

RULE 10 PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

(updated August 7, 2023)

PURPOSES OF THE NEW 2023 PENALTY ENFORCEMENT RULES

- Eliminate overly punitive penalties for offense and overly lenient penalties for defense when the normal enforcement spot for common fouls involving contact with teammates or opponents is behind the neutral zone (e.g. holding, illegal use of hands, personal fouls).
- Keep extra-punitive penalties for less common offensive fouls for rule violations against which opponents would not expect to defend (e.g. illegal kicking, batting, intentional grounding, illegal forward pass, participating without a helmet, entering the field and participating during the down).
- Clarify that penalties for offensive fouls in the end zone include the option of a safety.

**Not Intended To Change Long Understood Penalty Enforcement In Other Situations
Not Intended To Change Special Enforcements Listed In Rule 10, Section 5**

THE NEW PENALTY RULE CREATES A LIMITATION RULE & A FEW EXCEPTIONS

LIMITATION RULE

Penalties For the Most Common Fouls by Either Team During Scrimmage Downs That Occur Before a Change Of Possession Are **Enforced From No Further Back Than the Previous Spot** and **No Longer From Behind The Neutral Zone.**

- *So, there is no more 1st and 30 for Team A after a holding foul 10 yards deep in the offensive backfield. Enforcement is now from the previous spot, resulting in only a 10-yard net loss for Team A.*
- *Also, there is no more 1st and 15 for Team A when the defense holds a receiver downfield and takes away a receiving target eventually causing a sack for a 15-yard loss. Enforcement is now from the previous spot, resulting in 10-yard net gain for Team A.*

EXCEPTIONS

1. Penalties For the Following Limited Set of Offensive Fouls When Committed Behind The Neutral Zone Are Enforced From The Spot Of The Foul:
 - Illegal kicking or batting
 - Illegal participation (9-6-4-a & 9-6-4-g)
 - Illegal forward passes (7-5-2-c) and Intentional grounding (7-2-5-d)
 - *So, Team A doesn't get the benefit of the new previous spot enforcement on these special fouls. Instead, they are always enforced from the spot of the foul if committed behind the neutral zone, even if the end of the run is behind the spot of the foul.*
2. Offensive Fouls In The Offense's End Zone Always Result In A Safety
 - *So, Team A doesn't get the benefit of the new previous spot enforcement if they commit fouls in their own end zone while on offense. As before, enforcement results in a safety.*

NEW RULE PROCESS CHART

GENERAL PRINCIPLE FOR ENFORCING UNDER NEW RULE				
LIMITED TO LIVE-BALL FOULS TREATED AS LIVE-BALL FOULS				
WHEN	WHERE	ENFORCEMENT 1	ENFORCEMENT 2	ENFORCEMENT 3
During Scrimmage Down AND Prior To Change Of Possession	Related Run Ends Behind Neutral Zone OR Offense Fouls Behind Neutral Zone	Offense Fouls In Offensive End Zone SAFETY OPTION (Team R can enforce a Team K penalty from where Team R will next put the ball in play)	Offense Fouls For: Int. Grounding Illeg. Forward Pass Illeg. Kicking Illeg. Batting Illeg. Participation - Helmet Off - Enter In Down SPOT OF FOUL	PREVIOUS SPOT
FOR ALL OTHER FOULS, APPLY ENFORCEMENT AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS UNDER ALL-BUT-ONE				

WHEN MUST THE FOUL OCCUR TO ENFORCE UNDER THE NEW RULE

1. DURING A SCRIMMAGE DOWN; **AND**
 2. BEFORE A CHANGE OF POSSESSION
- Both are needed.***

WHERE ARE THE IMPORTANT LOCATIONS ON THE FIELD FOR THE NEW RULE

1. RELATED RUN ENDS BEHIND THE NEUTRAL ZONE; **OR**
 2. OFFENSE FOULS BEHIND THE NEUTRAL ZONE
- Only one is needed.***

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE "WHEN" AND THE "WHERE," ENFORCE UNDER ALL-BUT-ONE
IF YOU HAVE THE "WHEN" AND "WHERE," GO LEFT TO RIGHT TO FIND THE ENFORCEMENT
(Why Left to Right? Options go from furthest back: end zone, offensive backfield, previous spot)

WHAT ABOUT FOULS AFTER A CHANGE OF POSSESSION OR DURING FREE KICKS

Enforce the same as in previous years under all-but-one principle. The End of the related run is the basic spot. Offensive fouls behind this spot are enforced from the spot of the foul. All other fouls are enforced from the end of the run.

CAN OFFICIALS STILL CONSIDER THE ALL-BUT-ONE / THREE-AND-ONE PRINCIPLE

YES, FOR FOULS THAT OCCUR DURING FREE KICKS AND FOR FOULS THAT OCCUR AFTER A CHANGE OF TEAM POSSESSION.

ALSO

YES, BUT ADD IN THE LIMITATION RULE WHEN NECESSARY. Although the rule book no longer references this principle, the new rule intended only the new enforcements discussed above. Applying the principle may assist in implementing the new rule.

Under the all-but-one / 3-and-1 principle, all fouls are penalized from the basic spot **EXCEPT** a foul by the offense behind the basic spot. That foul is penalized from the spot of the foul. Officials may continue to apply the traditional all-but-one principle. **HOWEVER**, that principle is now **limited by the previous spot** with a few exceptions.

Remember, the basic spot for unsportsmanlike fouls, dead-ball fouls, and non-player fouls is still the **succeeding spot**.

USE OF ALL-BUT-ONE / THREE-AND-ONE PRINCIPLE	
SAME AS PREVIOUS YEARS	LIMITED UNDER NEW RULE
Fouls During Free Kicks PSK Fouls Fouls After Change of Team Possession End of Run & Foul Are Beyond Neutral Zone Section 5 Special Enforcements	For Fouls During Scrimmage Downs and Prior to Change of Team Possession, Enforcement is Never From Behind Neutral Zone <u>EXCEPT</u> Certain Fouls By Offense Behind NZ = Spot Offense Fouls in Offense's End Zone = Safety

IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE NEW RULE THAT OFFICIALS SHOULD IGNORE

YES. Ignore 10-4-5-e, f, & g.

Applying these sections as written could result in unintended and strange enforcements.

For these situations, the basic spot is the end of the related run.

Penalize all fouls from the basic spot except an offensive foul behind that spot (spot of foul) under basic 3-and-1 enforcement.

IS THERE ANYTHING OFFICIALS NEED TO ADD TO THE NEW RULE

YES.

10-4-5-d & 10-4-6: APPLY THREE-AND-ONE PRINCIPLE.

- If the offense fouls behind the 20-yard line (succeeding spot), penalize from the spot of the foul.

10-4-7 & 10-5-2: AS WRITTEN, ONLY APPLY TO FOULS OCCURRING AFTER A CHANGE OF TEAM POSSESSION.

- If the situations in 10-4-7 and 10-5-2 occur before a change of team possession, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot.

Momentum: WHEN THERE IS A SPOT OF MOMENTUM UNDER 8-5-2-a EXC.

- The basic spot is the spot of momentum. If the offense fouls behind this spot, penalize from the spot of the foul.

Spot fouls in 10-4-4: LIMITED TO FOULS BY THE OFFENSE

- There are no defensive spot fouls.

**ENFORCING PENALTIES USING THE NEW LIMITATION AND ALL-BUT-ONE PRINCIPLE –
ALTERNATIVE PROCESS**

THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS TO UNDERSTAND AND IMPLEMENT THE RULE.
THIS THREE-STEP PROCESS MAY ASSIST:

STEP 1:

DETERMINE THE ENFORCEMENT SPOT UNDER SECTION 5 AND THE ALL-BUT-ONE PRINCIPLE.

- If it is BEYOND the Neutral Zone, penalize as last year (3-and-1).
- If it is BEHIND the Neutral Zone, move to Step 2.

STEP 2:

ASK THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE FOUL:

- Did the foul occur **during a scrimmage down**?
- Is the foul a **live-ball foul treated as a live-ball foul**?
- Did the foul occur **prior to a change of possession**?

***If the answer to ANY question is NO, enforce the penalty as you did last year.
If the answers to ALL questions are YES, enforce under the new rule as in Step 3.***

STEP 3:

ENFORCE AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Fouls by Team A / K in A's End Zone | SAFETY |
| • Certain Fouls by Team A / K Behind the Neutral Zone | SPOT FOUL |
| ○ <i>Illegal kicking / batting</i> | |
| ○ <i>Intentional grounding, illegal forward pass</i> | |
| ○ <i>Illegal participation w/o helmet or
by entering field during down</i> | |
| • All other fouls by Either Team | PREVIOUS SPOT |

THE FOLLOWING MAY PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

ALL-BUT-ONE PRINCIPLE OR LIMITATION RULE?

IF THE ALL-BUT-ONE ENFORCEMENT SPOT IS BEHIND THE NEUTRAL ZONE

ASK THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE FOUL:	Live-Ball Foul Treated as Live-Ball Foul?	YES	IF ALL THREE ANSWERS ARE "YES" THEN ENFORCE UNDER THE NEW LIMITATION RULE
	Occurred During Scrimmage Down?	YES	
	Occurred Before Change of Team Possession?	YES	

If the answer to any question is "No," enforce under All-But-One

IF ENFORCING UNDER NEW LIMITATION RULE

<u>Foul</u>	<u>Enforcement</u>
Team A Foul in Team A's End zone	SAFETY
Team A Foul For: Int. Grounding, Illegal Fwd. Pass Illegal Kicking or Batting Illegal Participation As In 9-6-4a or 9-6-4g	SPOT OF FOUL
Any Other Foul By Either Team	PREVIOUS SPOT

ENFORCEMENT SPOT CHARTS

SCRIMMAGE PLAYS

LIVE-BALL FOULS BEFORE CHANGE OF POSSESSION

SCRIMMAGE DOWN RUNNING PLAYS

TEAM A	TEAM B
<p>END OF RUN & FOUL BEYOND NZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is further back (3-and-1) <p>END OF RUN BEHIND NZ & FOUL BEYOND NZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREVIOUS SPOT <p>FOUL BEHIND NZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREVIOUS SPOT <u>UNLESS</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bat or Kick, Grounding, Illegal Forward Pass, Illegal Participation (helmet, enter field during down) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SPOT FOUL • Foul in Offensive End Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SAFETY 	<p>END OF RUN BEYOND NZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • END OF RUN <p>END OF RUN BEHIND NZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREVIOUS SPOT <p>BUT IF TEAM A SCORES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRY; or • SUBSEQUENT KICKOFF

SCRIMMAGE DOWN LOOSE BALL PLAYS

TEAM A / K	TEAM B / R
<p>PREVIOUS SPOT <u>UNLESS</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foul Behind for Bat or Kick, Grounding, Illegal Forward Pass, Illegal Participation (helmet, enter field during down) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SPOT FOUL • Foul in Team A / K (offensive) End Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SAFETY • Team K Foul if Kick Occurs EXCEPT KCI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PREVIOUS SPOT; or ○ SUCCEEDING SPOT TO TEAM R • Team K Foul For Kick Catch Interference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SPOT OF FOUL • 10-4-5-d, 10-4-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If offense, 20-YARD LINE or SPOT OF FOUL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whichever is further back (3-and-1) ○ If defense, 20-YARD LINE 	<p>PREVIOUS SPOT <u>UNLESS</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roughing the Passer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DEAD BALL SPOT IF BEYOND NZ AND IF NO CHANGE OF POSSESSION • Team A / K Scores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TRY; or ○ SUBSEQUENT KICKOFF • PSK fouls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ END OF KICK or BEHIND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whichever is further back (3-and-1) • 10-4-5-d, 10-4-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If offense, 20-YARD LINE or SPOT OF FOUL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whichever is further back (3-and-1) ○ If defense, 20-YARD LINE

**FOUL AFTER CHANGE OF POSSESSION ON ANY PLAY
USE BASIC 3-AND-1 PRINCIPLE**

OFFENSE	DEFENSE
<p>END OF RUN / SPOT OF FOUL (3-and-1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whichever is furthest back <p>UNLESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foul in own end zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SAFETY • 10-4-5-d, 10-4-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20-YARD LINE or SPOT OF FOUL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whichever is further back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3-and-1) • Momentum when run ends in end zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOMENTUM SPOT or SPOT OF FOUL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whichever is further back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3-and-1) 	<p>END OF RUN UNLESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offense scores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TRY; or ○ SUBSEQUENT KICKOFF • 10-4-5-d, 10-4-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20-YARD LINE • 10-4-7, 10-5-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal line (where EOR is in EZ) • Momentum when run ends in end zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOMENTUM SPOT

**FREE KICK PLAYS
LIVE BALL FOULS DURING FREE KICK**

TEAM K	TEAM R
<p>ALL FOULS EXCEPT KICK CATCH INTERFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREVIOUS SPOT; or • SUCCEEDING SPOT TO TEAM R <p>KICK CATCH INTERFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPOT OF FOUL 	<p>ALL FOULS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREVIOUS SPOT

UNSPORTSMANLIKE, DEAD BALL, AND NON-PLAYER FOULS

TEAM A / K	TEAM B / R
<p>SUCCEEDING SPOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be Try or Subsequent Kickoff 	<p>SUCCEEDING SPOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be Try or Subsequent Kickoff