



**Rules Interpreter Q &A with Walter Berry
June 24, 2020**

***For the full video, please <https://cfoaref.com/rule-interpretations/>**

1. Can a wedge block be called on a rouge or if the ball goes out of bounds?
 - ⇒ Yes. Intent to get it out of the game. Penalty is called when the formation begins.
 - ⇒ KO OB, then the Wedge Block will provide the 2nd part of a dual foul.
 - ⇒ Unlike a holding on a punt OB that we may decide not to call, we will call a Wedge Block foul.

2. Why was the thickness requirement of at least a half an inch, removed from the requirement for a knee pad to be deemed legal?
 - ⇒ Manufacturers are creating different types of equipment. The key point for officials is to ensure players are equipped with knee pads with pants, covering the knees.

3. BBW is now deemed a UR foul. Unless the block occurs in the "box zone" and is executed by those players ruled as being eligible to BBW. Referee signals #38 followed by # 30
 - ⇒ Confirmed. Player must be in the zone at the snap of the ball to BBW in that zone.
 - ⇒ Outside that zone, it UR.

4. Blocking below the waist: I do remember) that we talked at the last provincial clinic that blocking at thigh level (initial contact) is not blocking below the waist. Could you clarify that?
 - ⇒ Move the allowable zone to the areas where kicker/QB is and Blocking Below the Knee was taken out and standardized to Below the Waist.
 - ⇒ Intent is to allow competition between players with size differential.

5. 1-4-5 Play: Team A scrimmage 1D at the A 50-yard line. Passer A1 is chased back to the A 25-yard line where A2 is called for blocking from the rear at the 25-yard line. A1 is downed at the 25-yard line and B1 is called for piling on.

Ruling: Team B option as to where to apply penalties PBD down continue or PLS DR (8-1-4, 8-5-11,8-6-1)



As we know, BBR is now a UR. This being said: reading the ruling, the piling on is considered as any other Unnecessary Roughness even if it did occur after the ball is dead. For that play, the Dual Fouls rule (8-6-1) does apply (no Automatic 1st Down). Is that right?

- ⇒ No automatic 1D in this case is not because of the dual foul. Piling On is one of the UR fouls where automatic 1D does not apply.
- ⇒ Because the first foul is an UR by Team A, B has the first option. Naturally, Team B would apply the penalty at PBD given the loss of yards on the play. The Piling On by B would then be applied and downs continue.
- ⇒ If this play happens on 3D, the point of application would still be the same as the previous example but it would now be B 1D (Piling On is a DBF).

6. Essentially a dribbled ball is a kicked ball, however the clarification is that a dribble by team A does not interrupt the continuity of downs. (To me this only applies to a ball legally recovered by Team A, as a dribbled ball by A directly OB would be team B ball and the continuity is interrupted at that point.)

The clarification should be provided that makes it clear that a dribble by Team A directly OB would be result in Team B firsts down at the OB point.

- ⇒ In this example, the Continuity of Downs was broken not because of the dribbling of the ball but a kicked ball OB which will give the ball to B

7. I) Team A punt, B returner touches the ball, ball is sitting loose on the field. B returner steps out of bounds comes back in and picks up ball. Ruling?

II) Team A punt, ball is sitting loose on the field untouched. B returner steps out of bounds comes back in and picks up ball. Ruling?

III) Team A kick off, B returner touches the ball, ball is sitting loose on the field. B returner steps out of bounds comes back in and picks up ball. Ruling?

IV) Team A kick off, ball is sitting loose on the field untouched. B returner steps out of bounds comes back in and picks up ball. Ruling?

- ⇒ In all 4 scenarios, B Ball with 10-yard penalty for Illegal Participation.



8. I) Team A fumbles the ball at the A 40 and deliberately knocks the ball forward. This is an offside pass.

If Team A recovers at that moment, will get the ball at the A 40 at best (POP) or at the PBD if closest to their goal line. Downs will continue unless yards not made.

⇒ Correct

If Team B recovers, they may advance the ball freely

⇒ Correct

Team B recovers and returns the ball, fumbling at the A 30. Whoever get the ball could advance it legally? Team A recovers and returns it to the B50 where they are tackled Legal recovery by Team A.

⇒ If A gets the ball and retains possession, A can only get the ball at the point of the offside pass at best with downs continue or PBD and 1D, B's option.

9. Team A 3D 10 from team A40 yard line. Team A attempts to punt, at which point Team B blocks the punt. As the ball is rolling at the team A 35-yard line, B97 swats the ball towards Team A's dead ball line, where A 8 eventually falls on the ball at the Team A 20-yard line. Which team retains possession, and at which yard line?

⇒ A has not gained yards so it's a turnover on downs. Since B has committed an Offside Pass, B 1D @ A35-yard line.

10. Outside of the 3-minute warning in either half, what would prevent Team A from taking repeated procedure penalties on their own 1-yard line (or any other penalties other than time count) to run down the clock? If normal timing rules are to be abided by, the clock should technically be run on the ready each time.

Would the referee be in the right to impose a held clock after a couple penalties?

⇒ While the rulebook does not cover this specific situation as it is written, Referee has the power as stated in Rule 2-3-1 to compel the offending team (a discrete and quick conversation with the HC is recommended) to put the ball in play properly.



11. Should Rule 7.3.19 be revised to add "scrimmage kick after the ball is kicked" and to Item (c) as well?

- ⇒ It wasn't included as 7-3-19 (a) already included all scrimmage plays. And technically if the kicked ball doesn't cross the LoS, it's just considered a normal scrimmage play.
- ⇒ Will take it under advisement for next year.

12. Team A 3 d 20 from the B40. A13 throws a pass towards the Team B EZ. At the B 3 yard line, A80 swats at the ball, directing the ball into the Team B EZ, where eligible A80 catches the ball inside the EZ. Has a TD been scored?

- ⇒ Yes according to 6-3-4 (2).

13. Rule 9-4-2 e – It's 4th and 40 at the A-10 yard line. A11 punts the ball which land on the A-38-yard line. The ball is touched but not possessed by B42. A11 then recovers the football at the A-34-yard line and he is tackled immediately. The officials award team A, 1st down. The officials are correct.

Also please explain if case book CB 45, 4-2-2 contradicts this or is actually valid.

- ⇒ True – as soon as ball crosses LoS from the kick, continuity of downs is broken. **If B touches it first** and A legally recovers, then A's 1D without needing to gain yards.

In CB, the continuity of downs was not broken as the kicked ball did not cross LoS.

14. What constitutes "original trajectory"?

For the new OB player on a kick rule. What situations where a kicked ball changes trajectory would not result in penalty as written in the rule, for example, does wind blowing a ball whose trajectory was toward the sideline back into the field of play constitute a change in original trajectory?

- ⇒ Original Trajectory – covers from the time the ball leaves the kicker's foot to the time the ball touches something, i.e. a player, ground.



15. Team A QB is in shotgun formation. The centre snaps the ball over the QB's head. Just prior to a B player picking the ball up, he is pushed out of the way by the QB. The QB continues to pursue the ball and just before he is about to recover it, he is pushed away from the ball by the Team B DE. Another Team A player falls on the ball 10 yards deep in the Team A back field. State the ruling.

⇒ First foul is the Loose Ball Interference by Team A, which gives the ball to Team B at PF. The 2nd Loose Ball Interference does not turn over the ball back to A but a 10-yard penalty, B 1D.

16. Team A punt into the B EZ. In an effort to get to the ball, a Team A player goes OB. He attempts to get back into the field of play but slips and falls across the sideline in goal. He reaches back into the field and grabs the ball. State the ruling.

My thoughts: Since the ball was kicked into the EZ, B should have the option to give up 1 point and take the ball at the B35. And now the dilemma 1-10-8 states that if this happens (in the field of play?) and it is a loose ball, it is a LB at the point of the foul. This is not loose ball. It is a ball in flight. So this is Ill. Part. and it is in the EZ. Does B get the ball at the B10 (similar to 8-4-2a-3) or does one apply a 10 yard ILL. Part. penalty from the B10 and B gets the ball on the B20? Or is there another possibility I am missing?

⇒ 2 options:

- Rouge for A and B1D @ B35
- Apply penalty for Illegal Participation at B10

17. Team A 3D & 7. During the play Team B is called for UR. Team A gains 5 yards (ie. yards are not gained). The point of application should be PLS, as you cannot apply PBD since yards were not gained and therefore would result in a turnover on downs (similar to a piling on foul). Is this correct? Or can the UR be applied at PBD on 3D even if yards are not gained?

⇒ According 8-5-2, A's option to apply at PLS, 1D or penalty can be applied at PBD → B 1D back 15 yards.

18. Team A 3D and 40 from midfield. A7 punts. The ball lands at the B30. A7 touches the ball. The ball then hits B89. A7 recovers the ball at the B30. Which team has 1D and 10?

⇒ Team A still needs to gain yards in order to get a 1D.



19. Last play of the game, A makes an offside pass from B3: a.) A rec catches @ B1; b.) A rec catches in EZ and B commits a UR-FM foul.

- ⇒ A can't get any further than B3 in any situation.
- ⇒ Apply B's UR at the origin of the offside pass, A 1D @ B1 and one more play.

20. WR comes cross the formation, passes the Centre, and blocks the backside DE below the waist. Is that Crack Back?

- ⇒ No. Once passes centre, it's not a CBB. However, it's a BBW.
- ⇒ However, if WR comes to a stop in the 'box' before the snap than blocking below the waist in the box is allowed. (* Please note USports and CJFL have a slight difference in this interpretation.)

21. Hitting a player forcibly above the waist, a CBB can still be called if other conditions are met.

- ⇒ True.

22. Horse Collar can only be called against the ball carrier. Against any other player, it's UR.

23. Team A 1D @ A4 has too many players. Team B incurred a UR – Piling ON. Balance both at PLS?

- ⇒ This is not a dual foul situation as UR – Piling On is a dead ball foul. Apply Team A penalty to A2 then apply B's UR. (* Please note 13 player in the huddle is currently a foul for USports and CJFL only)