

Some Holding Considerations for Officials

The following considerations regarding holding are not intended to be all inclusive but are to be considered in calling holding infractions.

- I. "Take downs" by the blocker should be called regardless of whether or not the "take down" has any effect on the play since ignoring "take downs" engenders ill will between opponents and can create retaliation type personal fouls.
2. During running plays holding at the immediate Point of attack near the ball carrier which prevents or delays a potential tackle should be caned.
3. If there is a potential for offensive holding and the opponent being held is tackling the runner behind the line of scrimmage at or near the spot of the hold, offensive holding could be ignored because the holding has not had an effect on the play.
4. If there is potential for offensive holding simultaneously with the runner being tackled by another defensive player behind the line of scrimmage, offensive holding could be ignored because the holding has not had an effect on the play.
5. If there is a potential for offensive holding when there is no line of scrimmage (i.e., punt return or kickoff return) offensive holding may not be caned if the player who is being held is involved in making the tackle at or near the spot of the potential hold or if the potential for holding occurs at the time the runner is being tackled by another defensive player because the holding has not had an effect on the play. However, during these types of plays holding should be called at the immediate point of attack, near the ball carrier if the hold prevents or delays a tackle or "springs" the runner.
6. If there is a potential for offensive holding but the holding clearly occurs after a pass has been thrown to a downfield receiver, offensive holding could be ignored because the holding has not had an effect on the play.
7. If there is a potential for offensive holding but the action occurs away from the point of attack and has no effect on the play, offensive holding could be ignored.
8. If there is a potential for offensive holding a... part of a double team block, offensive holding could be ignored unless the opponent is pulled to the ground by one of the blockers.
9. During a defensive charge, if a defensive player uses a rip technique that puts an offensive player in a position that would normally be called holding, offensive holding should not be called unless the defender's feet are taken away from him by the offensive player's actions.