

BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COLLEGE AND FEDERATION

KICKING GAME:

COLLEGE: Free kick from 30

FED: Free kick from 40.

COLLEGE: At least 4 on each side of kicker on free kick (5 yds from previous spot)

FED: No rule

COLLEGE: On Free Kick K can not block until they can legally touch the ball. 5 yd penalty from previous spot.

FED: No rule

COLLEGE: If K is offside on free kick, ball is alive and R can tack penalty on the end of their run, but there must be a run, or tack on from the 2 if touchback.

FED: If K is offside, ball is dead.

COLLEGE: If scrimmage kick goes beyond NZ, it can not be advanced by K no matter where they recover it.

FED: K can not advance a scrimmage kick if it recovers it beyond NZ, but it can advance if it is recovered behind the NZ.

COLLEGE: If a member of K goes OOB on a free or scrimmage kick, they must stay out. If they come back in it is a 5 yd penalty from previous spot.

FED: If A or K goes OOB and comes back in it is illegal participation, 15 yds from prev spot.

COLLEGE: No Illegal or Invalid Fair Catch signal penalties.

FED: Invalid & Illegal FC signal are 5yd penalties from prev spot.

COLLEGE: Scrimmage kick beyond LOS or return kick are dead ball immediately.

FED: Above are live balls and treated as a fumble.

COLLEGE: If kick touches the ground in the end zone without touching R, it is dead and a touchback. If it touches R, in the field of play first or before it hits the ground in the EZ, it is live. If kick is caught in end zone by R it is live, unless downed there.

FED: Once ball breaks plane of goal line it is a touchback.

COLLEGE: If K bats ball that breaks plane of R's goal line, it is a violation and results in touchback.

FED: Once ball breaks plane of goal line it is a touchback.

COLLEGE: If no good field goal crosses LOS and is dead there and untouched by R, succeeding spot is previous spot or 20 yard line.

FED: Field goal attempts are simply scrimmage kicks, like punts.

COLLEGE: Not allowed to free kick after Fair Catch.

FED: Allowed to free kick for a field goal attempt after fair catch or awarded fair catch. Choice remains even after dead ball foul or if down is replayed due to penalty or inadv. Whistle.

COLLEGE: Interference with opportunity to catch kick is a 15yd spot foul.

FED: It's 15yds from previous spot or R may accept awarded fair catch.

COLLEGE: If B blocks punt, only the person who blocks the kick can hit the punter.

FED: If B blocks punt, any defensive player can hit punter if contact is unavoidable.

COLLEGE: On ext pt or field goal, holder can pitch from his knee.

FED: Holder must get up to pitch, if he pitches from his knee, ball is dead immediately.

COLLEGE: Fouls at the snap on scrimmage kick (7.1.3 or 7.1.4 fouls) against A can be tacked on where the dead ball belongs to R or from previous spot.

FED: No rule, similar foul is enforced from previous spot only.

SCRIMMAGE REQUIREMENTS, THE RUNNING GAME AND FUMBLES

COLLEGE: Must have at least 5 players numbered 50-79 except on scrimmage kick formation and exception can not be on the end of the line. 5 yd penalty.

FED: No penalty if exception is on the end of the line.

COLLEGE: Snapper can take his hands off ball if slowly

FED: Snapper can not take hands off ball. False start

COLLEGE: Substitutes who enter and leave before snap, or replaced players who leave and come back in before snap is a live ball illegal sub foul.

FED: Substitutes who enter and leave before snap, or replaced players who leave and come back in before snap is a dead ball illegal sub foul.

COLLEGE: If defense enters NZ, whistle does not blow. It is not a foul if they get back before snap. If there is contact, it is a dead ball foul.

Offensive lineman who false start because threatened by defense (over him), "who enters the NZ" foul is on defense

FED: If defense enters NZ, dead ball offside foul.

COLLEGE: Can not start in motion from being on the line

FED: Can go in motion from the line

COLLEGE: Shift is two or more guys moving

FED: Shift is one or more guys moving

COLLEGE: Disconcerting words or sounds by B to interfere with cadence is 5 yd delay penalty (dead ball foul)

FED: Above is 15 yd unsportsmanlike foul (dead ball foul)

COLLEGE: Planned loose ball play is not allowed 5 yd penalty from previous spot and loss of down

FED: Also not allowed, but just 5 yds, no loss of down.

COLLEGE: Fumble OOB is brought back to spot of fumble if OOB spot is ahead of fumble spot, or at OOB spot if OOB spot is behind spot of fumble. Clock starts on ready if forward fumble is OOB.

FED: Fumble OOB is dead at OOB spot. Clock starts on snap.

COLLEGE: Fumble on 4th down or try if recovered or caught by anyone other than the fumbler is dead and brought back to spot of fumble (unless recovery is behind fumble spot, then ball is dead at recovery spot).

FED: Any one can recover and advance any fumble at any time.

THE PASSING GAME:

COLLEGE: If pass is caught and you are pushed OOB, it is not a catch

FED: If pass is caught and you are pushed OOB, and your initial direction has been altered, it is a catch.

COLLEGE: A pass is forward pass if hits something (ground person or official) beyond the spot from where it was thrown.

FED: Its initial direction indicates forward or backward. If initial direction is forward, then it's forward. If it is lateral or backward, then it's backward.

COLLEGE: Incomplete illegal forward pass from the end zone belongs to the passing team at the previous spot. So illegal forward pass from end zone gives A option of declining and taking ball at prev. spot.

FED: ALL Incomplete illegal forward passes belong to passing team at spot of pass. So illegal forward pass from end zone is safety, no choice.

COLLEGE: intentional grounding OK to stop clock from shotgun (as long as ball doesn't hit ground)

FED: above not OK, it must be a direct hand to hand snap.

COLLEGE: eligible A goes OOB and comes back in is OK unless he touches pass, then it's illegal touching, no yardage penalty, just loss of down from prev spot.

FED: member of A going OOB and comes back in is illegal participation.

COLLEGE: Touching (batted, muffed or caught) by an originally ineligible is illegal touching foul, 5 yds from previous spot (no loss of down)

FED: Touching (batted, muffed or caught) by an originally ineligible is illegal touching foul, 5 yds all but one AND loss of down.

COLLEGE: Passer allowed to intentionally ground the ball if he is outside tackles and the ball lands past the LOS.

FED: No such rule

PASS INTERFERENCE:

COLLEGE: Catchable vs non-catchable ball

Offensive is not loss of down

Defensive is spot foul if less than 15 yds from line and 15 yds from prev spot if greater

Do not pay attention to half the distance rule if within the 30 yd line

If within the 17 yd line ball gets placed on 2 if not a spot foul.

Must be contact.

FED: Not DPI if contact is away from pass.

Offensive is loss of down

Defensive is 15yds from prev spot

Can have face guarding, does not have to be contact.

COLLEGE: Backward pass OOB to conserve time is 5yd penalty from spot of pass and loss of down.

FED: Anyone can throw a backward pass at any time.

EXTRA PERIODS, CLOCK, AND DEAD BALLS

COLLEGE: as many extra periods as necessary, on 3rd you must go for 2

FED: maximum of 3 extra periods and on 3rd you must go for 2

COLLEGE: 15 minute quarters

FED: 12 minute quarters

COLLEGE: Clock starts when ball is legally touched in the field of play or when ball caught or recovered in the endzone is brought into the field of play.

FED: Clock starts when R touches ball.

COLLEGE: Clock goes on ready when B is awarded 1st down and they next snap the ball.

FED: Clock goes on snap when B is awarded a 1st down.

COLLEGE: Clock starts on ready if fumble OOB in advance of fumbler

FED: Clock starts on snap on any ball OOB

COLLEGE: After legal kick down, clock starts on the snap.

FED: After a legal kick, clock will start on snap if either team is awarded a first down. i.e. if A punts and there is a penalty against B and A re-kicks, the clock will start on ready (if it did not go OOB or into EZ)

COLLEGE: When A is in scrimmage kick formation and delay of game foul occurs, clock starts on snap.

FED: Clock starts on ready after delay of game foul (unless Referee starts on snap because A is trying to run off time and uses 25 seconds).

COLLEGE: Ball is declared dead when free kick untouched by B, or Scrimmage kick untouched by B beyond NZ, touches the ground in end zone.

FED: Once any kick crosses plane of goal line, ball is dead.

COLLEGE: Return kick or legally kicking ball beyond NZ, ball is dead immediately.

FED: Above is live ball.

COLLEGE: Extend a period if there is an accepted penalty

FED: Do not extend period if accepted penalty involves Loss of down.

COLLEGE: Each team must be on field at beginning of each half. Home team must come out first if there is a problem. 15 yard delay penalty. Home management must have field cleared for start of each half. 10 yd delay penalty.

FED: Failure of either team to start either half is 15 yd unsportsmanlike foul on coach.

MAJOR FOULS

COLLEGE: Fighting before game or during first half, ejected for the remainder of that game.

Fighting during halftime or during 2nd half is ejection for remainder of game and 1st half of next game.

Leaving bench during fight, ejected for remainder of game and all of next game.

FED: fighting anytime gets you ejected for remainder of game and all of next game.

COLLEGE: Blocking below the waist is allowed except.....

During kicks

During change of possession

If by a lineman positioned more than 7 yds in any direction from the middle lineman or a back outside tackle or in motion at the snap and block is toward ball, and block is behind the NZ and within 10 yds beyond NZ

By B against eligible receiver beyond LOS

By B against A who is behind LOS and in position to receive backward pass. Note: Pitch man can not be fouled either, any foul against this pitch man is 15 yd penalty (9-1-2 e5)

FED: Blocking below the waist is ILLEGAL unless it is in the free zone during snap and the blocker and blockee were both on the LOS at the snap and before free zone has deteriorated or ball has left the zone.

COLLEGE: Clipping below the knee is illegal anywhere, including on the LOS.

FED: Does not have that rule.

COLLEGE: Defense running further than 1 yard away and leaping trying to block a field goal attempt and lands on a player is personal foul.

FED: No Rule

COLLEGE: Facemask fouls by A and dead ball facemask fouls are 15 yds no matter what.

FED: Doesn't make that distinction, could be 5 or 15 yds.

COLLEGE: Personal fouls by B (9.1.2 fouls) are auto 1st down for A (except for 5yd facemask)

FED: Above is not the case.

COLLEGE: During a legal forward pass play where a pass crosses the NZ, any foul by B against an eligible receiver is an automatic 1st down for A.

FED: Above is not the case.

COLLEGE: Unsportsmanlike foul for taking off helmet except during time outs.

FED: No such rule

COLLEGE: Can bat the ball backward in the field of play (cannot bat anytime in the End Zone). 15 yd penalty all but 1 prin., loss of down, unless it is scrimmage kick beyond NZ. Illegally kicking the ball is also loss of down, unless it is a scrimmage kick beyond the NZ.

FED: Can not bat ball at all (except K batting backwards on punt). 15 yd penalty all but 1 prin NOT Loss of down. Batting and Illegally kicking the ball are not loss of down

SCORING:

COLLEGE: Field goal attempt that is unsuccessful untouched by B beyond the NZ, B takes over at prev spot (if beyond 20 yd line), or the 20 yd line.

FED: Field goal attempt is treated exactly like a punt.

COLLEGE: Any kick that is untouched by B and touches anything, including the ground in the EZ is a touchback. If touched by B before it touches the ground it is a live ball.

FED: Once kick crosses the goal line plane it is dead, a touchback.

PENALTY ENFORCEMENT:

Fouls during scoring plays:

COLLEGE: Personal fouls (9.1.2 fouls) by opponents of the scoring team during a TD can be enforced on try or kickoff. Will not carry over to extra period. Any other foul by non-scoring team is declined by rule. Remember, No Penalty for a foul during a scoring play may be carried over to the next series in OT.

Fouls committed after a TD and before the ready-for-play on the Try, or live ball fouls treated as dead ball fouls during the TD by any team, the penalty can be assessed on the try or succeeding kick-off.

FED: If during a touchdown-scoring play in which there is no change of possession, any foul by the opponents of the scoring team occurs, the scoring team may accept the results of the play and have a penalty enforced from the succeeding spot or next kick-off. If during a touchdown-scoring play in

which there is a change of possession, a foul by the opponents of the scoring team occurs **after the change of possession**, the scoring team may accept the results of the play and have the penalty enforced from the succeeding spot or next kick-off.

COLLEGE: Personal fouls by B during a successful try can be enforced on the succeeding kickoff or succeeding spot in OT

FED: Any foul by B during a successful try can be enforced on the succeeding spot.

COLLEGE: On a successful field goal, if a foul by B is accepted it is enforced from previous spot.

FED: A foul on B during a successful field goal can be tacked onto the succeeding spot.

COLLEGE: Kick catching interference is enforced from spot of foul.

FED: Kick catching interference can be awarded fair catch at spot of foul or 15 yds from previous spot.

COLLEGE: When dead ball fouls by each team and the order of the fouls can not be determined, the fouls cancel and no auto first down for A.

FED: No such reference, make a decision on who's was first and then mark off accordingly.

COLLEGE: Basic enforcement rules say previous spot serves as enforcement spot for fouls that occur during free kick plays, passing plays, scrimmage kick plays (other than PSK) and scrimmage plays that end behind the NZ and holding, illegal use of hands, personal fouls, illegal blocks, facemask fouls by A behind the NZ are previous spot enforcement.

FED: Previous spot is enforcement spot on ALL loose ball plays and fouls by A behind the basic spot are spot fouls.

COLLEGE: Illegal equipment or failure to wear required equipment is time out

FED: Foul is 15 yd Unsportsmanlike Conduct on coach.

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