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MEMORANDUM

September 15, 2009

TO: Division I Supervisors of Football Officials,
Conference Commissioners and Head Football Coaches.

FROM: Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Instant Replay Bulletin No. 1.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the first set of instant replay situations for the 2009 season. This is a new communication this year and the committee hopes this will assist in the implementation and understanding of the rules governing instant replay. Each play includes the ruling and a rule reference to assist.

If you have any questions, please contact Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, via e-mail at (footballrules@ncaa.org).

RR:nkb

Enclosure

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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2009 INSTANT REPLAY BULLETIN #1

1. PASS/FUMBLE BY POTENTIAL PASSER

PLAY: Third and 10 at the B-25. Quarterback A14 drops back into the pocket and at the B-33 he cocks his arm to throw a forward pass. The ball becomes loose and hits the ground.

(a) The referee rules fumble and the play continues.

RULING: The play is reviewable. (12-3-3-a)

(b) The referee rules incomplete pass. At the B-34 the ball bounces into the hands of A47 or B89 who grabs and controls the ball.

RULING: The play is reviewable. If the replay official reverses the call and rules fumble, the ball belongs to the recovering team at the spot of the recovery and there is no advance. (12-3-3-b-2)

(c) The referee rules incomplete pass. The ball rolls for several yards as players scramble to recover it. At the B-30, B89 falls on the ball and clearly wraps his hands and arms around it as he lies on the ground.

RULING: The play is reviewable. If the replay official reverses the call and rules fumble, the ball belongs to Team B at the B-30. (12-3-3-b)

(d) The referee rules incomplete pass. The ball rolls several yards away as players scramble to gain control of it. The ball finally disappears under a pile of players.

RULING: The play is reviewable. If the replay official determines that the ball was fumbled and has indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the ball belongs to the recovering team. However, if the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, then the referee's incomplete-pass ruling stands. (12-3-3-b-1)

(e) The referee rules incomplete pass. The ball rolls several yards away but the players react to the referee's whistle and incomplete-pass signal by slowing or stopping their action. The ball comes to rest or one of the players picks it up.

RULING: Not reviewable, as there is not continuing action immediately following the referee's call. (12-3-3-b)

2. GAME CLOCK ADJUSTMENT

It is quite common for the result of an instant replay review to require adjustment of the game clock. In most cases either the ruling on the field or that by the replay official requires the game clock to be stopped by rule. For example, if a forward pass is ruled incomplete and the replay official reverses the ruling to a completed pass, the game clock had already been stopped by the ruling on the field.

Conversely, if the ruling on the field was a completion and the replay official reverses this to an incomplete pass, the game clock is adjusted since by rule it is stopped on an incomplete forward pass. In both cases it is not difficult in principle to determine the correct game-clock reading since it was stopped by rule, either by the call on the field or by the result of the review. In the vast majority of other situations the replay official can determine the correct reading of the game clock, and its adjustment in principle presents no problems.

Difficulties may arise when the game clock is not stopped either by the ruling on the field or the result of the replay review. In such cases there is no clear path to determining what the reading on the clock should be when play is resumed following a review resulting in a reversal. The following is an example of such a play, wherein by rule the game clock is not stopped--either by the on-field ruling or as a result of a reversal by the replay official--at the "point of decision" of the review.

PLAY: Second and 12 at the B-25. Ball carrier A22 is hit at the B-20, and as he is going down the ball comes out. The officials rule a fumble and allow the play to continue. B37 recovers at the B-21 and returns for a long gain before being tackled or scoring an apparent touchdown. After review, the replay official rules that A22's knee touched the ground before he lost control of the ball.

RULING: Any score by Team B is cancelled, and the ball is returned to Team A at the spot determined by the review.

If time remains on the game clock:

There is no timing adjustment and the game clock is started on the referee's signal.

If time on the game clock expires during the play:

- In the *first* or *third* quarter:
The game moves to the second or fourth quarter. The game clock starts on the snap.
- In the *second* or *fourth* quarter:
 - (a) If Team A has no timeouts available, the half or game is completed.

- (b) If Team A has a timeout available, it may elect to use one and the clock will be adjusted to its reading at the time the runner should have been ruled down. If Team A elects not to use a timeout, the half or game is completed.

Rationale:

By rule the game clock does not stop as a result of the ball being recovered by B37 (ruling on the field) or by the ball becoming dead in the possession of A22 (result of the review) since he was inbounds short of the line to gain. When time remains in the half at the end of the play, the model from penalty enforcement provides precedent for not restoring time to the clock. For example, if the offense is in an illegal formation on a play that gains yardage and the down is repeated following the accepted penalty, the game clock remains at the reading when the play ended, and time is not restored.

Restoring time in the case where the half ends and Team A has a timeout available is based on the reality of what would happen had the ball been ruled dead on the field with time remaining. Team A would have had the option of calling a timeout in order to run another play. Thus it is reasonable to allow them this opportunity in the situation described here.