

# KFOA TRAINING MODULE – THE KICKING GAME

( 8/12/15)

*“ Some of the screwiest things which take place on a football field will happen during the kicking game.”* VENERATED KFOA

OFFICIAL

- DEFINITION** > “ The ***Intentional*** striking of the ball with the knee, lower leg or foot.” [2.24.1]
- KICK ENDS** > “When a player gains possession or when the ball becomes dead while not in player possession.” [2.24.2]
- CATCH**  
which is in > “Act of establishing player possession of a live ball flight, and first contacting the ground inbounds while maintaining possession of the ball.” [2.4.1]
- RECOVER** > “Gain possession of a live ball after it strikes the ground.” [2.36.1]
- TYPES** > Free Kick(s) [2.24.3] & Scrimmage Kick(s) [2.24.4]
- ‘KINDS’ (Methods)** > Place Kick, Punt, Drop-Kick
- ILLEGAL KICK** > “Is any ***Intentional*** striking of the ball with the knee, lower leg or foot which does not comply with (Free Kick Requirements) and (Scrimmage Kick Requirements). When the ball is loose following an illegal kick, it retains the same status as prior to the illegal kick.” [2.24.9]
- NEW - 2014** > “After the ball has been made ready for play and until the ball is kicked, all players on the kicking team except the kicker must be no more than five yards behind their free kick line. A player satisfies this rule when no foot is on or beyond the line 5 yards behind K’s free-kick line. If one K player is more than 5 yards behind this restraining line and any other player kicks the ball, it is a foul. ” [6.1.3b]
- NEW - 2015** > “When the ball is kicked, the kicking team must have at least four players on either side of the kicker.” [6.1.4]

**FREE KICKS**

- **POSITION**
- **KEYS**
- **MECHANICS**

**1. TEAM K RESTRICTIONS:**

- KICKOFF - Place Kick / Drop Kick ~ Location
- AFTER A SAFETY - Punt / Place Kick / Drop Kick ~ Location
- AFTER AWARDED FAIR CATCH -
- TOUCHING THE BALL
- ONSIDE KICKS
- BLOCKING

**2. TEAM R RESTRICTIONS:**

**3. STARTING THE CLOCK:**

**4. FREE KICK OUT OF BOUNDS:**

- LAST TOUCHED BY ?
- OPTIONS

**5. FREE KICK BECOMES DEAD:**

**6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE FREE KICKS:**

**7. ADVANCING FREE KICKS:**

**8. FOULS DURING FREE KICKS:**

- PREVIOUS SPOT ENFORCEMENT \ “ALL BUT ONE”  
[ Exception KCI ]

**9. FIRST TOUCHING:**

**10. FAIR CATCH:**

**11. JOINT POSSESSION**

## 12. THE MOMENTUM EXCEPTION:

### **SCRIMMAGE KICKS**

- POSITION
- KEYS
- MECHANICS

#### 1. TEAM K RESTRICTIONS:

- DEFINITION
- FORMATIONS
- NO RESTRICTIONS ON K PLAYERS DOWNFIELD BEFORE KICK
- SNAPPER PROTECTION
- MULTIPLE SCRIMMAGE KICKS

#### 2. TEAM R RESTRICTIONS:

#### 3. SCRIMMAGE KICK OUT OF BOUNDS:

#### 4. SCRIMMAGE KICK BECOMES DEAD:

#### 5. OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE SCRIMMAGE KICKS:

#### 6. ADVANCING SCRIMMAGE KICKS:

- *“IS BALL BEYOND NEUTRAL ZONE WHEN TOUCHED?”*
- IF **NO** - (“Continuity of Downs”)
- IF **YES** - (“Continuity of Downs”)

#### 7. FOULS DURING SCRIMMAGE KICKS:

- Team K = PREVIOUS SPOT ENFORCEMENT  
[ Exception KCI ]
- Team R = PREVIOUS SPOT ENFORCEMENT – *unless* – PSK

#### 8. PSK:

9. FIRST TOUCHING:

10. FAIR CATCH:

11. JOINT POSSESSION:

12. FIELD GOALS:

13. TRY's:

14. CONTACTING THE KICKER:

- Roughing vs. Running Into

15. CONTACTING THE SNAPPER \ HOLDER:

16. THE MOMENTUM EXCEPTION

**ILLEGAL KICKS**

- Is there any distinction between “Illegal kick” & “Illegally kicking the ball”?
- “Illegally kicking the ball” = kicking it in a manner not allowed by the rules [2.24.1 & 9.7.1].
- “Illegal kick” = a kick made in a perfectly legal manner but it is not allowed because of **WHEN** or **WHERE** it is made [2.24.09]
- Any distinction is academic under NFHS RULES.
- Both treated the same - 15 yard penalty each
- EXAMPLES:
  1. Punt beyond the NZ.
  2. Kick after change of possession (Return Kick).
  3. Intentionally kicking a loose ball.
  4. Free kick made from outside the hash marks - OR – more than a yard behind the free-kick line.

**TEST QUESTIONS – THE KICKING GAME**

1. When the RFP is blown for a kickoff, K has [a] six players to the left of the Kicker - K3 and four players to his right or [b] seven players to his left and three players to his right. "Whaddya got?"
2. K12's kickoff is short and lands at R's 48 where it is caught on the bounce by K49 who runs to R's 30 yard line before being tackled.
3. K attempts an onside kick from their 40 yard line. Before the untouched kick travels 10 yards, R62 blocks K50 into the ball at K's 45 yard line, K57 recovers the ball and is downed at his own 47 yard line.
4. While K2's kickoff is rolling free and untouched, K45 blocks R23 in the front and above his waist. At the time of K45's block the ball was [a] 6 yards beyond K's free-kick line, or [b] 11 yards beyond K's free-kick line.
5. Fourth &10 on K's 40 yard line. K18's punt hits the ground at K's 45 yard line and bounces back untouched behind the neutral zone to K's 39 yard line. K25 grabs the ball and advances to R's 20 yard line.
6. Fourth & 3 on the 50 yard line. At his 20 yard line, R41 gives an invalid fair catch signal while the punt is in flight well downfield. R41 catches the kick at his 15 yard line.
7. Eight second left in game. A behind by 1 point. Fair catch by Team A on B's 35 yard line. A puts ball in play with a snap. [a] A7 barking signals when B25 enters NZ and contacts A53. A accepts penalty ball moved to B's 30 yard line. Or [b] A snaps the ball and the umpire (any similarity to B.T. is purely coincidental) blows an inadvertent whistle when A7's forward pass is in flight. Options for A in each case.
8. 4<sup>th</sup> down - K18's punt partially blocked and crosses NZ. [a] K67 kicks the loose ball out of bounds, [b] ball is muffed back behind the NZ where K18 kicks the loose ball out of bounds.