the run, which was the case in the above play. The 10 yard holding foul will be enforced from the spot of the foul and move the ball back to the 35 yard line.

Play 3 A: Yes this is a penalty.
B: 1st and 18
C: A's 8 yard line.

NOTE: In this case, this is a 15 yard penalty for illegal participation. This is a foul that should be noticed and called by the referees prior to the start of the play. In the above situation, the referees did not catch this infraction prior to the play. The penalty would be enforced from the previous spot and normally be a 15 yard penalty. In the above case, it would be half the distance to the goal the down would be repeated. Ideally, the referees would have caught this infraction in advance, in which case it would have resulted in a five yard illegal substitution penalty.