

**You are doing your best only when you are trying to improve what you are doing.**

# Pass Interference

# Definitions - Passing

- **Forward Pass (2-31-2) - A pass thrown with its initial direction toward the opponent's end line.**
  - **Note: Prior to releasing the ball on a pass, if the potential passer is contacted, and the ball is released, it is a forward pass if his arm was moving forward on contact.**
- **Forward Pass (2-31-4) - A forward pass ends when it is caught, touches the ground or is out of bounds**
- **Catch (2-4-1) - a catch is the act of establishing player possession of a live ball which is in flight, and first contacting the ground inbounds or being contacted by an opponent in such a way that he is prevented from returning to the ground inbounds while maintaining possession of the ball.**
  - **(The ground CAN cause an incomplection)**

# Conditions for Legal Forward Pass

- **It is a legal forward pass if (7-5-1):**
  - During a scrimmage down
  - Before team possession has changed
  - a player of A throws the ball with both feet of the passer in or behind the neutral zone when the ball is released
- **Only one forward pass may be thrown during the down.**
  - It does not matter if a runner advances beyond the zone and then returns behind the zone to throw a legal forward pass.
- **Team B, and Team R can never throw a legal forward pass**

# Conditions for Illegal Forward Pass (7-5-2)

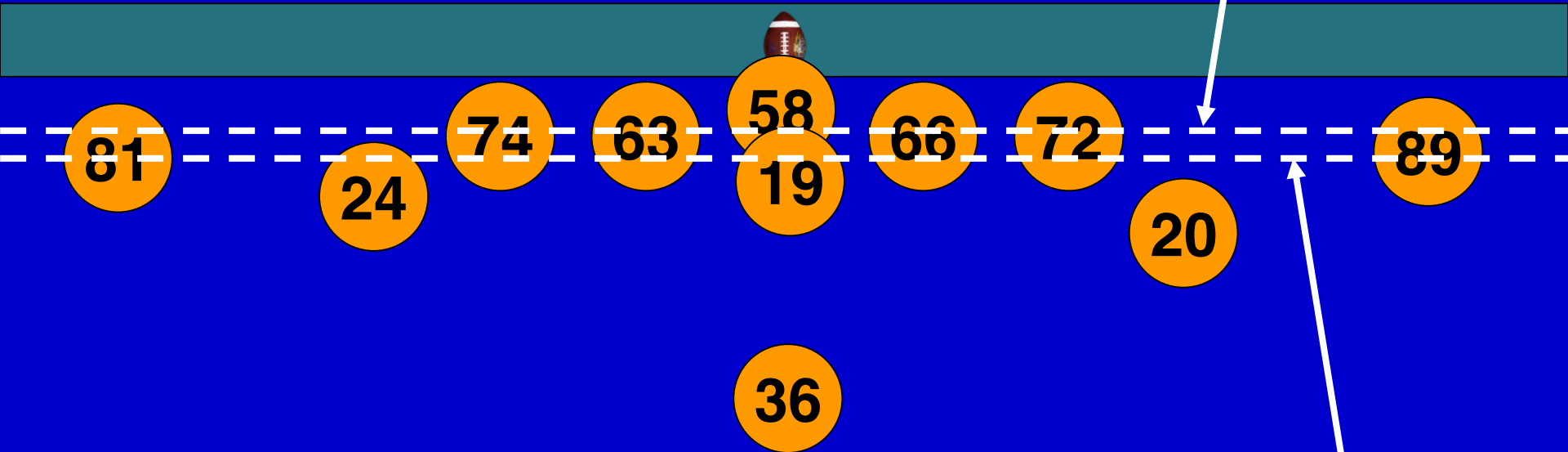
- The ball is thrown forward when the passer is beyond the neutral zone.
- A second or subsequent forward pass thrown during a down.
- The ball is thrown forward by either team after a change of team possession during the down.
- The passer, to save yardage or to stop the clock, intentionally grounds the ball, or throws it into an area where there is no eligible Team A receiver.
- The passer, spiking the ball in an effort to stop the clock, does not release it immediately after controlling a hand-to-hand snap, or does so after a muffed snap has touched the ground.
  - Exception: It is legal to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving a direct hand-to-hand snap

# Definitions – Player Designations

- **Player in the backfield (2-32-3)**
  - a back is any player who has no part of his body breaking the plane of an imaginary line drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the nearest teammate who is legally on the line, except for the player under the snapper, who is also considered a back.
- **Player on the line of scrimmage (2-32-9)**
  - a lineman is any A player who is facing his opponent's goal line with the line of his shoulders approximately parallel thereto and with his head or foot breaking an imaginary plane drawn parallel to the line of scrimmage through the waist of the snapper when the ball is snapped.

# Eligible Receivers for Team A

Imaginary line through waistline of the center

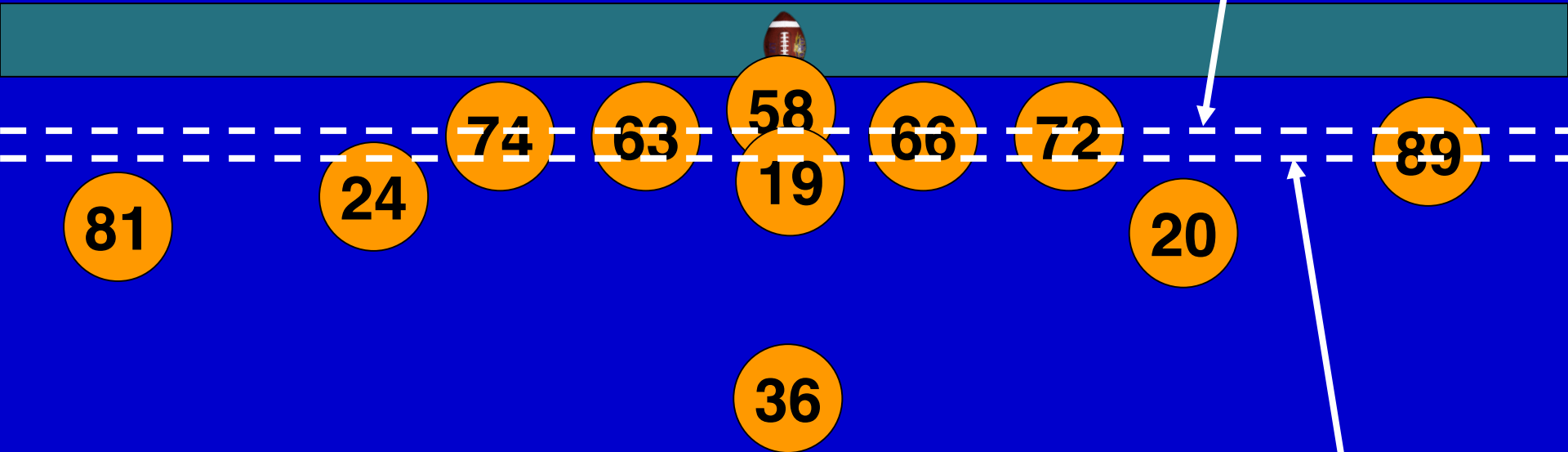


Imaginary line through waistline of nearest teammate legally on line

Eligible receivers for Team A are 81, 89, 36, 20, and 19. 24 is not eligible but could be eligible if he moved back a step.

# Eligible Receivers for Team A

Imaginary line through waistline of the center



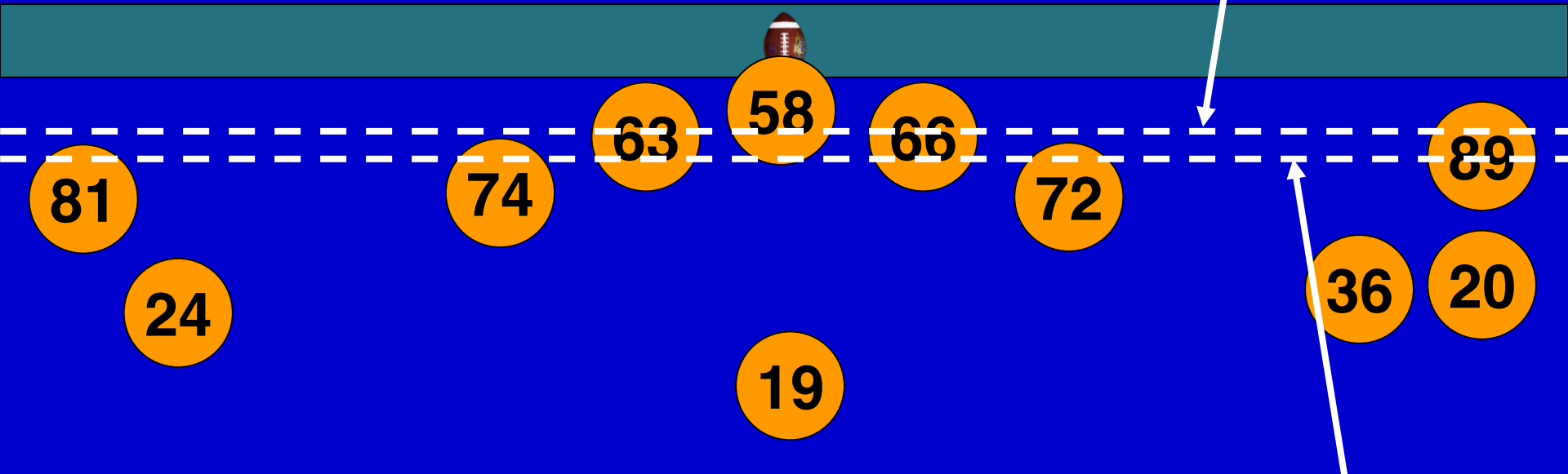
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# Eligible Receivers for Team A

Imaginary line through waistline of the center



Imaginary line through waistline of nearest teammate legally on line

Team A has a four man line. 74, 72, and 81 are not on the line. This is illegal formation – not enough men on the line.

# Pass Interference

- **Philosophy:**
  - Both offensive and defensive players have a right to the path of the ball
  - Players must play the ball, not the opponent
- **Restrictions (7-5-8) Begin:**
  - For A with the snap
    - The offense, because they know the play's design, has the responsibility to avoid contact with the defense
  - For B when the ball leaves the passer's hand

# Pass Interference

- **Pass interference restrictions on a legal forward pass end for all (7-5-9):**
  - **A players, when B touches a legal forward pass.**
  - **Eligible A players when A touches a legal forward pass. Ineligible A players may not touch the pass, but can use hands or arms in a legal block to ward off an opponent.**
  - **B players when a legal forward pass has been touched by A or B**

# Conditions for Pass Interference

- The pass is a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone and is untouched by Team B in or behind the neutral zone (7-5-7).
- The interference occurs beyond the neutral zone (7-5-10).
- The interference is with an eligible opponent (7-5-10a).
- The interference occurs during a pass before restrictions have ended (7-5-9a).
- Face-guarding is the only non-contact act which can be judged to be interference (7-5-10b).
- “Catchability” of a pass is not a factor for pass interference.
- If pass interference by either team is intentional, an additional 15 yards are added to the original 15-yard penalty (7-5-10 Pen)

ESPN 4TH  
UGA 31  
14 VT 20 6:45  
1ST 8 TO



18/58 UPDATE

NCAAB URI

69/10 KANSAS

80 FINAL

ESPN

# Offensive Pass Interference

- **Offensive pass interference occurs when:**
  - **Blocking beyond the expanded neutral zone - an eligible receiver or an ineligible illegally downfield may not block an opponent beyond the expanded neutral zone before a legal forward pass which crosses the neutral zone is touched by B.**
  - **Push off – a receiver pushes off a defender in such a way that he creates “separation” between the defender and himself. Look for separation created by a genuine shove.**
  - **Receiver drives through the back of a defender – Just like a defender who drives through the back of an eligible receiver, this is a foul.**
    - **For example: the receiver has the defender beat on a long sideline pattern and the ball is thrown short so that the defender now has the advantage, watch for the receiver coming back to break up the play.**

# Offensive Pass Interference

- **Offensive pass interference occurs when:**
  - Receiver “picks” a defender – This must be an intentional act by the receiver. He must be “hunting” the defender and initiate contact with him for the sole purpose of knocking him off his defensive coverage. If the receiver is standing still looking back for the ball and the defender runs in to him it is not an illegal pick. You must have contact to even consider a pick.
  - Note: If an Ineligible Receiver touches a pass beyond the expanded neutral zone before an opponent has touched the ball it is “Illegal Touching” (5 yards and LOD)

# Defensive Pass Interference

- **There are two indicators that make a player a suspect for defensive pass interference:**
  - **Bite** – when a player “bites” on a move and then has to try and recover, such as when a receiver does a “hook-n-go” – if he bites on the hook, he will frequently try to recover by grabbing the receiver as he goes by
  - **Chase** – when a player is chasing an opponent, either by design or because he is beaten.



# Categories of Defensive Pass Interference

- **Arm Bar** – an arm across the body restricting the opponent from moving where he wants to go.
- **Hold** – actually grasping the opponent, restricting him from being able to reach the pass. For example, grabbing an arm, keeping the opponent from raising it to catch the pass
- **Not playing the Ball** – The player is not making a effort to reach the pass (usually not looking back for the ball)
- **Playing through the Back** – Contacting an opponent through the back, restricting his ability to touch the pass.
- **Cutoff** – even if looking back for the ball, a player cannot position himself to restrict himself to restrict or prevent an opponent from moving toward a pass.
- **Face Guarding** – hinders an opponent's vision without making an attempt to catch, intercept or bat the ball, even though no contact was made.

# Guidelines

- **Consider the following when judging DPI:**
  - **Incidental contact**
  - **Feet tangled**
  - **Both looking for the ball**
  - **Both not looking for the ball**
  - **Four hands in the air**
  - **Contact on making a play on the ball or both playing the ball**

# Keys and Mechanics

- **Getting an angle on pass plays to determine interference is best accomplished by:**
  - **Not getting beat on the play**
  - **Anticipating the routes of the receivers in your area and adjusting to their patterns**
  - **Looking between the head and waist**
  - **Don't follow the ball. If you see the head and arms you will know the ball is coming**

# Penalty Review

- **Illegal forward pass – 5 yards plus loss of down**
  - Enforce as running play from end of run (spot of illegal forward pass)
- **Intentional Grounding – 5 yards plus loss of down**
  - Enforce from spot of illegal pass
- **Offensive Pass Interference – 15 yards plus loss of down**
  - Enforce from previous spot
- **Defensive Pass Interference – 15 yards and automatic first down**
  - If pass interference by either player is intentional, his team shall be penalized an additional 15 yard.
  - Enforce from previous spot (If Team A scores TD then enforced on the try or kick-off)
- **Ineligible downfield – 5 yards**
  - Enforce from previous spot (no loss of down)
- **Illegal touching – 5 yards and loss of down**
  - Enforce under ABO