

*The Official National Collegiate Athletic Association*

# **2024 FOOTBALL STATISTICIANS' MANUAL**

*Including Special Interpretations and Approved Rulings Covering Unusual Situations*



# 2024 BASIC INTERPRETATIONS

(Indicated as “B.I.” references throughout manual.)

(Throughout this manual, Team A players have last names starting with “A” and Team B players have last names starting with “B.”)

**1. APPROVED RULING**—Approved rulings (indicated as A.R.) are designed to interpret the spirit of the application of the Official Football Rules. A thorough understanding of the rules is essential to understanding and applying the statistics rules in this manual.

**2. DETERMINING THE YARD LINE AND SPOTTING THE BALL**—If any part of the football rests on or above any yard stripe, future action is to be computed from that yard line. However, if all of the football has been advanced beyond any yard stripe, future action is computed from the first yard line in advance of the football (or nearest the intended goal). (See Exception c. below for determining yard lines and yardage when there is a change of possession.)

This principle is to be followed on all spotting situations, regardless of the down, with the following **exceptions**:

- a. In certain situations (any down but the first) when there is less than one yard to gain for a first down, it may be necessary to spot the ball back one yard to conform with the principle that there must always be, for statistical purposes, at least one yard remaining to be gained for a first down (or for a touchdown).

**Examples:**

(1) First down and 10. A player carries the ball to within six inches of a first down. Credit him with nine yards gained because he has not advanced to a first down.

(2) Third down and goal from the three. A player carries the ball to within an inch of the goal line. Credit him with two yards gained. The next ball carrier scores the touchdown. Credit the latter with a one-yard gain.

- b. When, on a first down, the ball rests just outside a defensive team’s 10-yard line, it will be necessary to designate the scrimmage line as the 11-yard line, since it would be possible for the offensive team to advance for a first down without scoring a touchdown.

**A.R. 1.** Team A’s ball, first down just outside Team B’s 20. (The ball is spotted on the 20.) Adams rushes for sufficient yardage for a first down, just outside Team B’s 10. Credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards and Team A with a first down by rushing. Spot the ball on Team B’s 11.

- c. When there is a change of possession, the yard line for one team may not be the same as that of the other team.

**Example:** A fourth-down play by Team A ending on Team B’s three-and-one-half-yard line will be the three-yard line for the team giving up the ball but the four-yard line for the team taking over. When the stakes are moved, the other end of the ball now becomes the forward point for future measurements.

- d. The original spot of the ball is to be maintained if the official errs in respotting the ball after a play.

**A.R. 2.** Team A’s ball between its 39 and 40. (The ball is spotted on the 40.) After Adams’ incomplete pass, the official places the ball on Team A’s 39. Compute future action from Team A’s 40.

**3. END ZONE YARDAGE**—Only the yardage from goal line to goal line is recorded statistically, with the single exception of a

field goal attempt. In this case, the 10 yards from goal line to goal post is added (see Sec. 10).

**4. PENALTY YARDAGE**—The amount of penalty yards recorded should at all times be the actual distance lost by penalty (not, however, to include the yards nullified by penalty), rather than the amount of yards assessed by the official. Example: The ball is on Team A’s eight-yard line when Team A is penalized for holding. The penalty assessed by the official is 10 yards, but Team A cannot be penalized more than half the distance to its goal line. Thus, the number of penalty yards recorded is four.

**5. FUMBLE RETURNS**—An offensive fumble or backward pass recovery either behind or beyond the line of scrimmage recovered by the defensive team may be returned. An intercepted fumble or backward pass recovery is treated as a fumble return regardless of the position on the field. Please list only those fumble returns in which return yardage is involved. Do not list fumble returns in which the player falls on the ball and/or makes no attempt to advance.

**6. POSTSEASON GAMES**—Postseason playoff or bowl games are considered as part of a team’s season schedule. Consequently, the statistics of a postseason game, including Football Bowl Subdivision bowl games and Football Championship Subdivision, Division II and Division III championship playoff games, should be added directly to a team’s or a player’s cumulative season or career records, including statistics affecting single-game records. Conference playoff games also are included in a team’s record and statistics as part of the season’s schedule. Counting postseason statistics began with the 2002 football season.

**7. GAME PLAYED**—The per-game rankings for many national statistical categories are based on games an individual actually has played. It is a game played if a player is in the lineup for even one play, whether or not he touches the ball. But to be ranked, a player must appear in at least 75 percent of his team’s games (i.e., six of eight, seven of nine, eight of 10, nine of 11, nine of 12, 10 of 13). **Exceptions:** If a player appears in a game only to hold the ball on kick attempts (but NOT two-point conversion plays), he is not charged with a game played statistically. If, however, he becomes statistically involved (e.g., runs, passes or kicks after an aborted kick attempt, recovers a fumble, or makes a tackle) he is charged with a game played. Clarification: If a player is in the game for one play and there is a penalty on the play, he is charged with a game played only if time had run off the clock. He is charged with a game played even if the penalty is accepted.

**8. THIRD-DOWN EFFICIENCY**—Third-down efficiency is the success a team has in converting third-down rushing or passing plays to first downs or touchdowns. If a first down is obtained by penalty on a third-down play or if a field goal is attempted on third down, the offensive team is not charged with an attempt in determining efficiency.

Do not charge a third-down attempt when the offensive team commits a foul (and the penalty is accepted by the defense), the spot of enforcement is in advance of the line of scrimmage, and the down remains the same.

**A.R. 1.** On third and goal at Team B’s three-yard line, Adams rushes three yards for a touchdown. Credit Team A with a third-down attempt and conversion.

**A.R. 2.** On third down and two at midfield, Adams rushes for three yards but Team B is offside. Team A elects to take the penalty for a first down at Team B’s 45. No entry is made in the third-down efficiency category since the first down was awarded by penalty.

**A.R. 3.** On third down and 10 at midfield, Team A is ahead with 30 seconds remaining in the game. Atkins falls to the ground after taking the snap, making no effort to gain yardage. Score as one third-down attempt.

**A.R. 4.** On third down and two at midfield, Adams gains three yards, and Team B is charged with a 15-yard penalty, moving the ball to Team B's 32. Score two first downs (one rushing, one by penalty) and credit a third-down attempt and conversion since Team A had made a first down without regard to the penalty.

**A.R. 5.** On third down and 15 at midfield, Adams attempts to pass, but is forced by Brown into an intentional grounding penalty 12 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Credit Brown with a sack of 12 yards, charge Adams with a rush of minus 12 yards, and Team A is charged with a penalty of zero yards. It is now fourth down and 27 at Team A's 38. Since the play counted and there was a loss of down, charge a third-down attempt to Team A.

**9. TIME OF POSSESSION**—Time of possession is computed from the first play initiated by Team A from the line of scrimmage until a scoring play is made or loss of possession occurs. After a change of possession (e.g., a fumble, interception or punt), consider Team A in possession until the ball next is declared dead. In order to account for 60 minutes, start the receiving team's time of possession at the time of kickoff. On all other returns (i.e., "transition time"—punt returns, blocked punts, blocked field goal attempts, fumble returns and interceptions, including scoring plays), start ball possession at the start of the next scrimmage play. Time of possession is computed for regulation periods only. Do not include overtime, regardless of the number of extra periods. Time of possession includes the kickoff, while the scoring drive time starts on the first play from scrimmage. These two times may not equal each other.

In the last minute of a quarter in which the stadium clock shows tenths of a second, always round up. If the clock shows :24.1, round it to :25. There are two reasons for doing this. First, if there is :00.4 on the clock, it is recorded as :01 since there is still time remaining. The second reason is to remain consistent with the remainder of the game. When there is 10:53.2 left in the quarter, the game clock actually shows 10:54.

**10. MEASURING A SCORING DRIVE**—Scoring-drive yardage is measured from the initial line of scrimmage at the start of possession to the goal line (in the event of a touchdown) or from the initial line of scrimmage to the last line of scrimmage for field goals, not the spot from which the kick was attempted. The time for a scoring drive should start with the time of the initial play from scrimmage. The yardage on a successful field goal is not included in the scoring drive. Penalty plays (when the down remains the same but the ball changes position) are not included in the total number of plays in a scoring drive. However, penalty plays in which the down changes and the ball changes position are included in the total number of plays in a scoring drive. No scoring drive should exceed the total number of yards from the initial line of scrimmage to the goal line or to the last line of scrimmage for field goals. Field goals are to be counted as a play in a drive. Also, when a dead-ball foul is committed by the kicking team on a kickoff return downed in the end zone for a touchback, count the penalty as the first play of the drive, even though no time has elapsed off the clock.

**11. OVERTIME STATISTICS**—The individual and team statistics for all untimed overtime periods in NCAA football games will be recorded with the regulation statistics. Do not separate the statistics. Each attempt to score from the 25-yard line by both teams constitutes one overtime period. If neither team scores with a possession, record a zero for each team for that period. Beginning with the 2021 season, any game that goes past two overtimes results in each team attempting a two-point conversion play for the third and subsequent overtimes. Beginning

with the third overtime, each two-point conversion attempt by both teams constitutes one overtime period. Furthermore, the attempts in the third overtime and later should be scored as conversion attempts (See Sec. 11) not as a play from scrimmage. During the 2019 and 2020 season, it was after the fourth overtime.

**12. TEAM STATISTICS**—In the fair application of statistical rules, there are certain situations during which individual losses should be absorbed by team statistics. In a clarification of previous policies, a team rush should be charged when a quarterback kneels down in order to run out the clock. Also, a team pass attempt should be charged when a quarterback throws a pass into the ground in order to stop the clock. In neither instance should the individual player be charged with the play.

**13. RED ZONE**—The red zone is the area of 20 yards that stretches between the goal line and the 20-yard line at both ends of the field. Once a team reaches the opponent's 20-yard line, at any point during the possession, the "Red Zone" is in effect. Even if the offensive team chooses to simply run out the clock, or a penalty or loss of yardage moves an offense out of the "Red Zone," once the team has been in the "Red Zone" (even for one play), this would be considered a "Red Zone" opportunity. Calculating "Red Zone" statistics continues in overtime.

**14. PUNTS DOWNED INSIDE THE 20-YARD LINE**—A punter should be credited with an "inside the 20" when a punt is returned and the return ends inside the return team's 20-yard line. A touchback is not considered inside the 20. **NOTE:** If the ball is placed between the receiver's 19- and 20-yard lines, this would not be considered an "inside the 20" because the ball would statistically be spotted on the 20-yard line. When there is a penalty during the return, the point at which the return ends statistically (without considering the penalty yardage) is the determining spot for crediting an "inside the 20."

**15. NCAA DEFENSIVE STATISTICS POLICY (Effective 2004)**—All individual defensive statistics reported to the NCAA must be compiled by the press-box statistics crew during the game. Defensive numbers compiled by the coaching staff or other university/college personnel using game film will not be considered "official" NCAA statistics. This policy does not preclude a conference or institution from making after-the-game changes to press-box statistics. This is consistent with existing NCAA policies involving corrections to any offensive statistics after a contest. Any changes to press-box statistics must be obvious errors, such as misidentified players, and should not be interpreted as a way for press-box statistics to be later "updated" by the coaching films.

Changes should be made within one week of the game played. Statisticians also are reminded that NCAA policy does not permit changes to away-game statistics unless approved by the home sports information director. It is important to note that this policy applies ONLY to official NCAA statistics and national rankings, and does not mean a coaching staff still cannot compile separate defensive statistics for institutional use. Those compilations also could appear in the institution's press releases and/or website, as long as they are identified as coaching-film numbers and not as official statistics as used by the NCAA. The NCAA statistics staff reserves the right to review any statistics provided to the national office and may withhold publishing/posting of those numbers until the accuracy of those statistics can be substantiated.

**16.**

ing position and carry out all final percentages to two decimal places.

### SAMPLE COMPILATION OF NCAA PASS-EFFICIENCY FORMULA

#### Sample Statistics:

Games Played	—	9
Pass Attempts	—	166
Pass Completions	—	98
Yards Passing	—	1,567
Touchdown Passes	—	16
Interceptions	—	7

**NOTE:** To qualify for national ranking, individuals must average a minimum of 15 pass attempts per game played.

#### Factor One—Completion Percentage

Pass Completions divided by Pass Attempts times 100

$$98 \div 166 = .5904 \times 100 = 59.04$$

#### Factor Two—Yards Per Attempted Pass

Yards Passing divided by Pass Attempts times 8.4

$$1,567 \div 166 = 9.44 \times 8.4 = 79.30$$

#### Factor Three—Touchdowns Per Attempted Pass

TD Passes divided by Pass Attempts times 100 times 3.3

$$16 \div 166 = .0964 \times 100 = 9.64 \times 3.3 = 31.81$$

#### Factor Four—Interceptions Per Attempted Pass

Interceptions divided by Pass Attempts times 100 times 2.0

$$7 \div 166 = .0422 \times 100 = 4.22 \times 2.0 = 8.44$$

Add Factors One, Two and Three

$$59.04 + 79.30 + 31.81 = 170.15$$

Subtract Factor Four from Subtotal

$$170.15 - 8.44 = 161.71$$

Pass-Efficiency Rating is **161.71**

**NOTE:** The pass-efficiency formula is computed to make 100.0 the average quarterback or team rating by using the multipliers 8.4, 3.3 and 2.0 with factors two, three and four, respectively.

**17. TEAM NET PUNTING**—The formula for team net punting is yards punted minus return yards minus touchbacks on punts times 20 with the total then divided by the number of punts.

Mathematically, it is:

Yards Punted - Opponent Punt Return Yards - (Touchbacks on Punts x 20) / Number of Punts

### 18. FORMULAS FOR COMPILING INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL DEFENSIVE LEADERS—

Solo tackles + assisted tackles = Total tackles

Solo tackles for loss + (1/2) assisted tackles for loss = Total tackles for loss

Solo sacks + (1/2) assisted sacks = Total sacks

## 2024 OFFICIAL FOOTBALL STATISTICS RULES

### With Approved Rulings and Interpretations

(Throughout this manual, Team A players have last names starting with "A" and Team B players have last names starting with "B.")

### SECTION 1—FIRST DOWNS

**Article 1.** A first down shall be recorded whenever the yardsticks are ordered forward and/or when a touchdown is scored from scrimmage (rushing or passing) within a series of downs starting 10 yards or more from the goal line, or when a dead-ball foul results in an automatic first down (see Section 1, Article 6).

**A.R. 1.** A first down when made (and other statistical data) is recorded for all plays in progress when the half (or game) ends.

**A.R. 2.** A first down is recorded when the offensive team is awarded a first down because of penalty, even though the yardsticks might be moved backward.

**Article 2.** When a team satisfies the requirement for a first down (rushing or passing) and, after the whistle has blown to end the play, is awarded penalty yardage of sufficient distance for an additional first down, two first downs are recorded, one rushing (or passing) and one by penalty (see Section 1, Article 6 and Section 14, Articles 1-4).

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams rushes for 20 yards to Team B's 20, and Team B is penalized 10 yards from that point to Team B's 10. Credit Adams with a rush of 20 yards. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by rushing and with a first down by penalty.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams rushes for 10 yards to Team B's 10, and Team B is penalized five yards from that point to Team B's five. Credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards. Charge Team B with a penalty of five yards. Credit Team A with a first down by rushing. Do not credit Team A with a first down by penalty.

**Article 3.** A first down is not recorded on any runback (e.g., kickoff, punt, intercepted pass), regardless of the distance or when the down markers are on the ground within the 10-yard line.

**Article 4.** A first down is not recorded when a resultant loss of team possession occurs on a scrimmage play, even though the gain provides yardage necessary for a first down.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40, second and five. Adams rushes for 10 yards and fumbles, and Team B recovers on its 30. Credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards, but do not credit Team A with a first down by rushing. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**Article 5.** If the resultant recovery by Team A of a fumble on a scrimmage play provides the yardage necessary for a first down, the first down is credited to the category initiating the action.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40, second and five. Adams rushes for 10 yards and fumbles, and Allen recovers on Team B's 30. Credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by rushing and with a fumble not lost.

**Article 6.** A first down is recorded when a dead-ball foul results in a first down.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's eight, second and goal. Adams advances to the four. Team B is charged with a dead-ball foul at the four. The ball is moved to the two. Credit Adams with a rush of four yards. Credit Team A with a first down by penalty and charge Team B with a penalty of two yards.

**A.R. 2.** After a kick return (or an interception) by Team A, Team B commits a dead-ball foul at Team A's 30, which results in an automatic first down. Team B is penalized to Team A's 45. Credit Team A with a first down by penalty, and charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball, first and 10 at Team B's 14. Team B commits a dead-ball personal foul. Team B is penalized half the distance to the goal line with first down and goal to gain.

*Credit Team A with a first down by penalty and charge Team B with a penalty of seven yards.*

**Article 7.** On the last play of the second or fourth quarter, if, in the statistician's judgment, the offensive team advanced the ball to a first down, credit should be given whether the officials so signify.

## SECTION 2—RUSHING

**Article 1.** All offensive running plays are to be termed "rushing plays," not as "plays from scrimmage," since any play started with a snapback from center actually is a play from scrimmage.

**Article 2.** Rushing yardage is measured from the line of scrimmage to the point where the ball is declared dead or is recovered by opponents (in the case of a fumble or backward pass recovery).

**Article 3.** The rushing total is a net figure. All rushing losses must be recorded so as to account for the net figure.

**Article 4.** The ball carrier is charged with the loss of yardage regardless of the reason for the loss (e.g., fumble, loss of footing, tripping over a teammate, missed blocks by teammates). **Exceptions:** Errant pitches or handoffs (see Section 2, Article 8), losses while attempting to pass (see Section 3, Article 3), losses by quarterbacks kneeling down to run out the clock (recorded as a team rush), and wild passes from the center (see Section 15; wild pass from center is credited as a team rush and team loss.)

**Article 5.** On a basic run-option play when the quarterback rolls out for an obvious option run and pitches to a trailing back, credit the trailing back with a rush attempt and total yardage gained or lost, regardless of where he obtains the pitch. All gains are measured from the line of scrimmage. Exception: See Section 2, Article 8.

**Clarification:** The basic run-option play is distinguished from a play when the quarterback keeps the ball past the line of scrimmage, beyond the one-yard cushion, and pitches to a trailing back. In this play, credit the quarterback with a rush attempt plus yardage to the point from where he pitched the ball. Credit the trailing back with no rush attempt, but yardage from the point of the pitch and any touchdown on the play.

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Quarterback Adams, on a run-option play, goes down the line of scrimmage and pitches to running back Allen, who receives the ball on the 29 and advances to the 20. In this case, credit Allen with the rush attempt and 10 yards rushing.*

*A.R. 2. Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Quarterback Adams, on a run-option play, goes down the line of scrimmage and then turns upfield and runs to the 20, where he pitches back to Allen, who scores on the play. Credit Adams with a rush attempt and with a rush of 10 yards. Credit Allen with no rush attempt, 20 rushing yards and a touchdown.*

**Article 6.** When a lateral (a backward pass or one that travels parallel to the line of scrimmage) occurs beyond the line of scrimmage under circumstances other than Article 5 above (i.e., when the lateral is not the result of a run-option play, or is not the original design or intent of the play), credit the ball carriers in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.

*A.R. Team A's ball on its 40. Adams advances to Team B's 40 and laterals to Allen, who receives the ball on the 42 and advances to the 20. Credit Adams with a rush of 18 yards. Credit Allen with no rush but with 22 yards under "Rushing."*

**Article 7.** When a lateral pass occurs behind the line of scrimmage, credit the ball carrier in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.

*A.R. Team A's ball on its 20. After receiving the snap at Team A's 17, Adams laterals to Allen at the 15. Allen advances to the 34. Credit Allen with a rush of 14 yards.*

**Article 8.** If, in the statistician's opinion, an errant pitch or hand-off precludes the intended receiver an opportunity to advance, or results in no gain or a loss on the play, charge the original ball han-

dlers with a rush attempt and yardage lost. An errant pitch or hand-off is one that cannot be handled with ordinary effort or impedes the normal flow of movement of the recipient.

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams' pitch to Allen, in the statistician's opinion, is errant. Allen is downed on Team B's 32. Charge Adams with a rush of minus two yards.*

*A.R. 2. Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams advances to the 26 and, in the statistician's opinion, makes an errant pitch to Allen, who is downed on the 29. Credit Adams with a rush of one yard.*

*A.R. 3. Team A's ball on its 40. On a pitchout, Adams tosses the ball behind Allen. Allen recovers the ball on Team A's 30 and advances to Team A's 34. Charge Adams with a rush of minus six yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.*

*A.R. 4. Team A's ball on its 40. On a pitchout, Adams tosses the ball to Allen, who drops it at the 35. Brown picks up the ball and advances to Team A's 30. Charge Allen with a rush of minus five yards and Team A with a fumble lost. Credit Brown with a fumble return of five yards and Team B with a fumble recovery.*

**Article 9.** If the errant pitch occurs beyond the line of scrimmage and the intended receiver advances the ball past the original ball handler's farthest advance (or gains substantial yardage up to that point), credit the recipient with a rush attempt and yardage gained.

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams advances to the 26 and, in the statistician's opinion, makes an errant pitch to Allen, who picks up the ball at the 28 and advances to the 20. Credit Allen with a rush of 10 yards.*

*A.R. 2. Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams advances to the 23 and, in the statistician's opinion, makes an errant pitch to Allen, who picks up the ball at the 29 and advances to the 24. Credit Allen with a rush of six yards.*

## SECTION 3—FORWARD PASSING

**Article 1.** Forward passing gains or losses are measured from the scrimmage line to the point where the ball is declared dead (or is recovered by opponents in the case of a fumble), so as to include both the length of pass and running advance after completion. All yards gained or lost on each completed pass play are credited to both passer and receiver. A shovel pass is considered a forward pass assuming it meets all of the criteria of a forward pass. Yards gained or lost on a shovel pass are credited to both passer and receiver.

*A.R. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams completes a pass to Allen on Team B's 30. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 10 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 10 yards.*

**Article 2.** If, after making a reception beyond the line of scrimmage, the receiver laterals the ball to a teammate, credit the receiving player with the reception and the yardage to the point where the teammate gains possession. Credit the teammate with no reception but receiving yards from the point he gains possession to where the play is terminated.

*A.R. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams completes a pass to Allen on Team B's 30. Allen then pitches the ball to Archer at Team B's 32 and Archer carries the ball to the end zone for a touchdown. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and completion of 40 yards and a touchdown by passing. Credit Allen with a reception of eight yards. Do not credit Archer with a reception but credit him with 32 yards and a touchdown by receiving.*

**Article 3.** Loss from a completed forward pass that did not advance the ball to the scrimmage line is yardage charged against passing gain.

*A.R. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams completes a pass to Allen on Team B's 42. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of minus two yards. Credit Allen with a reception of minus two yards.*

**Article 4.** Any loss by a player apparently intending to pass, but downed behind the line of scrimmage, is recorded as "Loss by Rushing." He is not a passer until he has thrown the ball, since he retains at all times the option of running. This includes players who are called for intentionally grounding a pass by charging them with a loss of yards rushing at the spot of the foul.

**Article 5.** When a deflected or batted pass by a defender is caught by the passer, credit the passer with an attempt, a completion to himself and passing yardage gained or lost. There can only be one forward pass credited per play.

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on its 40. Adams' pass attempt is batted by Team B and caught by Adams on Team A's 35, where he is downed. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion to Adams of minus five yards.*

*A.R. 2. Team A's ball on its 40. Adams' swing pass attempt (which went backward) is batted by Team B and caught by Adams. Adams then throws a completed forward pass to Allen, who gains 12 yards. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 12 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 12 yards.*

**Article 6.** Interception returns are measured from the point of interception to the point where the ball is declared dead (or is recovered by opponents in the case of a fumble).

*A.R. 1. Adams intercepts a pass on his 20, circles to his 10 and is tackled. Credit Adams with an interception of minus 10 yards.*

*A.R. 2. In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams, after circling back to his 10, advances to his 30. Credit Adams with an interception of 10 yards.*

*A.R. 3. Adams intercepts a pass in his end zone and downs the ball for a touchback. Credit Adams with an interception of zero yards.*

*A.R. 4. Team A's ball on its two-yard line. Adams' pass is deflected off Brown and caught in the air by Benton in the end zone for a touchdown. Charge Adams with a pass attempt and an interception. Credit Brown with a pass breakup. Credit Benton with an interception of zero yards and a touchdown.*

**Article 7.** There is no pass completed by penalty. A gain through interference on a passing play is a penalty against the defending team and an automatic first down if the penalty is accepted by Team A. The passer is not charged with a pass attempt and is not credited with a pass completed or yards gained, and the intended receiver (or the player interfered with) is not credited with a pass caught. The passing team is credited only with a first down by penalty. The defensive (offending) team is charged with a penalty, and the distance from the line of scrimmage to the spot of the penalty is recorded under "Yards Penalized."

**Article 8.** A major rules change in 1984 modified the penalty for defensive pass interference. On pass interference by Team B: Team A's ball at the spot of the foul and a first down if the foul occurs less than 15 yards beyond the previous spot. If the foul occurs 15 or more yards beyond the previous spot, Team A's ball, first down and a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot.

No penalty enforced from outside the two-yard line may place the ball inside the two-yard line. If the previous spot was on or inside the two-yard line, it is a first down halfway between the previous spot and the goal line. When the ball is snapped between the 17-yard line and the two-yard line and the spot of the foul is inside the two-yard line or in the end zone, the penalty shall place the ball at the two-yard line.

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. On Adams' pass attempt, Team B is charged with pass interference at Team B's 30. Since it's less than 15 yards the penalty is enforced to Team B's 30. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards (to Team B's 30) and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.*

*A.R. 2. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. On Adams' pass attempt, Team B is charged with pass interference at Team B's 20. The enforcement spot is Team B's 40. Charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards (to Team B's 25) and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.*

*A.R. 3. Team A's ball on Team B's 15. On Adams' pass attempt, Team B is charged with pass interference in the end zone. The enforcement spot is Team B's 15. Charge Team B with a penalty of 13 yards (to Team B's two-yard line) and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.*

*A.R. 4. Team A's ball on Team B's 15. On Adams' pass attempt, Team B is charged with pass interference at Team B's one-yard line. The enforcement spot is Team B's 15. Charge Team B with a penalty of 13 yards (to Team B's two-yard line) and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.*

*A.R. 5. Team A's ball on Team B's two-yard line. On Adams' pass attempt, Team B is charged with pass interference in the end zone. The enforcement spot is Team B's two-yard line. Charge Team B with a penalty of one yard (to Team B's one-yard line) and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.*

*A.R. 6. Team A's ball on Team B's 12. On Adams' pass attempt, Team B is charged with pass interference at Team B's three-yard line. The enforcement spot is Team B's 12-yard line. Charge Team B with a penalty of nine yards (to Team B's three-yard line) and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.*

**Article 9.** When a pass is completed despite an interference foul by Team B and Team A declines the penalty, record the play in the usual manner (i.e., pass attempt, completion, yards gained).

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams completes a pass to Allen, who is interfered with by Benton at Team B's 30. Allen still manages to advance to Team B's 20. Team A declines the interference penalty. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 20 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 20 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by passing.*

*A.R. 2. Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams completes a pass to Allen on the 30, sufficient for a first down. Simultaneously, Archer is interfered with inches short of the 30-yard line. Given the option, Team A declines the interference penalty. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 10 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 10 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by passing.*

**Article 10.** The passer is not charged with a pass attempt when a forward pass is ruled intentionally grounded. Credit the passer with a rush attempt and yards gained or lost to the spot of the foul. Also, do not charge the passer with a pass attempt when he deliberately throws the ball to the ground to stop the clock, but charge the team with a pass attempt. Officials are instructed to apply the principle of "reasonable opportunity" to catch the pass to intentional grounding situations. It is intentional grounding when a passer, to prevent a loss of yardage, intentionally throws a ball where no eligible offensive player has a reasonable opportunity to catch it.

*A.R. 1. Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams fades back to Team B's 28 and intentionally grounds a pass after being pressured by Benton. A loss of down is assessed against Team A from Team B's 28. Charge Adams with a rush*

attempt and minus eight yards rushing. Credit Benton with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss of eight yards. Charge Team A with a penalty for no yards.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams is back to pass but is pressured by Benton into throwing a pass that is intentionally grounded at Team B's 30. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus 10 yards rushing. Credit Benton with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss of 10 yards. Charge Team A with a penalty for no yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on its five-yard line. Adams drops back to pass, is trapped in the end zone and intentionally grounds a pass. Team B is awarded a team safety, and Team A has a free kick from its 20. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus five yards rushing. Credit Team B's player who pressured Adams with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss of five yards. Charge Team A with a penalty for no yards.

**A.R. 4.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30 with passer Adams in a shotgun formation. The center's pass is wild. Adams picks up the ball at Team B's 45 and runs to Team B's 40 where he intentionally grounds a pass. The ball is spotted at Team B's 40. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus 10 yards rushing. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost and a penalty for no yards. If a player for Team B pressured Adams into the intentional grounding after he recovered the ball, then credit that player with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss of 10 yards. However, no solo pass sack, solo tackle or solo tackle for loss can be credited if Adams fell on the ball without trying to pick it up and continue the play. A subsequent intentional grounding penalty after a wild pass/snap is an exception to Section 15.

**A.R. 5.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams drops back to pass, and Benton goes for the ball as Adams has his arm raised to throw from Team B's 48. Benton hits the ball out of Adams' hand before his arm goes forward, causing a fumble recovered by Team A on Team B's 48. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus eight yards rushing. Credit Benton with a forced fumble, a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss of eight yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 6.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams drops back to pass, and Benton comes around the backside and hits Adams on Team B's 25 before his arm goes forward, causing a fumble that is recovered by Team B on Team B's 27. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus seven yards rushing, and a fumble lost. Credit Benton with a forced fumble, a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss of seven yards.

**A.R. 7.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams drops back to pass, and Benton strips the ball from his grasp after his arm starts going forward. Since the ball was going forward, there can be no solo pass sack, no solo tackle and no solo tackle for loss. Instead, charge Adams with a pass attempt and an incompleteness. However, credit Benton with a pass breakup for his efforts in stopping the play.

**A.R. 8.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40 with time running out. Adams deliberately throws the ball to the ground at the line of scrimmage to stop the clock. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt, but charge Team A with a team pass attempt.

**Article 11.** The passer is not charged with a pass attempt on a penalty for an ineligible receiver downfield. The penalty is five yards, enforced from the previous spot.

**Article 12.** When the passer throws an illegal forward pass from beyond the line of scrimmage and the penalty is accepted (five yards from the spot of the foul and a loss of a down), do not charge him with a pass attempt. Credit him with a rush attempt and yards

gained to the spot of the foul and the team with a penalty of five yards.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams advances beyond the line of scrimmage and attempts a forward pass from Team B's 38. Team A is charged with an illegal forward pass and Team B accepts the penalty. Credit Adams with a rush of two yards. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards (and a loss of a down), to be assessed from Team B's 38 (the spot where the run ended).

**Article 13.** When the passer throws an illegal forward pass from beyond the line of scrimmage and the illegal forward pass penalty is declined, record the play in the usual manner (i.e., pass attempt, completion or interception, and yards gained, if any).

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams advances beyond the line of scrimmage and, from Team B's 38, attempts a forward pass, which is intercepted. Team B declines the penalty. Charge Adams with a pass attempt and an interception.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams advances beyond the line of scrimmage and attempts a forward pass from Team B's 38. The pass is completed to Allen, who fumbles, and Brown recovers at Team B's 20. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 20 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 20 yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**Article 14.** When the passer throws an illegal forward pass from behind the line of scrimmage (a second forward pass by Team A during the same down), charge the original passer with a pass attempt and also credit him with a completion. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards, enforced from the spot of the foul. Do not charge the second passer (either the same player, or a different player) with a pass attempt.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams attempts a forward pass that is tipped or batted by a Team B player. Adams recovers the ball in the air and attempts another forward pass from Team B's 45. Charge Adams with a pass attempt and credit him with a completion to himself for minus five yards. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards from the spot of the illegal pass. Do not credit any Team B player with a pass breakup since the original pass was completed.

**Article 15.** When offensive pass interference occurs (whether in the field of play or in Team B's end zone), do not charge the passer with an attempt. Charge Team A with a penalty of 15 yards from the previous spot.

**Article 16.** When the passer is fouled on a completed pass, the penalty is enforced from the spot at which the play ends. If the play results in a touchdown, the penalty is enforced on the subsequent kickoff. If the passer is fouled on an incomplete pass, do not charge the passer with an attempt. Team B is charged with a penalty enforced from the previous spot.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 40, second and five. Adams is fouled after completing a pass to Allen on the 50. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 10 yards. Credit Allen with a pass reception of 10 yards. Team B is charged with a penalty of 15 yards to Team B's 35. Credit Team A with two first downs, one by passing and one by penalty.

**Article 17.** Tackling or running into a receiver when a pass is obviously overthrown is a personal foul, not pass interference. The penalty is enforced 15 yards from the previous spot, and Team A is awarded a first down.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 20. Allen, the receiver, turns back toward the line of scrimmage at Team A's 40. Adams throws the ball over Allen's hands, which are extended above his head. The ball obviously is overthrown, and Brown tackles Allen while he is off the ground. Charge Team B with a pen-

alty of 15 yards from Team A's 20. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.

**Article 18.** An eligible receiver who is blocked or pushed out of bounds by an opponent may legally touch or catch a forward pass after immediately returning to the field of play.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on the 50. Pass receiver Allen is pushed out of bounds by Brown at Team B's 45, returns to the field of play and catches a pass from Adams at Team B's 40. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 10 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 10 yards.

**Article 19.** No eligible offensive receiver who goes out of bounds during a down shall touch a legal forward pass in the field of play or end zones or while airborne until it has been touched by an opponent or official. **NOTE:** This does not apply to an eligible offensive player who attempts to return inbounds immediately after being blocked out of bounds by an opponent. See Article 18 above. The penalty is loss of down at the previous spot. The passer should not be charged with an incomplete pass.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 10. Adams passes to Allen for an apparent touchdown. But Allen is ruled to have run out of bounds and returned. Charge Team A with a penalty for no yards and loss of down. Play is nullified. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.

**Article 20.** A play that results in a completed forward pass (i.e., when the passer is in or behind the neutral zone) after the ball has been carried beyond the neutral zone is charged as a penalty. The penalty is five yards from the spot of the pass and loss of down.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 10. Adams rushes to the five where, unable to advance, he turns and throws a backward pass to Allen on the 12. Allen throws a forward pass to Adler for a touchdown. Charge Team A with a seven-yard penalty and loss of down. Play is nullified. Do not charge Adams with a rush and do not charge Allen with a pass attempt.

**Article 21.** A fake field goal/punt attempt that results in the holder/punter passing the ball forward to an eligible receiver is credited as a passing play.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams kneels, apparently to hold for a place kick. On receipt of the snap, he shovel-passes the ball forward to wing back Allen, who advances for a touchdown. Credit Adams with a pass attempt, a completion of 20 yards and a touchdown by passing. Credit Allen with a reception of 20 yards and a touchdown by receiving. **Note:** If the ball is passed laterally or is handed forward, credit Allen with a rushing attempt.

**Article 22.** When an aborted rushing play occurs behind the line of scrimmage and is followed by a forward pass, score the play as a pass.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 37. Allen rushes to the 35 where, hemmed in, he attempts a lateral. However, the ball bounces free and is picked up by Adams at the 34. Adams retreats and throws a forward pass to Archer, who is downed on Team A's 31. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of minus six yards. Credit Archer with a reception of minus six yards.

## SECTION 4—LATERAL PASSING

**Article 1.** The recipient of a lateral pass (a backward pass or one that travels parallel to the line of scrimmage) is credited with the yardage he gains from the point he received the lateral, but he is not credited with an attempt, reception or return on the play.

**Exceptions:** Run-option plays (see Section 2, Article 5) and laterals or handoffs by a player making no attempt to advance a kick (see Section 8, Article 4). (See also Section 2, Article 6.)

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams advances to the 20 and laterals to Allen, who receives the ball on the 22 and scores. Credit Adams with a rush of 18 yards. Credit

Allen with no rush but with 22 yards under "Rushing" and a touchdown scored by rushing.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams passes to Allen on the 20. Allen laterals to Adler, who obtains the ball on the 21 and advances to the 15. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 15 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of nine yards. Credit Adler with no reception but with six yards under "Receiving."

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams completes a forward pass to Allen on Team B's 35. Allen laterals to Adler, who obtains the ball on the 36 and is downed on the 37. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of minus seven yards. Credit Allen with a reception of minus six yards. Credit Adler with no reception but with minus one yard under "Receiving."

**A.R. 4.** Adams receives a kick (or intercepts) on the 10, advances to the 30 and laterals to Allen, who obtains the ball on the 28 and returns to the 50. Credit Adams with a return of 18 yards. Credit Allen with no return but with 22 yards under the appropriate returns category (i.e., punt, kickoff, interception).

**Article 2.** When a player receives a backward pass beyond the line of scrimmage and in turn throws a backward pass, he is responsible for the yardage from the point he obtained the ball and the point the next player receives the ball, but neither player is credited with an attempt (see Section 4, Article 1).

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams forward passes to Allen on Team A's 40. Allen laterals to Adler on the 37. Adler laterals to Archer on the 33 and he advances to Team A's 42. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 12 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of seven yards. Credit Adler with no reception but with minus four yards under "Receiving." Credit Archer with no reception but with nine yards under "Receiving."

**Article 3.** Incomplete lateral passes, pitchouts or pitches are scored as fumbles, and yards lost (if any) are charged against the player who, in the statistician's opinion, was primarily responsible for the failure of the pass (see Section 2, Article 8).

**Article 4.** Intercepted backward passes are scored as fumbles, the offensive team being charged with the fumble lost.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams advances five yards rushing and laterals, and the ball is intercepted by Brown on Team B's 27. Brown is downed on Team B's 35. Credit Adams with a rush of three yards. Credit Brown with a fumble return of eight yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost (see B.I. 5).

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Brown, avoiding tacklers, retreats and is downed on Team B's 23. Credit Adams with a rush of three yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost. Credit Brown with a fumble return of minus four yards (see B.I. 5).

**Article 5.** A backward pass in flight shall not be deliberately batted forward by the passing team in an attempt to gain yardage.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams receives the snap from center and tosses a backward pass up to a volleyball-spiking position for Allen. Allen leaps in the air and bats the ball downfield to Team B's 10, where it is recovered by Adler. The play is nullified. Team A is penalized 15 yards from the basic spot to Team B's 45. There is no loss of down.

**Article 6.** The official statistician rules on whether a completed pass to a flanker or man-in-motion is a forward or lateral pass. If the latter, the play is recorded under rushing. If the pass is incomplete, the subsequent action of the officials reveals whether the pass was forward or lateral (officials will return the ball to the original scrimmage line only if the incomplete pass was a forward one).



## SECTION 5—TOTAL OFFENSE AND ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

**Article 1.** Total offense is the combined result of rushing and forward passing only, since these two are the only methods by which legal advance can be initiated while retaining possession of the ball.

**Article 2.** Total offense is the total of net gain rushing and net gain forward passing. Receiving and runback yards are not included in total offense.

**Article 3.** All-purpose running is the combined net yards gained by rushing, receiving, interception returns, punt returns, kickoff returns and runbacks of field goal attempts. All-purpose running does not include forward passing yardage.

## SECTION 6—PUNTS

**Article 1.** Punts are measured from the line of scrimmage to the point where the receiving team first gains or loses possession of the ball; or, if untouched by the receiving team, to the point where the ball is downed by the kicking team, is declared dead or goes out of bounds. **Exceptions:** See Section 6, Article 2 and Section 7, Article 2.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts to Brown, who receives the ball on Team B's 15 and retreats to Team B's five where he is tackled. Credit Adams with a 35-yard punt. Charge Brown with a return of minus 10 yards.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as above, Brown, after retreating to the five, returns the ball to Team B's 20. Credit Adams with a 35-yard punt. Credit Brown with a return of five yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams punts to Brown, who receives the ball on Team B's 10. Brown circles behind the goal line and is downed in the end zone. Credit Adams with a 30-yard punt. Credit Team A with a safety. Charge Brown with a return of minus 10 yards.

**Article 2.** When a punt is declared dead on or behind the goal line (a touchback), the distance of the punt is measured from the line of scrimmage to the goal line.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts into Team B's end zone, where the ball is downed by a Team A player. Credit Adams with a 50-yard punt.

**Article 3.** When there is a penalty assessed against Team B on a punt declared dead on or behind the goal line, measure the distance of the punt from the line of scrimmage to the goal line.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts into Team B's end zone for a touchback. During the play, Brown makes an illegal fair catch signal at Team B's 10. Credit Adams with a 50-yard punt.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts into Team B's end zone for a touchback, after which Team B commits a dead-ball personal foul. Credit Adams with a 50-yard punt. Charge Team B with a 10-yard penalty (from the 20-yard line, which is the succeeding spot).

**Article 4.** If there is a penalty to be assessed against Team A for illegal interference with Team B's opportunity to catch a kick while in flight, measure the distance of the punt to the point of infraction or where the ball is declared dead (if Team B declines the penalty), whichever is the shorter distance.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts and Allen interferes with Brown's opportunity to catch the kick on Team B's 10. The ball bounces back to Team B's 27 and Team B declines the penalty. Credit Adams with a 23-yard punt.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts and Allen interferes with Brown's opportunity to catch the kick on Team B's 20. The ball bounces back to Team B's 30, and Team B accepts a 15-yard penalty to the 35. Credit Adams with a 30-yard punt.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams punts and Allen interferes with Brown's opportunity to catch the kick on Team B's 20. The ball rolls to Team B's five. Team B accepts a 15-yard penalty to the 35. Credit Adams with a 30-yard punt.

**Article 5.** If there is a penalty to be assessed against the receiving team for a personal foul against the kicker (or holder for a field goal try) while the kick is in flight, a 15-yard penalty is to be assessed from the previous spot, and it is an automatic first down.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on the 50, fourth down and 14. Adams punts the ball dead on Team B's five, but Benton is called for a personal foul while the kick is in flight. Team A elects to accept the penalty. Charge Team B with a 15-yard penalty to Team B's 35 and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. Do not credit Adams with a punt.

**Article 6.** A ball loose on an unblocked punt that does not cross the line of scrimmage can be advanced by either team. The loss on the punt is minus yardage charged against punting. If a player of the kicking team recovers the ball and advances it, credit him with a rush and rushing yardage from the point of recovery. If a player of the receiving team advances the ball, credit him with a punt return and yardage from the point of recovery.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams' punt glances off his foot. He (or a teammate) picks the ball up at the 20 and advances to the 35. Charge Adams with a punt of minus 10 yards. Credit the player advancing the ball with a rush of 15 yards.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Brown picks up the ball at Team A's 20 and advances to the 10. Charge Adams with a punt of minus 10 yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards.

**Article 7.** A loss on an unblocked punt due to an improperly centered ball that prevents the punter from carrying out his assignment is recorded as a "Team" entry.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 30. In a punting situation, the center pass goes over Adams' head. Adams recovers the ball and, under duress, punts. The ball goes out of bounds at Team A's 20. Do not charge Adams with a punt. Charge Team A with a "Team" punt of minus 10 yards.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams recovers the ball and is downed on Team A's 10. Charge Team A with a "Team" rush of minus 20 yards.

**A.R. 3.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams' punt travels to Team A's 40. Charge Team A with a "Team" punt of 10 yards.

**Article 8.** When a player fumbles a properly centered ball preventing him from punting and there is a loss on the play, charge the punter with a rush and minus yardage rushing. If there is a gain on the play (measured from the line of scrimmage), credit the appropriate player with a rush. In each case, charge Team A with a fumble.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams, back to punt, fumbles. He, a teammate or an opponent recovers the ball on Team A's 28. Charge Adams with a rush of minus 12 yards. Charge Team A with a fumble and the appropriate team with the recovery.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Allen recovers on Team A's 28 and advances to the 35. Charge Adams with a rush of minus five yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 3.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Allen recovers on Team A's 28 and advances to the 45. Credit Allen with a rush of five yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 4.** Team A's ball on its five. Adams, back to punt, fumbles and falls on the ball in the end zone for a safety (or intentionally downs the ball for a safety). Charge Adams with

a rush of minus five yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 5.** Team A's ball on its 15. Adams, back to punt, retreats into the end zone for an intentional safety. Charge Team A with a Team rush of minus 15 yards.

**A.R. 6.** Team A's ball on its five. Adams, back to punt, fumbles a good snap, and the ball bounces out of the end zone for a safety. Charge Adams with a rush of minus five yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

## SECTION 7—BLOCKED PUNTS

**Article 1.** A blocked punt is recorded as a "Team" entry (except when a properly centered ball is fumbled) and not charged against the individual kicker. Also, charge one punt for zero yards to assure that the blocked punt is included under "Times Kicked" in team totals.

If the ball travels toward the kicker's goal and is recovered by the blocking team, the yardage is treated as a punt return by the player who blocked the kick. If the ball travels toward the kicker's goal and is recovered by the kicking team, the yardage is treated as a punt return by the player who blocked the kick; and the blocking team is charged with a fumble lost, except on fourth down. Remember that yardage for a blocked punt by an opponent **cannot** be a negative figure, but is listed as zero yards and the difference shall be listed as punt return yardage for the team blocking the punt. **Clarification:** Credit a blocked punt for the kicking and receiving team even if the block is inadvertent (such as a low trajectory punt striking a player on the receiving team who made no attempt to block the kick).

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on the 50. Adams' punt is blocked by Brown and recovered by Team A on its own 40. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards. Charge Team B with a fumble lost, except on fourth down.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, the ball is recovered by Brown. Charge Team A with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams' punt is blocked by Brown. Benton picks the ball up on Team A's 20 and runs for a touchdown. Charge Team A with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards. Credit Benton with no punt return but with 20 yards under "Punt Returns" and a touchdown.

**A.R. 4.** In the same situation as A.R. 3, Adams' punt is blocked by Brown, who picks the ball up on Team A's 20 and runs for a touchdown. Charge Team A with a blocked punt of no yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 30 yards and a touchdown.

**Article 2.** When a Team A punt is blocked behind the neutral zone (line of scrimmage), Team A retains the privileges it had before the blocked kick (i.e., it may kick the ball, pass the ball or advance it by rushing). If punted, measure the yardage from the point where the player punts. If passed, measure the yardage involved from the line of scrimmage. If advanced by rushing, measure the yardage from the point where Team A's player gains possession. Exception: If advanced or punted from the end zone, yardage is measured from the goal line.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams' punt is blocked by Brown and recovered by Adams on Team A's 20. Adams punts again to Team B's 40. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards. On the second punt, credit Adams with a 40-yard punt.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams picks up the ball on Team A's 20 and runs to Team A's 40 for a first down. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards

and charge Team B (the receiving team) with a fumble lost (except on fourth down). Credit Adams with a rush of 20 yards and Team A with a first down by rushing.

**A.R. 3.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams picks up the ball on Team A's 20 and throws an incomplete pass. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards and charge Team B (the receiving team) with a fumble lost (except on fourth down). Charge Adams with a pass attempt.

**A.R. 4.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams, after picking up the ball on Team A's 20, completes a pass to Allen on Team A's 40 for a first down. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of zero yards. Credit Brown with a punt return of 10 yards and charge Team B (the receiving team) with a fumble lost (except on fourth down). Credit Adams with a completion for 10 yards and Allen with a pass reception of 10 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by passing.

**Article 3.** When a punt is blocked and recovered by the kicking team beyond the neutral zone, credit that team with a punt and yardage measured from the line of scrimmage. Do not credit the player who blocked the punt or the other team with a punt return. Do credit the player with a blocked punt.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 30, fourth down and three. Adams' punt is blocked by Brown and recovered by Allen on Team A's 35. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of five yards. Do not credit Brown or Team B with a punt return.

**Article 4.** A punt that is blocked as a result of the kick striking the punter's teammate behind the line of scrimmage is treated as a "Team" punt. The ball may be advanced by the defense from any point on the field.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 20. Adams attempts a punt. Allen backs (or is pushed) into the kick, and it is recovered by Team B on Team A's five. Charge Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of minus 15 yards.

**Article 5.** Blocked punts that pass the neutral zone are recorded as blocked punts and charged to "Team" if, in the statistician's opinion, the distance of the punt is materially affected. **Note:** There is no minimum or maximum yardage in determining a blocked or not blocked punt. The official statistician may take into account the trajectory of the ball and how the outcome of the play was affected by the contact on the ball by the defensive player.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 30, fourth down and three. Adams' punt is contacted by Brown, but the ball continues a significant distance in the air, then rolls toward Team B's goal before being downed on Team B's 45-yard line. The official statistician determines that the block did not "materially affect" the distance of the punt and/or the outcome of the play and therefore credits Adams with a 25-yard punt, and no blocked punt is credited.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on its 30, fourth down and three. Adams' punt is contacted by Brown. The ball then lands just beyond the line of scrimmage and continues to bounce toward Team B's goal before being downed on Team B's 45-yard line. The official statistician determines that the block did "materially affect" the distance of the punt and/or the outcome of the play and credits Team A (not Adams) with a blocked punt of 25 yards. Give Brown credit for the block, but do not credit Brown or Team B with a punt return.

## SECTION 8—KICK RETURNS

**Article 1.** Only the number of punts and kickoffs that the receiving team attempts to return are included under "Kick Returns." **Exception:** Blocked kicks that travel toward the kicker's goal (see Section 7, Article 1).

**A.R. 1.** Team A kicks off and is offside. Team A is penalized five yards and kicks off again from its 30. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards.

**A.R. 2.** Team A kicks off and is offside. Baker receives the ball at Team B's 10 and returns it to Team B's 30. Team B elects to have the penalty assessed from the end of its return. Credit Baker with a return of 20 yards. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A kicks off and is offside. Baker receives the ball at Team B's 10 and returns it to Team B's 15. Team B elects to have the penalty assessed from the previous spot. Team A kicks off again from its 30. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards. Do not credit Baker with a return.

**A.R. 4.** Team A kicks off from its 35. The ball travels between Team A's 45-yard line and Team B's one-yard line and goes out of bounds before touching any member of Team B. Team B has these options: accepting a five-yard penalty from the previous spot with Team A kicking from its 30-yard line; putting the ball in play at Team B's 35-yard line; or accepting a five-yard penalty from the spot where the ball went out of bounds. There is no penalty assessed if Team B elects to put the ball in play at its 35-yard line. No return is recorded in any of these options.

**A.R. 5.** On a kickoff, a Team B player falls on the ball without attempting a return. Do not charge the player with a kickoff return. However, if he fumbles or does make a clear attempt to return, then credit the player with an attempt and yardage gained or lost.

**A.R. 6.** There is no credit on any kickoff recovered by the kicking team beyond the receiving team's restraining line. Do not charge a fumble unless the kick has been touched by a member of the receiving team.

**A.R. 7.** Do not credit a player with a kickoff return when he catches the ball in the end zone and grounds it. If he fumbles it and recovers it himself in the end zone, do not charge him with a fumble and recovery. The ball is still in-play until it is grounded.

**Article 2.** Returns are measured from the point where the returning player first gained or lost possession of the ball (using the back foot as a starting point) to the point where the ball is declared dead or is lost by a fumble. **Note:** A muff is an unsuccessful attempt to catch or recover a ball that is touched in the attempt. **Exception:** On kickoffs that go over the goal line, the return is measured from the goal line to the point where the ball is declared dead.

**A.R.** Adams muffs the kickoff at the 10 and the ball rolls forward 18 yards to the 28-yard line where it is recovered by Brown. Charge Adams with a return of 18 yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**Article 3.** A player making a fair catch is not charged with a return unless he muffs the kick or punt, in which case he is credited with a return and the team is charged with a fumble. At the discretion of the official statistician, a player will not be charged with a punt return if he does not signal for a fair catch but makes no effort to advance the ball, or the player is tackled by the kicking team without allowing the returner an unimpeded opportunity to field the kick.

**A.R. 1.** Adams signals for a fair catch on his 30, muffs the ball and it rolls to his 20 where it is recovered by Brown. Charge Adams with a return of minus 10 yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**A.R. 2.** Adams signals for a fair catch at his 30, muffs the ball, is hit by Brown and then recovers the ball at his 28. Charge Adams with a return of minus two yards and charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams punts. Brown signals for a fair catch at Team B's 32, then Benton blocks Allen above the waist at Team B's 35. Brown receives the punt on his 32 and advances to the 34. Credit Adams with a 38-yard punt. Do not credit Brown with a punt return, since he cannot

advance the ball on a fair catch. Charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards (to be enforced from Team B's 35).

**A.R. 4.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams punts. Brown does not signal for a fair catch because he is having difficulty catching the ball. He finally catches the punt near the sideline and goes out of bounds at his 25. Do not credit Brown with a punt return if it is determined he made no effort to advance the ball.

**A.R. 5.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams punts. Brown does not signal for a fair catch but is tackled by Allen, who does not allow Brown an unimpeded opportunity to field the kick. Do not give Brown a return but record penalty yardage for Team A from the spot of the foul.

**A.R. 6.** Adams punts. Brown does not signal for a fair catch, but Bailey is blocked into him by Arlen, resulting in a muff (Brown never gained possession of the ball). The ball is recovered by Brown for no gain. The officials did not signal a penalty for impeding Brown's opportunity to catch the ball. Since Brown was not able to advance the ball, do not charge a return, but record the play as a fumble not lost by Team B.

**Article 4.** On a multiplayer kick return exchange when there is no attempt by the first player (or the second if more than two are involved) to advance the kick (even though there may be an advance in order to effect a handoff or a lateral), credit the last player handling the ball with the return and yardage, unless the return results in a loss of yardage (see Articles 5 and 6). Compute his yardage from the point where the receiving team first gained possession.

**A.R. 1.** Adams receives the kick on the goal line, and advances to the five only in an effort to hand off to Allen. Allen laterals to Adler on the three, who returns to the 25. Do not credit either Adams or Allen with a return or return yardage. Credit Adler with a return of 25 yards.

**A.R. 2.** Adams receives the kick on the 15, makes no attempt to advance, but laterals to Allen on the 10, who returns to the 25. Do not credit Adams with a return. Credit Allen with a return of 10 yards.

**A.R. 3.** Adams receives the kick on the 15, runs laterally and hands off to Allen on the 13, who returns to the 25. Do not credit Adams with a return. Credit Allen with a return of 10 yards.

**Article 5.** When a player advances a kick, laterals and a loss of yardage occurs on the play (determined from the point of the original possession), credit the first returner with the return and minus yardage.

**A.R.** Adams receives the kickoff on the 10, advances to the 12 and laterals to Allen on the seven. Allen is tackled on the eight. Credit Adams with a return of minus two yards. Do not credit Allen with a return or yardage.

**Article 6.** When, after a lateral, the second player contributes to an additional loss of yardage on the return, credit him with no return and minus yardage.

**A.R.** Adams receives the kickoff on the 10, advances to the 12 and laterals to Allen on the seven. Allen retreats and is tackled on the four. Credit Adams with a return of minus three yards. Credit Allen with no return of minus three yards.

**Article 7.** When a player on the receiving team, who is trying to gain possession, muffs or touches a punt, credit him with a return and yardage gained or lost from the point where the ball was first touched. Charge the player with a fumble. Measure the distance of the punt to that point, not to the point of ultimate recovery by either team.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 30. Brown misjudges Adams' punt at Team B's 30. The ball grazes his fingertips and rolls to the 20, where Allen recovers. Charge Brown with a punt

return of minus 10 yards. Credit Adams with a 40-yard punt. Charge Team B with a fumble lost.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 45. Brown tries to catch Adams' punt on Team B's 10, and the ball bounces off (or through) his hands and is recovered by Allen in the end zone for a touchdown. Credit Adams with a 35-yard punt. Charge Brown with a punt return of minus 10 yards. Credit Allen with a touchdown scored on a fumble recovery. Charge Team B with a fumble lost.

**Article 8.** When the ball touches a player on the receiving team who is not trying to gain possession, charge a "Team" return for yardage gained or lost from the point where the ball first touched the player. Charge the receiving team with a fumble.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams' punt bounces at Team B's 25 where it strikes the leg of Brown, who is trying to avoid the ball. The ball then rolls to the 20, where it is recovered by Allen. Credit Adams with a 35-yard punt. Charge Team B with a "Team" punt return of minus five yards and a fumble lost. Credit Allen with a fumble recovery.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Benton picks up the ball at the 20 and advances to the 24. Credit Adams with a 35-yard punt. Charge Team B with a "Team" punt return of minus five yards and a fumble not lost. Credit Benton with no punt return but with four yards under "Punt Returns."

**Article 9.** When an onside kickoff (including "squib" kicks or "pooch" kicks) that has traveled at least 10 yards strikes a player on the receiving team (who may or may not be trying to gain possession), charge a "Team" return for yardage gained or lost (if any) from the point where the ball first touched the player if the kicking team recovers the kick. Charge the receiving team with a fumble lost. When an onside kickoff (including "squib" kicks or "pooch" kicks) that has traveled at least 10 yards strikes a player on the kicking team before striking any member of the receiving team and is recovered by the kicking team, this is a point of possession only. Do not charge a fumble, fumble recovery, kick return or kick return yardage to either team. The ball is dead as soon as it is caught or recovered by the kicking team. Do not charge the player OR THE TEAM with a kickoff return.

**A.R.** Team A attempts an onside kickoff. The ball goes into the air, hits Brown's outstretched hands at the 50, bounces off two of Team A's players and, after a scramble, Brown recovers the ball at the 50. Charge Team B a return for no yards and a fumble not lost.

**Article 10.** When a player receives a kickoff and muffs it or touches it and it goes into the end zone, he retains the option of downing it for a touchback or returning the kickoff.

**A.R. 1.** Adams muffs the kickoff at Team A's two-yard line, and the ball rolls into the end zone. Adams gains possession in the end zone and downs the ball for a touchback; therefore, he is not charged with a return.

**A.R. 2.** In the identical situation to A.R. 1, Adams attempts to return the ball by breaking the plane of the goal line and is tackled at the four-yard line. Give Adams a return of two yards, measured from the two-yard line, where he first muffed the ball.

**A.R. 3.** In the identical situation to A.R. 2, Adams attempts to return the ball by breaking the plane of the goal line, but changes his mind and tries to stay in the end zone. Charge Adams with a return of zero yards and award a safety to Team B.

**A.R. 4.** Adams muffs the kickoff at Team A's three-yard line, finally picks it up at the one-yard line with his back foot on the goal line and returns it for a touchdown. Credit Adams with a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, measured from the three-yard line, where he first muffed the ball.

**Article 11.** When a foul occurs behind the point where the kick return began, do not credit the returner with a return or return

yardage unless the returner retreats to the point where the penalty occurred.

**A.R. 1.** Brown fields a punt on Team B's 40 and advances to the 50, but a clipping foul occurs on Team B's 35. Do not credit Brown with a punt return or punt return yardage. Charge Team B with a penalty of 20 yards.

**A.R. 2.** Brown fields a punt on Team B's 40 and, in an effort to avoid tacklers, retreats to Team B's 35 before advancing to the 50. During the retreat, however, holding was called on the return team and the penalty is assessed from Team B's 37. Credit Brown with a punt return of minus three yards. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards.

**Article 12.** A kickoff untouched by the receiving team before striking the ground on or behind the goal line is a dead ball when it touches the ground in the end zone if it has not touched a member of the receiving team. The play is a touchback. However, if the ball touches a player of the receiving team, it is not a touchback in the end zone until it is downed by the receiving team.

**A.R.** Team A kicks off to Team B with a low line-drive kick that hits at the 10-yard line and goes into the end zone. It does not touch any member of the receiving team before going into the end zone, where it comes to rest. No Team B player attempts to down, recover or advance the ball, and a Team A player falls on the ball in the end zone. The play is a touchback, and Team B puts the ball in play at the 25-yard line.

## SECTION 9—FREE KICKS

Free kicks are recorded as kickoffs, regardless of whether they are made from placement or punted. The receiver is credited with a kickoff return in all cases.

## SECTION 10—FIELD GOALS

**Article 1.** Field goal attempts are measured from the spot where the ball is kicked to the goal posts (to the goal line plus 10 yards, since the posts are 10 yards behind the goal line). The spot of the attempt is dictated by the same principle as used in determining the line of scrimmage (see B.I. 2). Example: If any part of the ball when kicked rests on or above any yard stripe, credit distance from that yard line. If all of the ball rests between yard stripes, credit distance from the yard line nearest the intended goal.

**Article 2.** The distance of all successful and unsuccessful field goal attempts are recorded under "Individual Statistics Page" in the Stat Crew software. This information is provided in the XML file sent to the national office.

**Article 3.** The kicker is not charged with a field goal attempt if he does not actually kick (e.g., if it is due to a bad pass from center or if the player holding the ball muffs or juggles it long enough to prevent an opportunity to kick). Such an unsuccessful attempt is charged to "Team" rather than to the kicker. However, if the ball is momentarily fumbled and then kicked, an attempt is charged to the kicker, regardless of the success or failure of the effort.

**Article 4.** The kicker is charged with a field goal attempt that is blocked. **Exception:** If, in the judgment of the statistician, an error in the center snap or placement of the ball by the holder is the direct cause of a blocked attempt, the kicker shall not be charged with an attempt. Such an unsuccessful attempt is charged to "Team" rather than to the kicker.

**Article 5.** Any time a kicked ball is touched by the defending team and the kick is missed, credit the player getting the touch with a blocked field goal attempt (even if the kicked ball advances beyond the line of scrimmage).

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. On Adams' field goal attempt, Brown gets his hand on the ball but the kick advances toward the goal post and ends up wide right. Charge Adams with a missed field goal attempt and credit Brown with a blocked field goal.

**Article 6.** When a bad pass from center occurs or the player holding the ball muffs or juggles it long enough to prevent the kicker from making an attempt and a loss occurs on the play, charge “Team” with a rush and minus yardage. If the ball is advanced beyond the line of scrimmage, credit the ball carrier with a rush and yardage.

*A.R. 1. Team A’s ball on Team B’s 20. On Adams’ field goal attempt, the ball holder fumbles and Adams falls on the ball on the 30. Do not charge Adams with a field goal attempt. Charge Team A with a rush of minus 10 yards and a fumble not lost.*

*A.R. 2. In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams recovers the ball at the 30 and advances to the 25. Do not charge Adams with a field goal attempt or a rush. Charge Team A with a rush of minus five yards and a fumble not lost.*

*A.R. 3. In the same situation as A.R. 1, Adams recovers the fumble at the 30 and advances to the 15. Credit Adams with a rush of five yards and charge Team A with a fumble not lost.*

**Article 7.** Because of its effect on a team’s net punting average, the return by an opposing player of an attempted field goal that is blocked or falls short is not recorded as a punt return.

*A.R. 1. Team A’s ball on Team B’s 20. Adams attempts a field goal from the 27, and it is blocked by Brown. Benton picks up the ball on the 30 and advances to Team B’s 45. Credit Brown with 10 yards and Benton with 15 yards of miscellaneous yardage.*

*A.R. 2. Team A’s ball on Team B’s 20. On third down, Team A attempts a field goal that is blocked by Team B and recovered by Team A at Team B’s 25. The loss of five yards between the previous line of scrimmage and the new one is miscellaneous yardage lost.*

**Article 8.** When a field goal attempt is blocked behind the line of scrimmage, Team A retains the privileges it had before the blocked kick (i.e., Team A may kick, pass or advance the ball by rushing, as in the case of a blocked punt). (See Section 7, Article 2 and A.R.s 1-4.)

*A.R. Team A’s ball on Team B’s 20. Adams attempts a field goal from the 27 and it is blocked by Brown. Ahearn, the holder, recovers the ball and attempts a pass, which falls incomplete. Charge Adams with a field goal attempt and credit Brown with a blocked field goal. Charge Ahearn with a pass attempt.*

## SECTION 11—EXTRA POINTS

In 1988, the NCAA Football Rules Committee adopted a rule that gives the defensive team an opportunity to score two points on point-after-touchdown tries. The two points will be awarded to the defensive team for returning an interception [or an opponent’s fumble (see B.I. 5)] for a touchdown or for advancing a blocked extra-point kick attempt for a touchdown.

The rules committee instructed the NCAA statistics service to record defensive extra-points attempted and made (in addition to offensive extra points) for purposes of recording trends. Accordingly, the football statistics report forms for the Football Bowl Subdivision, Football Championship Subdivision, Division II and Division III were revised to include separate categories for “Offensive Extra Points” and “Defensive Extra Points.” The recording of offensive extra points is unchanged, however.

### OFFENSIVE EXTRA POINTS

**Article 1.** The kicker is not charged with an extra-point attempt if he does not actually kick (e.g., if it is due to a bad pass from center or if the player holding the ball muffs or juggles it long enough to prevent an opportunity to kick). Such an unsuccessful attempt is charged to “Team” rather than to the kicker. However, if the ball is

momentarily fumbled and then kicked, an attempt is charged to the kicker, regardless of the success or failure of the effort.

**Article 2.** The kicker is charged with an extra-point attempt that is blocked. **Exception:** If, in the judgment of the statistician, an error in the center snap or placement of the ball by the holder is the direct cause of a blocked attempt, the kicker shall not be charged with an attempt. Such an unsuccessful attempt is charged to “Team” rather than to the kicker.

**Article 3.** A player is not charged with an attempt when, after an error in the center snap or placement of the ball, he attempts an unsuccessful two-point try. Rather, charge a “Team” attempt by kicking.

*A.R. 1. On a kick attempt, the snap from center bounces past Adams. Adams recovers the ball and throws an incomplete forward pass. Charge Team A with a “Team” attempt by kicking.*

*A.R. 2. On a kick attempt, the kick is blocked, and Adams, the holder, recovers and throws an incomplete forward pass attempting to complete a two-point conversion. Allen, the kicker, is charged with an unsuccessful kick attempt.*

*A.R. 3. On a kick attempt, the kick is blocked, and Adams, the holder, recovers and throws a complete pass for a two-point conversion. Allen, the kicker, is not charged with a kick attempt, but Adams gets credit for a successful conversion attempt. Ames, the receiver, is credited under “Scoring” with the conversion and the points scored.*

*A.R. 4. On a kick attempt, the kick is blocked and Adams, the holder, picks up the ball and attempts to run into the end zone for a two-point conversion but is stopped short. Charge Allen, the kicker, with a kick attempt.*

*A.R. 5. On a kick attempt, the kick is blocked, and Adams, the holder, picks up the ball and runs it into the end zone for a two-point conversion. Allen, the kicker, is not charged with a kick attempt, but Adams gets credit for a successful conversion attempt and is credited under “Scoring” with the points scored.*

**Article 4.** The extra point is attempted while time is out and is not to be recorded as a play from scrimmage (i.e., rush, pass, interception or kick). **Exception: Penalties against Team A and Team B are recorded.**

*A.R. 1. When the extra-point attempt is by forward passing, the passer is charged with the attempt (under “Scoring”), whether successful or not. If successful, the receiver is credited under “Scoring” with the conversion and the points scored, and the passer is credited with a conversion under “Forward Passing.” A conversion effort by passing is recorded as a “PAT Attempt” and is not recorded as a pass reception.*

*A.R. 2. When the extra-point attempt is by rushing, the ball carrier is charged with a “PAT Attempt” and is credited with the points, if successful. He is not charged with a rushing attempt and is not credited with yards gained. When such an attempt is unsuccessful, the ball carrier is charged with the PAT attempt only.*

*A.R. 3. Team A’s extra-point attempt is unsuccessful. Team B is offside, and the ball is moved from the three- to the one-and-one-half-yard line (half the distance to the goal) for another attempt. Charge Team B with a penalty of two yards.*

*A.R. 4. Team A’s extra-point attempt is successful, but Team A is offside. The ball is moved from the three- to the eight-yard line for another attempt. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards.*

*A.R. 5. Team A’s extra-point attempt is successful, but Team B is called for unsportsmanlike conduct. On the ensuing kickoff, Team A kicks off from its 50-yard line instead of its 35. Charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards.*

## DEFENSIVE EXTRA POINTS

There are two defensive extra-point categories: (a) Interceptions—An opponent's two-point pass attempt intercepted and made (i.e., returned for a touchdown), and including an opponent's fumble on an extra-point attempt (see B.I. 5); and (b) Kick Returns—An opponent's extra-point kick attempt that is blocked or returned and made (i.e., advanced for a touchdown).

A defensive extra-point attempt is to be credited only when a defensive player has gained possession. However, the defensive player is not to be credited with a play (only an attempt) or any yardage as is the case in offensive extra-point attempts.

**Article 1.** Defensive extra-point interceptions (and fumble returns).

**A.R. 1.** *Brown intercepts Adams' extra-point pass attempt in the end zone and returns it for a touchdown. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point interception attempt and attempt made, and with two points scored. Do not credit Brown with an interception of 100 yards, but indicate the yardage in the "Scoring Summary" and the play-by-play. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point pass attempt only.*

**A.R. 2.** *Brown intercepts Adams' extra-point pass attempt in the end zone and downs the ball. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point interception attempt only. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point pass attempt only.*

**A.R. 3.** *Brown, instead of intercepting Adams' extra-point pass attempt in the end zone, knocks the ball to the ground. Do not credit Brown with a defensive extra-point interception attempt, as he did not have possession. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point pass attempt only.*

**A.R. 4.** *Brown intercepts Adams' extra-point pass attempt in the end zone and returns to Team B's 30, where he is downed. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point interception attempt only. Do not credit Brown with an interception of 30 yards, but indicate the yardage in the "Scoring Summary" and the play-by-play. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point pass attempt only.*

**A.R. 5.** *Brown intercepts Adams' extra-point pass attempt in the end zone and returns to Team B's 20, where he laterals to Benton. Benton then advances to Team B's 30, where he is downed. Credit only Brown with a defensive extra-point interception attempt. Do not credit either Brown or Benton with yardage nor credit Benton with an attempt. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point pass attempt only.*

**A.R. 6.** *Adams attempts a run on an extra-point attempt and fumbles. Brown recovers the ball at Team B's two-yard line and returns it for a two-point touchdown. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point interception attempt and attempt made, and with two points scored. Do not credit Brown with interception yardage of 98 yards, but indicate the yardage in the "Scoring Summary" and the play-by-play. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point run attempt only.*

**Article 2.** Defensive extra-point kick returns.

**A.R. 1.** *Adams attempts an extra-point kick. Brown blocks the kick, recovers the ball at Team B's 10 and advances for a two-point touchdown. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point kick return attempt and attempt made, and with two points scored. Do not credit Brown with blocked kick (punt return) yardage of 90 yards, but indicate the yardage in the "Scoring Summary" and the play-by-play. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point kick attempt.*

**A.R. 2.** *Adams attempts an extra-point kick. Brown blocks the kick at Team B's seven-yard line, and Benton recovers at Team B's 15 and advances for a two-point touchdown. Credit Benton with a defensive extra-point kick return attempt and attempt made, and with two points scored. Do not credit Benton with blocked kick (punt return) yardage of 85 yards,*

*but indicate the yardage in the "Scoring Summary" and the play-by-play. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point kick attempt.*

**A.R. 3.** *Adams attempts an extra-point kick. Brown blocks the kick at Team B's 10 and falls on the ball at Team B's 15. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point kick return attempt. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point kick attempt.*

**A.R. 4.** *Adams attempts an extra-point kick. Brown blocks the kick at Team B's 10, and Benton falls on the ball at Team B's 15. Credit Benton (who gained possession) with a defensive extra-point kick return attempt. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point kick attempt.*

**A.R. 5.** *Adams' extra-point kick attempt is shanked. Brown catches the ball in the air in the end zone and returns it for a two-point touchdown. Credit Brown with a defensive extra-point kick return attempt and attempt made, and with two points scored. Do not credit Brown with kick return (punt return) yardage of 100 yards, but indicate the yardage in the "Scoring Summary" and the play-by-play. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point kick attempt.*

**A.R. 6.** *Adams' extra-point kick attempt is blocked and strikes the ground in the end zone. Brown picks up the ball and advances it. The ball is dead when it strikes the ground in the end zone. Therefore, do not credit Brown with a defensive extra-point kick return attempt. Charge Adams with an offensive extra-point attempt.*

## SECTION 12—SAFETIES

Starting in 2014, defensive players can be credited for the points when a safety is scored by the following plays:

- (a) Defensive player tackles an opponent behind the opponent's goal line.

**A.R. 1.** *Team A's ball on its 1. Adams is tackled in the endzone by Allen. Adams is charged with a rush attempt and with a yardage loss from the line of scrimmage to the goal line. Allen is credited with the solo sack or tackle for loss and two points for the safety.*

- (b) Defensive player causes an opponent to step out of bounds behind the opponent's goal line.

**A.R. 2.** *Team A's ball on its 1. Adams is forced out of the endzone by Allen. Adams is charged with a rush attempt and with a yardage loss from the line of scrimmage to the goal line. Allen is credited with the solo sack or tackle for loss and two points for the safety.*

- (c) Defensive player blocks a kick or deflects a backward pass and the ball goes out of the end zone behind the opponent's goal line.

**A.R. 3.** *Team A's ball on its 10. Adams' punt is blocked by Allen and the ball rolls out of Team B's endzone. Credit Allen with the safety.*

The team benefiting from the scores for all other safeties will be credited with the TEAM safety.

**A.R. 1.** *Team A's ball on its 1. Adams is tackled in the endzone by Allen and Brown. Adams is charged with a rush attempt and with a yardage loss from the line of scrimmage to the goal line. Allen and Brown are credited with an assisted sack or tackle for loss and the two points are credited to Team B.*

**A.R. 2.** *Team A's ball on its 1. Adams drops back to pass and a flag is thrown. Team A is called for holding in the end zone, which is also a safety. Team A is credited with a penalty and the loss of yards due to the penalty. Two points are credited to Team B.*

## SECTION 13—FUMBLES

**Article 1.** A fumble is an act that results in an individual's loss of possession of the ball or his failure to handle a ball that has been properly centered or handed to him. **Exceptions:** No fumble should be charged (a) on a momentary bobble of the ball at the point of reception if, in the statistician's judgment, the bobble had no effect on the continuing action, or (b) on a point-after-touchdown try. A fumble also is charged in certain instances in which a player muffs (or is touched by) a ball punted to him (see Section 8, Articles 7 and 8) and on blocked punts (see Section 7, Article 1). On any play terminated by a fumble, the yards involved to the point of recovery are credited to the player who fumbled, regardless of which team recovers the fumble.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams runs to the 25 and fumbles, and Brown recovers at the 24. Credit Adams with a rush of six yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, Allen recovers the fumble at Team B's 32. Charge Adams with a rush of minus two yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**Article 2.** An offensive fumble advanced by a teammate from beyond the line of scrimmage is recorded in the category of the originating play, and the yardage is measured from the point of recovery of the fumble.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams runs to the 15 and fumbles. Allen recovers the ball at the 15 and gains an additional 10 yards. Credit Adams with a rush of five yards. Credit Allen with no rush but with 10 yards under "Rushing." Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams runs to the 15 and fumbles. Allen recovers the ball at the 17 and runs to the 10. Credit Adams with a rush of three yards. Credit Allen with no rush but with seven yards under "Rushing." Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams runs to the five and fumbles, and the ball rolls into the end zone where Allen recovers for a touchdown. Credit Adams with a rush of 20 yards. Credit Allen with no rush and zero yards. Do credit Allen with a touchdown by rushing. Credit Team A with a touchdown by rushing and with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 4.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams completes a pass to Allen, who fumbles at the 10. The ball rolls into the end zone, where Adler recovers for a touchdown. Credit Adams with a pass attempt, a completion of 20 yards and a touchdown pass. Credit Allen with a reception of 20 yards. Credit Adler with no reception and zero yards, but with a touchdown by receiving. Credit Team A with a touchdown by passing and with a fumble not lost.

**Article 3.** An offensive fumble recovered by a teammate on or behind the line of scrimmage is recorded as follows:

- (a) If advanced beyond the line of scrimmage, charge the player who fumbled with a rush. Credit the teammate with no rush but with yardage, determined from the line of scrimmage.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams fumbles at the 26. Allen recovers at the 25 and advances for a touchdown. Charge Adams with a rush of zero yards. Credit Allen with no rush but with 20 yards under "Rushing" and a touchdown. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

- (b) If the play results in no gain or a loss, charge the player who fumbled with a rush and minus yardage, if any.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams fumbles at the 26. Allen recovers at the 25 and advances to the 22. Charge Adams with a rush of minus two yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

- (c) If the play results in a loss and the teammate contributes to an additional loss, also charge the latter with minus yardage, but with no rush.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams fumbles at the 26. Allen recovers the ball at the 27, retreats and is tackled at the 30. Charge Adams with a rush of minus seven yards. Charge Allen with no rush but with minus three yards under "Rushing." Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**Article 4.** According to separate rulings (1992 and 1998), any offensive fumble or backward pass either behind or beyond the line of scrimmage recovered by the defensive team may be advanced. Previously, only fumbles or backward passes recovered beyond the line of scrimmage could be returned by the defense. Record only those fumbles and backward passes returned for yardage and not just fallen on by the player.

**Article 5.** A fumble that occurs near the sidelines, whether it appears intentional (for the purpose of getting the ball out of bounds to stop the clock), is recorded as a fumble.

**Article 6.** When two players apparently contribute equally to a fumble and there is a resultant gain or loss of yardage, the player who, in the statistician's judgment, was in possession of the ball at the time of the fumble is credited with the gain or charged with the loss.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. During an attempted handoff from Adams to Allen, the ball is fumbled and recovered by Team A on the 50. Charge Adams or Allen (based on the statistician's judgment) with a rush of minus 10 yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 2.** In the same situation as A.R. 1, the ball is recovered by Team A on Team B's 35. Credit Adams or Allen (based on the statistician's judgment) with a rush of five yards. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**Article 7.** An intercepted fumble or backward pass recovery is charged against the team as a fumble lost (see B.I. 5). Record an intercepted fumble recovery return just like any fumble return with yardage involved in the return.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams runs to the 15 and fumbles. Brown recovers the ball in midair at the 13 and returns to Team B's 20. Credit Adams with a rush of seven yards. Credit Brown with a fumble return of seven yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 20. Adams hits into the line and fumbles. Brown recovers the ball in midair at the 23 and runs for a touchdown. Charge Adams with a rush of minus three yards. Credit Brown with a fumble return touchdown of 77 yards. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**Article 8.** An offensive fumble on fourth down recovered by the opponent is recorded as a fumble lost.

**Article 9.** When, after an offensive fumble behind the line of scrimmage, a defensive player unintentionally kicks or bats the ball in an attempt to obtain possession, charge the player who fumbled with a rush and yardage to the point where the ball was kicked or batted. Charge the team with no rush and yardage to the point where the ball was recovered.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams fumbles at Team A's 35, and Brown unintentionally kicks the ball in an attempt to obtain possession. Benton recovers the ball at Team A's 25. Charge Adams with a rush of minus five yards. Charge Team A with no rush but with minus 10 yards under "Rushing" and a fumble lost.

## SECTION 14—PENALTIES

The following are the basic spots in enforcement of penalties that occur during a running play. A running play is defined as the action in the interval between the snap and the time that the ball is kicked or a forward pass is thrown; and the action after a kick has come into possession and action after a legal pass has been completed or intercepted.

- (a) The basic enforcement spot for fouls in the field of play or in the end zone on a running play is where the run ends beyond the line of scrimmage. If the foul is by the team in possession and it occurs behind the spot where the run ends and as long as it is beyond the previous spot, the enforcement is from the spot of the foul.
- (b) The previous spot is the basic enforcement spot when the run ends behind the line of scrimmage before a change of possession.
- (c) This includes clipping, illegal use of hands and holding fouls when the play ends behind the line of scrimmage (whether the play was a run, pass or kick).

**Article 1.** When yardage gained by rushing, passing or runbacks is involved with penalty yardage to be assessed, the point at which the official declares the run ends determines the point of legal advance. It also determines where a run begins (e.g., when Team B catches a fumble in the air and returns it). If the foul is by Team A and occurs behind the spot where the run ends, the enforcement is from the spot of the foul as long as it is beyond the previous spot [see (a) above].

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams rushes for 15 yards to Team B's 25. A clipping penalty is called against Team A on Team B's 30. The enforcement spot is the 30, and Team A is penalized 15 yards to Team B's 45. Credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards and charge Team A with a penalty of 15 yards.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 30. Adams rushes for 10 yards to Team B's 20. A clipping penalty is called against Team A on Team B's 15. The enforcement spot is the 20 (where the run ended), and Team A is penalized 15 yards to Team B's 35. Credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards and charge Team A with a penalty of 15 yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on its 30. Adams rushes for 20 yards to the 50. A clipping penalty is called against Team A on Team A's 47. The enforcement spot is the 47 (where the foul occurred), and Team A is penalized 15 yards to its 32. Credit Adams with a rush of 17 yards and charge Team A with a penalty of 15 yards. This accounts for the forward movement of the ball by a net of two yards.

**Note:** When a penalty occurs within the framework of a play and there is both yardage gained and penalty yardage assessed, the play is recorded in order to account for the change in ball position. Do not be confused by the fact that the down does not change in the above circumstances unless the net yardage of the play and the penalty exceeds that needed for a first down.

**Article 2.** Penalties against the defense on running plays when the run ends beyond the line of scrimmage are enforced from the spot where the run ends.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams rushes to the 45, and Brown holds at Team A's 43. The enforcement spot is the 45. Credit Adams with a rush of five yards and charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams rushes for five yards, and Brown holds at Team A's 37. The enforcement spot is the 45. Credit Adams with a rush of five yards and charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams rushes for three yards, and Brown holds at Team A's 44. The enforcement spot is the 43. Credit Adams with a rush of three yards and charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards.

**Article 3.** Penalties against the defense on running plays when the run ends at or behind the line of scrimmage are enforced from the previous spot. The play is nullified. Do not charge the ball carrier with a rush.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams loses two yards rushing. Brown holds at Team A's 37. The enforcement spot

is the 40. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards. Do not charge Adams with a rush.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams loses five yards rushing, and Brown holds at Team A's 37. The enforcement spot is the 40. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards. Do not charge Adams with a rush.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams rushes for no gain, and Brown holds at Team A's 43. The enforcement spot is the 40. Do not charge Adams with a rush. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards.

**Article 4.** The basic enforcement spot for a 15-yard roughing-the-passer foul on a completed forward pass is from the end of the last run when the run ends beyond the line of scrimmage. It also is an automatic first down (see Section 1, Articles 2 and 6).

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on Team B's 45, second down and eight yards to go. Adams completes a pass to Allen, who runs to Team B's 30. A roughing-the-passer foul is called against Team B. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 15 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 15 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by passing and a first down by penalty. Charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards to Team B's 15.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on Team B's 45, second down and eight yards to go. Adams completes a pass to Allen, who runs to Team B's 10. A roughing-the-passer foul is called against Team B. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 35 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of 35 yards. Credit Team A with a first down by passing and a first down by penalty. Charge Team B with a penalty of five yards (half the distance to the goal line from Team B's 10).

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball on Team B's 25, second down and eight yards to go. Adams completes a pass to Allen in the end zone for a touchdown. A roughing-the-passer foul is called against Team B. Credit Adams with a pass attempt, a completion of 25 yards and a touchdown passing. Credit Allen with a reception of 25 yards and a touchdown receiving. Credit Team A with a first down by passing and a first down by penalty. Charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards, which will be enforced on the ensuing kickoff.

**A.R. 4.** Team A's ball on Team B's 45, second down and eight yards to go. Adams completes a pass to Allen on Team B's 40. Allen runs to Team B's 35 and throws a lateral pass to Archer on Team B's 39, and Archer runs to Team B's 30. A roughing-the-passer foul is called against Team B. Credit Adams with a pass attempt and a completion of 15 yards. Credit Allen with a reception of six yards and Archer with no reception but with nine yards under "Receiving." Credit Team A with a first down by passing and a first down by penalty. Charge Team B with a penalty of 15 yards, which will be enforced from Team B's 30 (the end of the last run).

**Article 5.** A penalty on a foul by Team A behind the neutral zone (when the run ends behind the line of scrimmage) is enforced from the previous spot, including holding behind the neutral zone, which is penalized 10 yards from the previous spot of the ball. The play is nullified and is not recorded (unless Team B declines the penalty).

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams rushes for 10 yards, but a clipping penalty is called against Team A on its 37. The enforcement spot is the 40. Charge Team A with a penalty of 15 yards. Play is nullified. Do not credit Adams with a rush of 10 yards.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams loses three yards rushing, but a clipping penalty is called against Team A on its 36. The enforcement spot is the 40. Charge Team A with a penalty of 15 yards. Play is nullified. Do not charge Adams with a rush of minus three yards.

**A.R. 3.** In the same situation as A.R. 2, Team B declines the penalty. Charge Adams with a rush of minus three yards.



**A.R. 4.** Team A's ball on its 40. Adams attempts a pass but, during the play, a holding penalty is called against Team A on its 30. The enforcement spot is the 40. Charge Team A with a penalty of 10 yards. Play is nullified. Do not charge Adams with a pass attempt.

**Article 6.** On a foul by Team A such as offside, delay of the game, illegal motion, etc., the play is nullified and is not recorded. If Team B declines the penalty, the play is recorded, but the penalty yardage is not recorded.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 40. Adams rushes for five yards but an offside penalty is called against Team A. Team A is penalized to Team B's 45. Play is nullified. Charge Team A with a penalty of five yards.

**Article 7.** When a kickoff goes out of bounds and is kicked again, charge Team A with a penalty of five yards from the previous spot.

**Article 8.** If a foul occurs on the last timed down of a period, the period is extended if the penalty is accepted by either team during a running play or a pass play, or if the penalty is canceled when the most advantageous choice is obvious to the referee.

**Article 9.** When a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone during a forward pass play and a contact foul that is not pass interference is committed, the enforcement is the previous spot.

**A.R. 1.** Team B holds an eligible receiver before a forward pass crosses the neutral zone. Charge Team B with a penalty of 10 yards from the previous spot and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. There is no first down credited if the foul occurred after the ball was thrown.

**A.R. 2.** Team B pushes an eligible receiver illegally before a forward pass crosses the neutral zone. Charge Team B with a penalty of five yards from the previous spot and credit Team A with a first down by penalty. There is no first down credited if the foul occurred after the ball was thrown.

**Article 10.** No penalty is assessed if a kickoff untouched by the receiving team before going out of bounds is spotted at the receiving team's 35-yard line (see Section 8, Article 1, A.R. 4).

**Article 11.** If the official overpenalizes or underpenalizes with yardage, record the actual yardage stepped off and not the yardage specified for the infraction. For clarification in the play-by-play, asterisk or otherwise denote the incorrect yardage.

**A.R.** Team A's ball on Team B's 45. Team B is offside, and the official steps off a penalty to Team B's 39. Charge Team B with a six-yard penalty and denote the incorrect yardage in the play-by-play.

## SECTION 15—WILD PASS FROM CENTER

Any loss resulting from an obvious wild pass from center is charged to "Center Pass" and not to any individual player. Team A is charged with a team rush, the loss and a fumble. No sack should be credited if the offensive player falls on the ball or has no chance to make a play.

Any gain resulting from a wild pass from center is recorded as though the wild pass had not occurred.

## SECTION 16—DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

The following articles and approved rulings provide some consistent standards for the keeping of national defensive football statistics. Defensive statistics should include those plays made on defensive scrimmage plays, tackles in kick coverage and tackles made by offensive players after turnovers. **Clarification:** Effective with the 2004 season, all individual defensive statistics reported to the NCAA must be compiled by the press-box statistics crew during the game. Defensive numbers compiled by the coaching staff or other university/college personnel using game film will not be considered "official" NCAA statistics (also see B.I.15).

**Article 1. SOLO (UNASSISTED) TACKLE:** If a ball carrier is stopped solely or primarily because of the effort of one defensive

player, that player should be credited with a solo (unassisted) tackle. Only one solo tackle can be credited on any one play. Solo tackles for loss and pass sacks should result in a player getting credit for that action and a solo tackle. No tackle or sack should be recorded if a ball carrier trips, falls or otherwise downs himself or slips without any contact from the defensive side.

**Article 2. ASSISTED TACKLE:** If two defensive players contribute equally to stopping a ball carrier, credit both players with an assisted tackle, but give neither a solo tackle.

**Note:** In a situation in which there is not a solo tackle, there should not be more than two assists credited except in rare instances. In other words, on any given play one of the following may be credited: (1) one solo tackle, or (2) two assisted tackles. Only in the rarest of cases would more than two assisted tackles be credited.

**Article 3. TACKLE FOR LOSS:** Tackles behind the line of scrimmage resulting in lost yardage, either of a ball carrier or a quarterback attempting to pass, are tackles for loss. Tackles at or on the line of scrimmage (meaning zero yards gained or lost) cannot be recorded as a tackle for loss. The same principles noted above for solo and assisted tackles still apply.

A player credited with a solo tackle for a loss also should be credited with a solo tackle. If two players contribute equally to stopping a ball carrier behind the line of scrimmage (and no player is credited with a solo tackle), then credit each player with an assisted tackle for loss and an assisted tackle.

For yardage lost, credit the entire yardage lost to the solo tackler. In the case of assisted tacklers, split yardage lost between the two players. If the yardage lost is an odd number, then the yardage split shall be at the discretion of the official game statistician.

**A.R. 1.** Benson is solely or primarily responsible for a tackle resulting in lost yardage by the ball carrier. Benson is credited with a solo tackle and a solo tackle for loss. He also gets the entire yardage lost on the play.

**A.R. 2.** Benson and Brown are equally responsible for an assisted tackle resulting in lost yardage by the ball carrier. Each is credited with an assisted tackle (not a solo tackle) and with an assisted tackle for loss. Also, give each player an equal split of the total yards lost. However, if the loss, for example, is nine yards, the game statistician should give one player five yards and the other four yards based on which player contributed more to the play.

**A.R. 3.** Quarterback Aaron retreats into the pocket looking to pass, but is forced out of the pocket and tucks the ball to run. Benson tackles him before Aaron reaches the line of scrimmage. Benson is credited with a solo tackle, a solo tackle for loss, and a pass sack.

**Article 4. PASS SACK:** If the defensive team is credited with the sack of a player who is dropping back in an apparent attempt to pass, the same principles outlined above again apply. A player credited with a solo pass sack on the play also is credited with a solo tackle and a solo tackle for loss.

In the case of two players getting credit for an assisted pass sack (with no player being credited for a solo pass sack), each player also would be credited with an assisted tackle and an assisted tackle for loss.

If a potential passer fumbles the ball before contact by the defense or receives a wild pass from center, no pass sack is credited to any individual player or team if the offensive player simply falls on the ball. If the player regains possession of the ball and continues to attempt to make a passing play, credit the sack and tackle to the individual player(s).

Lost yardage on pass sacks is given entirely to the player with a solo pass sack, and lost yardage is split equally between two players with assisted pass sacks. If the yardage lost is an odd number, then the yardage split shall be at the discretion of the official game statistician.

If a quarterback or another offensive player makes an apparent attempt to pass while being chased and goes out of bounds behind the line of scrimmage, give the solo pass sack, solo tackle and solo tackle for loss to the primary chasing player who, in the opinion of the official game statistician, caused the passer to go out of bounds.

In another case, a quarterback drops back to pass, is pressured by a defensive player Benson and then pulls down the ball to run. He then is tackled by defensive player Brown before reaching the line of scrimmage. Credit defensive player Brown with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss for all the yards lost.

When a passer is pressured into throwing an intentionally grounded pass, the defensive player who exerted the pressure is credited with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss for the yards lost to the spot of the foul. The passer is not charged with a pass attempt, but is charged with a rush attempt and yards lost to the spot of the foul. Since the ensuing penalty is loss of down at the spot of the foul, charge the offensive team with a penalty for no yards.

When a player who is back to pass has the ball stripped from his grasp **before** his arm starts going forward, the defensive player who stripped the ball is credited with a forced fumble, solo pass sack, solo tackle and solo tackle for loss for the yards to the spot of the fumble recovery (exceptions are noted in A.R. 8 and 9. below). The passer is not charged with a pass attempt, but is charged with a rush attempt and yards lost rushing to the spot of the recovery. The determination as to whether the ball is stripped from a passer or is an incomplete pass is made by the game official.

**Clarification:** For plays that end either on the line of scrimmage or beyond, there is no pass sack credited, but rather it is considered a rushing play. There can be no pass sack (or tackle for loss) without loss of yardage.

**A.R. 1.** *Benson is solely or primarily responsible for a pass sack. He is credited with a solo pass sack, solo tackle for loss and a solo tackle, and all of the yardage lost.*

**A.R. 2.** *Benson and Brown are equally responsible for a pass sack. Each is credited with an assisted pass sack (not a solo pass sack), and each player is credited with an assisted tackle for loss and an assisted tackle. Also, give each player an equal split of the total yards lost, unless the loss is an odd number such as nine yards. Then, the game statistician gives one player five yards and the other four yards, based on which player contributed more to the play.*

**A.R. 3.** *Benson chases the opposing quarterback, who shows that he intends to pass, and runs him out of bounds behind the line of scrimmage. Credit Benson with a solo pass sack, solo tackle for loss, solo tackle and all yards lost.*

**A.R. 4.** *Adams is back to pass, but has to scramble. Benson tackles him at the original line of scrimmage. Credit Benson with a solo tackle and Adams with one rush for no yards.*

**A.R. 5.** *Adams is back to pass, but is pressured by Benson into throwing a pass that is ruled by the officials as intentionally grounded. Credit Benson with a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss for the yards lost to the spot of the foul. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus yards rushing to the spot of the foul. The ensuing penalty is loss of down at the spot of the foul. Also charge Team A with a penalty for no yards.*

**A.R. 6.** *Adams is back to pass, but has the ball stripped from his grasp **after** his arm goes forward by Benson. Since the ball was going forward, there can be no solo pass sack, no solo tackle and no solo tackle for loss. Instead, charge Adams with a pass attempt and an incompleteness. However, credit Benson with a pass breakup for his efforts in stopping the play.*

**A.R. 7.** *Adams is back to pass, but has the ball stripped from his grasp **before** his arm starts going forward by Benson, causing a fumble. The ball is then recovered behind the line of scrimmage by Allen. Credit Benson with a forced fumble, a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss for the yards lost to the spot of the recovery. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus yards rushing to the spot of the recovery. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.*

**A.R. 8.** *Adams is back to pass, but has the ball stripped from his grasp **before** his arm starts going forward by Benson, causing a fumble. The ball is then recovered behind the line of scrimmage by Allen, who attempts to gain positive yardage before being tackled by Baker, still behind the line of scrimmage. Credit Benson with a forced fumble only. Credit Baker with a solo tackle and a solo tackle for loss for the yards lost to the final spot. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus yards rushing to the final spot. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost. Allen is not credited with any statistics on this play.*

**A.R. 9.** *Adams is back to pass, but has the ball stripped from his grasp **before** his arm starts going forward by Benson, causing a fumble. The ball is then recovered behind the line of scrimmage by Allen, who gains positive yardage before being tackled by Baker beyond the line of scrimmage. Credit Benson with a forced fumble only. Credit Baker with a solo tackle. Charge Adams with a rush attempt for zero yards. Credit Allen with no rush but with the yards gained from the line of scrimmage under "Rushing." Credit Team A with a fumble not lost.*

**A.R. 10.** *Adams drops back to pass, and Benson comes around the backside and hits Adams **before** his arm starts going forward, causing a fumble that is recovered by Brown behind the line of scrimmage. Credit Benson with a forced fumble, a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss for the yards lost to the spot of the recovery. Charge Adams with a rush attempt, minus yards rushing to the spot of the recovery, and a fumble lost.*

**Article 5. PASS BREAKUPS:** A player credited with a pass interception **should not** be credited with a pass breakup. If a pass falls incomplete because of the defensive efforts of one player, that player should be credited with a pass breakup. This may come about in two major ways:

- (1) A defensive player makes contact with the football, thus preventing the intended receiver from making the catch.
- (2) A defensive player tackles the intended receiver simultaneously with the arrival of the football, thus preventing the reception.

A defensive player who neither touches the football nor tackles the receiver simultaneously with the arrival of the football should not be credited with a pass breakup. No pass breakup should be credited on plays in which the football is overthrown or thrown out of bounds, or is otherwise uncatchable.

In rare instances, it may be possible for two defensive players to play such equal roles in the defending of a forward pass that it is not possible to determine which player was more responsible. In such a rare instance, credit both players with a pass breakup. It also is possible for a defensive lineman to be credited with a pass breakup in those rare cases when he jumps up and knocks down a pass attempt, or strips the ball from the passer's grasp after the passer's arm goes forward, creating an incomplete pass attempt.

**Note:** A defensive player making an interception should not be credited with a pass breakup. When a first defensive player defends against a pass in such a manner that he normally would be credited with a pass breakup and a second defensive player intercepts that pass, the first defensive player should still be credited with a pass breakup and the second defensive player credited with an interception. Pass interceptions and pass breakups will be

considered separately until combined to recognize the most outstanding defensive players in the **PASSES DEFENDED** category.

**Article 6. FORCED FUMBLE:** Only one player may be credited with causing a fumble by a ball carrier. The defensive player who forced a fumble also is credited with a solo tackle (exceptions are noted in A.R. 8 and 9 above). A tackle for loss may only be credited when the fumble recovery is behind the original line of scrimmage. A pass sack may be credited in this situation only if the official game statistician determines that the player fumbling was going to pass.

**A.R. 1.** Team A's ball on its own 20. Allen takes a hand-off, gains three yards, is hit by Brown and fumbles the ball, which is recovered by Adams at Team A's 23. Credit Brown with a solo tackle and a forced fumble. Credit Allen with a rush attempt and three yards rushing. Charge Team A with a fumble not lost.

**A.R. 2.** Team A's ball. Adams is back to pass, but Benson strips the ball out of his hand **before** his arm starts going forward, causing a fumble. Benson recovers the fumble behind the line of scrimmage. Credit Benson with a forced fumble, a solo pass sack, a solo tackle, and a solo tackle for loss for the yards lost to the spot of the recovery. Also credit Benson with the fumble recovery. Charge Adams with a rush attempt and minus yards rushing to the spot of the recovery. Charge Team A with a fumble lost.

**A.R. 3.** Team A's ball. Adams is back to pass, and Benson strips the ball from his grasp **after** his arm starts going forward. Since the ball was going forward, there can be no solo pass sack, no solo tackle and no solo tackle for loss. Instead, charge Adams with a pass attempt and an incompleteness. However, credit Benson with a pass breakup for his efforts in stopping the play.

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Returns, Fumble .....	<a href="#">2, 14, 15</a>	Wild Pass From Center .....	<a href="#">17</a>
Returns, Interceptions .....	<a href="#">6, 14</a>	Yardage, End Zone .....	<a href="#">2</a>
Returns, Kick .....	<a href="#">10, 14</a>	Yardage, Miscellaneous .....	<a href="#">13</a>
Roughing-the-Passer Fouls & Penalties .....	<a href="#">16</a>	Yardage, Net .....	<a href="#">9</a>
Run-Option Play .....	<a href="#">5</a>		
Rushing .....	<a href="#">5</a>		