

PENALTY ENFORCEMENT: THE ALL BUT ONE PRINCIPLE

If a foul occurs during a down, the basic spot is determined by the action that occurs during the down. **This is the basic spot for penalty enforcement.**

All fouls, **accept a foul by the offense from behind the basic spot**, are penalized from the basic spot.

Basic Spot:

1. The basic spot is the previous spot for;
 - A foul simultaneous with the snap. Ex.: illegal motion, illegal shift, illegal formation, illegal participation (12 players) if unnoticed, others?????
 - A foul **during** a loose ball play.
 - A loose ball play is action during;
 - A. a free or scrimmage kick
 - B. a legal forward pass
 - C. a backward pass (incl. the snap), illegal kick or fumble by A from in or behind the NZ and prior to a change of possession
 - D. the run or runs preceding a kick, legal forward pass, backward pass, or fumble
2. The basic spot is the end of the run for a foul that occurs during a running play.
3. The basic spot is the succeeding spot for;
 - An unsportsmanlike foul
 - A dead ball foul
 - A nonplayer foul
 - When the final result is a touchback
 - A foul by B on a try, FG, or TD if A accepts the points

Enforcement is based on the fact that a team is given the advantage of the distance that is gained, without the assistance of a foul. **Therefore, the only foul that would give this aid, is a foul by the offense behind the basic spot.**

If a foul occurs, we must know if it occurred during a loose ball play, a running play, or if it became a foul simultaneously with the snap. This determines the basic spot for penalty enforcement.

Special Enforcement Rules:

- Free kick OOBs; back 5 yds and rekick, where kick went OOBs, 25 yds from previous spot
- Kick catching interference; 15 yds from previous spot and rekick, awarded FC at the spot of the foul
- Unfair acts; I can do whatever I want, including award a TD.
- A foul by B on a successful try;
- The basic spot is the spot of possession for a Post Scrimmage Kick foul.

Clock starts on the “ready” or on the “snap”

To know when the clock will start after a penalty, we must know what caused the clock to stop. One magazine said it well, stating that there are “major clock stoppers” and “minor clock stoppers.” With a “major clock stopper”, the clock will start on the snap, and with a “minor clock stopper” the clock will start on the ready. **What happened during the down in which the foul occurred determines if we will start the clock on the ready or the snap.** If a dead ball foul occurs (false start, late hit, etc...), what happened on the previous down will dictate when the clock will start.

Major clock stoppers –

- ball or player with ball ends up OOB,
- incomplete pass, whether legal or illegal
- COP (change of possession),
- delay of game penalty accepted,
- time out granted to a team,
- attempted try, completed FG, safety, or touchback
- period ends
- a team attempts to consume time illegally (repeated fouls to stop the clock)
- TV or radio timeout
- new series to B, not to A following a turn over

Minor clock stoppers –

- player ends up with ball in possession and inbounds,
- penalty during or between downs,
- officials time out for injury, heat & humidity, measurement, coaches conference,
- equipment repair,
- the dreaded inadvertent whistle
- new series awarded to A even if a TO is involved