



**CANADA**

## **2024 TACKLE RULE CHANGES FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The following rule changes, clarifications, and corrections, approved by the Tackle Rules Committee, are for immediate distribution and implementation. ***(The changes are italicized and in bold type)***. They will be added to the next printed edition of the Rule Book due in May 2024.

## **SAFETY RULES**

Added to list.

Rule 1 Section 5 Article 1 Time Starts

Rule 1 Section 5 Article 2 Time Stops

### **Rule 1 Section 6 Article 4 note page 6**

Note: If a kicked ball other than a kickoff is legally touched by a player of either team such touching shall be deemed to be possession. These definitions will apply when penalty applications are involved with before change of possession, loose ball, ball in flight, or after change of possession.

Replace with

***Note: If a kicked ball other than a kickoff is legally touched by a player of either team such touching shall be deemed to be possession when penalty applications are involved with before change of possession, loose ball, ball in flight or after change of possession***

Reason for change: Editorial wording change

### **Rule 1 Section 10 Article 8 page 10**

#### **Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds**

A player who goes out of bounds shall not participate further in that play unless that player went out of bounds as a result of:

- a) a slippery field;
- b) contact with an opponent; or
- c) a missed block or tackle.

Penalty: L10 PF, PLS PP, PBH

The point of the foul (PF) is the point where the illegal participation occurs.

If such a player reaches back into or re-enters the field of play and touches or recovers a “loose ball” (as per rule 1-6-4).

Penalty: LB PF

If such a player reaches back into the field of play and touches a kickoff.

Penalty: Ball is dead at spot of touch with possession awarded to team that touched the ball along with 10-yard penalty for illegal participation.

Replace with

#### **Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds**

***It is illegal for a player to go out of bounds and return to the field and participate in the play*** unless that player went out of bounds as a result of:

- a) a slippery field
- b) contact with an opponent; or
- c) a missed block or tackle.

***The player is allowed to return to the field and participate in the play but must re-establish themselves in the field of play with at least one foot in bounds and no contact with out of bounds.***

**Penalty – L10**

It is illegal for an out-of-bounds player to reach back into or re-enter the field of play to touch or recover a loose ball.

Penalty - LB PF

***It is illegal for an out-of-bounds player to participates on a Kick-off before possession has been established.***

***Penalty - L10 from the point of kick-off.***

Reason for change: Clarity

### **Rule 1 Section 11 Article 2 page 11**

#### Article 2 – Helmets and Imitation of the Ball

- a) Only helmets and facemasks approved by the National Operating Committee on Safety in Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) shall be worn by players.
- b) All visors must be clear, not tinted - No medical exceptions are allowed.
- c) A player shall be required to wear the helmet while in bounds, and shall not voluntarily remove it while the play is in progress. The use of the helmet or other objects to deceive opponents as to the location of the ball is illegal.
- d) If a player's helmet involuntarily comes off during the play, except as a result of a foul, he/she shall be required to leave the game for 3 plays.
- e) If any player loses their helmet the player must stop participating in the play. Penalty: L10 PBD or PBH.
- f) Hitting a player who has lost their helmet is to be ruled Unnecessary Roughness
- g) No player is allowed to have a helmet communication device of any sort installed in their helmet or on their person. Penalty: Offending player shall be removed from game until communication device is removed. Offending team is also assessed a 10 yard penalty PBD.

#### Replace with

#### Article 2 – Helmets and Imitation of the Ball

- a) Only helmets and facemasks approved by the National Operating Committee on Safety in Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) shall be worn by players.
- b) All visors must be clear, not tinted - No medical exceptions are allowed.
- c) A player shall be required to wear the helmet while in bounds and shall not voluntarily remove it while the play is in progress.
- d) The use of the helmet or other objects to deceive opponents as to the location of the ball is illegal.**
- e) If a player's helmet involuntarily comes off during the play, except as a result of a foul, he/she shall be required to leave the game for 3 plays.**
- f) If any player loses their helmet the player must stop participating in the play. Penalty: L10 PBD or PBH.**
- g) Hitting a player who has lost their helmet is to be ruled Unnecessary Roughness**
- h) Leagues can approve and administer the use of communication devices, providing such devices do not alter or change the construction of the helmet.**

**Penalty: a) b) c) d): Offending player shall be removed from game until situation is corrected. Offending team is also assessed a 10-yard penalty PBD.**

Reason for change: Clarity and enabling game to evolve with technology.

### **Rule 2 Section 1 Article 3 page 15**

#### Article 3

The number of officials per game shall be in accordance with the governing football association or league. Responsibilities, positioning, and mechanics are covered in the CFOA/Football Canada Officials' Training Manual.

#### Replace with

#### Article 3

**The number of officials per game shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the local, provincial, or national officials' associations.** Responsibilities, positioning, and mechanics are covered in the CFOA/Football Canada Officials' Training Manual.

Reason for change: Clarity

### **Rule 3 Section 2 Article 3 page 19**

#### **Article 3 – Safety Touch**

A safety touch is scored when the ball becomes dead in possession of a team in its own end zone, or goes out of bounds in the end zone, as a result of the ball having been carried, kicked, fumbled or otherwise directed from the field of play into the end zone by the team scored against, or as a DIRECT result of a kick being blocked in the field of play.

If a player intercepts a forward pass in the field of play while moving toward the player's goal line, and in the judgment of the official, the momentum carries the player into the player's end zone, possession is deemed to have been gained in the end zone.

If a player carries the ball out of the player's end zone and is contacted by an opponent so that the force of the opponent's contact drives the player back into the end zone, the player shall not be deemed to have carried the ball back into the player's own end zone.

After a safety touch, the scoring team will scrimmage the ball from its own 35-yard (30 metre) line.

#### **Replace with**

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After a safety touch, the scoring team will scrimmage the ball from its own 35-yard (30 metre) line.

***If, in the judgment of the official, a team deliberately commits a Holding infraction while in the act of conceding a Safety Touch, the score shall count and the penalty shall be applied at the point where the ball is next put into play, or option.***

***Where multiple fouls occur on a safety touch, and in the opinion of the officials this tactic is being employed to run out the clock. The clock will be reset back to the start time of the play in addition to awarding a score and applying a penalty.***

Reason for change: Remove unethical practises.

### **Rule 8 Section 3 Article 1 page 48**

#### **Article 1 – Inside 30 Yard (Metre) Line**

A yardage penalty applied within 30 yards (metres) of the offending team's goal line, shall not exceed one half the distance between the point from which the penalty is applied and that goal line.

Exception:

- pass interference.
- double penalties involving UR, RP, Objectionable Conduct, or No Mouthguard, including double penalties which form part of a dual penalty.
- Unnecessary Roughness and Rough Play

The ball shall not be scrimmaged within the 1-yard (1 metre) line.

#### **Replace with**

#### **Article 1 – Inside 30 Yard (Metre) Line**

A yardage penalty applied within 30 yards (metres) of the offending team's goal line, shall not exceed one half the distance between the point from which the penalty is applied and that goal line.

Exception:

- pass interference.
- double penalties involving UR, RP, including double penalties which form part of a dual penalty.***
- Unnecessary Roughness and Rough Play

The ball shall not be scrimmaged within the 1-yard (1 metre) line.

Reason for change: Consistency

**SPECIAL NOTE**

The rules committee was asked to add a rule regarding officials' safety and the need to provide security personnel to escort officials during their movements throughout the game site. The committee felt this to be more a procedural process than a playing rule.

This matter has been forwarded to the Canadian Football Officials Association and Football Canada to have a national policy developed.