



CANADA

2023 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 2023.

Rule 1 Section 7 article 2 page 7

Article 2 – Injury Stoppage

The play shall not be stopped because of player injury, or to impose a penalty until the ball is dead.

No delay shall be allowed for player injury, or for any other reason, except by permission of the Referee, who has the full authority to require the immediate removal from the field of a player who may require the services of a trainer or doctor.

Penalty for unauthorized delay: L10, no option.

So as not to penalize teams unduly, the Referee will call an official time out of no more than two (2) minutes to allow for medical attention and/or care of equipment related to bleeding. Neither Team shall be charged with a time out. (Refer to Code of Ethics – Responsibilities to Players – 7, 8)

Replace with

Article 2 – Injury Stoppage

The play shall not be stopped because of player injury, or to impose a penalty until the ball is dead.

No delay shall be allowed for player injury, or for any other reason, except by permission of **a field official**, who has the full authority to require the immediate removal from the field of a player who may require the services of a trainer or doctor.

Penalty for unauthorized delay: L10, no option.

So as not to penalize teams unduly, the Referee will call an official time out of no more than two (2) minutes to allow for medical attention and/or care of equipment related to bleeding. Neither Team shall be charged with a time out. (Refer to Code of Ethics – Responsibilities to Players – 7, 8)

Reason for change: Editorial change to reflect what happens

Rule 1 section 10 article 8 page 10

Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds

A player who goes out of bounds because of contact with an opponent, a missed block or tackle, or who slides out of bounds on a slippery field may legally return to the field and participate in the play.

A player who goes out of bounds either by intent or misjudgment, or to use the out-of-bounds area to their advantage, must not participate further in that play.

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” (asper 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

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” (asper 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.

Reason for change: Editorial wording change for clarity

Rule 1 section 11 article 1(c1) page 10

c) The following equipment is mandatory and shall be worn by all players. The equipment shall be designed and manufactured by a professional manufacturer, and shall not be altered in any way which will decrease the protection of the player.

1) soft knee pads, worn over the knees, and covered by the pants.

Replace with

c) The following equipment is mandatory and shall be worn by all players. The equipment shall be designed and manufactured by a professional manufacturer, and shall not be altered in any way **seen to potentially decrease player protection.**

1) **Soft knee pads, worn over the knees, either as a part of the pant and contained within or separate from the pant (i.e. volleyball knee pads).**

Reason for change: Clarity and player safety

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 may elect to have the ball put into play as follows:

- a) By scrimmaging the ball at its own 35-yard (30 metre) line
- or b) By kicking off from its own 35-yard (30 metre) line
- or c) By requiring the team scored against to kick off from its own 35-yard (30 metre) line.

Replace with

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.**

Reason for change: Player safety.

Rule 4 section 3 article 1 page 23

Article 1 – Legal Numbering

Legal numbers are from 1 to 99 inclusive. All Team A players shall be identified by the following approved numbering system:

Eligible Pass Receivers – 1 to 49, 80 to 99

Ineligible Pass Receivers – 50 to 79

On any given play from scrimmage, any number of positions may be occupied by inappropriately numbered players who have reported to the Referee as eligible or ineligible receivers.

Note: In an effort to facilitate the game, an inappropriately numbered player may report for a play, a series or for the game. If a player reports for a series or game, that player must report again if the situation changes.

Replace with

Article 1 – Legal Numbering

Legal numbers are from **0** to 99 inclusive. All Team A players shall be identified by the following approved numbering system:

Eligible Pass Receivers – **0** to 49, 80 to 99

Ineligible Pass Receivers – 50 to 79

On any given play from scrimmage, any number of positions may be occupied by inappropriately numbered players who have reported to the Referee as eligible or ineligible receivers.

Note: To facilitate the game, an inappropriately numbered player may report for a play, a series or for the game. If a player reports for a series or game, that player must report again if the situation changes.

Reason for change: Provide teams option to have 1 more eligible receiver

Rule 6 section 4 article 4(e) page 37

Article 4 – Eligible Receivers

The following players are eligible receivers:

e) All players of Team A, if the ball is touched by a B player AFTER the forward pass has crossed the line of scrimmage or is touched by a Team A eligible receiver (may be subject to an offside pass). The touching of the forward pass by a B player BEFORE it crosses the line of scrimmage does not change the eligibility of Team A players to legally complete the pass.

Replace with

Article 4 – Eligible Receivers

The following players are eligible receivers:

e) All players of Team A, if the ball is touched by a B player.

Reason for change: simplicity and consistency with the rules

Rule 6 section 4 article 8 page 27

Article 8 – Intentional Grounding

If a Team A passer deliberately throws the ball behind the line of scrimmage to the ground or Out of Bounds or to an area in which there is no eligible Team A receiver, to avoid a loss of yards, the team shall be penalized. However, Team A shall not be penalized if the passer throws the ball across the line of scrimmage to an open area or Out of Bounds

Penalty: Loss of Down at point from which pass was thrown. If the pass was thrown from the Goal Area, a safety touch score shall be awarded to Team B, subject to the right of Team B to

decline the score and accept the play as it terminated.

Replace with

Article 8 – Intentional Grounding

If Team A passer deliberately throws a forward pass that lands behind the line of scrimmage or Out of Bounds behind the line of scrimmage and to an area in which there is no eligible Team A receiver, to avoid a loss of yards, the team shall be penalized. However, the team shall not be penalized if the passer throws the ball across the line of scrimmage to an open area or Out of Bounds.

Penalty: Loss of Down at point from which pass was thrown. If the pass was thrown from the Goal Area, a safety touch score shall be awarded to Team B, subject to the right of Team B to decline the score and accept the play as it terminated.

Reason for change: Editorial change for *clarity*.

Rule 7 section 3 page 43

Section 3: Unnecessary Roughness (CB30)

Any act of unnecessary roughness or unfair play that is not considered serious enough to disqualify, shall be penalized under this section. The following acts are defined, and classified as Unnecessary Roughness, and are illegal.

Replace with

Section 3: Unnecessary Roughness (CB30)

Any act of unnecessary roughness or unfair play that is not considered serious enough to disqualify, shall be penalized under this section. The following acts are defined, and classified as Unnecessary Roughness, and are illegal.

After a player has received a third Unnecessary Roughness penalty that player will be disqualified from the game, with only the 15-yard UR penalty being applied.

Reason for change: Player safety

Rule 7 section 3 article 3 page 43

Article 3 – Kicker

Unnecessary roughness against a punter, or field goal kicker is illegal.

Replace with

Article 3 – Kicker

Unnecessary roughness against a punter, or field goal kicker is illegal. ***Any excessively rough contact on the Kicker or Punter shall be ruled as Unnecessary Roughness regardless of where the contact is. If a player touches the ball prior to contacting the kicker's plant leg they can still be called for Roughing the Kicker***

Reason for change: Player safety.

Rule 7 section 4 page 46

Add new paragraph

g) If a player, coach, or any member of a team is assessed a second Objectionable Conduct penalty during a game the offending individual shall be removed from play.

Reason for change: The intent is to create increased responsibility on the participant by having them understand what the conduct expectations are and that they rectify their behavior immediately.

Rule 7 section 4 page 46

Section 4: Objectionable Conduct (CB33)

[Add new article](#)

Article 2 Objectionable Conduct – Discrimination

Any player, team official, or bench occupant, who engages in verbal taunts, insults, or intimidation based on Discriminatory Grounds shall, in addition to an objectionable conduct penalty, be disqualified for the remainder of the game. Such player, team official or bench occupant shall be subject to such further discipline as the supervising body (ie. League, tournament, etc.) may decide.

Discriminatory Grounds include, but are not limited by:

- i. Race, national or ethnic origin, skin color, or language spoken;***
- ii. Religion, Faith, Beliefs;***
- iii. Age;***
- iv. Sex, Sexual Orientation, or Gender Identify/Expression;***
- v. Marital or Familial Status;***
- vi. Genetic Characteristics;***
- vii. Disability.***

Reason for change: To instil better discipline within the game.