

## **RTO OBSERVATION NOTES**

**(September 22, 2019)**

### **Play #1**

This is a free kick which goes out-of-bounds untouched by R. The ball is kicked from midfield (50) and goes out-of-bounds at R's 35. There is a penalty flag for an illegal kick out-of-bounds, and the flag is placed at R's 35. The ball is then placed at the hash on R's 40 yd. line. Here are some things to consider:

What are the options available to the offended team (4 options)?

Which option is accepted by the offended team?

What is unusual about the placement of the ball on this particular free kick; and what must the crew remember about penalty enforcement?

Is the enforcement spot correct (if so, why? If not, why?)

What is your assessment of the manner in which the penalty is enforced?

What did the crew do correctly?

What did the crew do incorrectly?

(review each of the officials in terms of their particular responsibilities on penalty enforcement)

How could correct penalty enforcement have better communicated to coaches, fans, etc, why the ball was placed on R's 40 yd line?

### **Play #2**

This is a typical running dive to the left side of the line. What is to be noticed and discussed is whether the offense is in a legal or an illegal formation. Some things to consider:

Notice the outside receiver at the top of the screen

Where does he initially start in the formation?

What does he do to change this position?

Is there any communication between the wing officials concerning "on the line"/"off the line" players?

What is the new rule concerning a "legal/illegal formation"?

How many players need to be on the line?

Are there specific requirements for any of these players on the line?

What is the maximum number of players allowed in the backfield?

Is this a legal formation?

If not, what makes it illegal?

When does this formation become illegal (when is the flag to be thrown)?

What communication (verbal as well as signals) can the wing officials give to the player(s) on the end of the line?

### **Play #3**

This is passing play which is also dealing with a “legal/illegal formation”? Notice the inside receiver on the bottom of the screen.

How does he communicate his intended position to the wing official?

Where does he line up in the formation?

As a wing official, do you have him on the line...in the backfield...in no-man’s land?

As a wing official, where do you have the slot man at the top of the screen?

Based on the definition of a “legal formation”, would you consider this formation legal (why/why not)?

If this formation is illegal, what possible fouls might there be on this play?

What do you think of the closest receiver and what he is doing with his hands prior to the snap – foul or no foul?

### **Play #4**

This is a running play to the right side of the line. This play was chosen as an example of “the accordion effect” during the dead ball period following the play. Some things to consider:

What is your assessment of the Ref’s, HL’s, & LJ’s movement following the play?

What is your assessment of the BJ’s movement following the play.

Is the BJ a bit too zealous in coming into the players?

Where should the BJ have stopped following this play?

### **Play #5**

This play is a “pick 6” interception. This play was chosen because of the coordination between the Ref and the LJ at the goal line. Some things to consider:

On an interception which has the possibility of scoring a touchdown...

What is the responsibility of the Ref?

What is the responsibility of the wing official (if the runner is coming down his sideline)?

On this particular play, what communication do you see between these two officials prior to the Ref signaling a touchdown?

During the pre-game with officials, what discussion needs to take place so that this type of communication occurs on these plays?