

Scrimmage Kicks

Punts, Tries, Field Goals

Definitions

- Scrimmage kick made **in or behind** the neutral zone is a legal kick by Team A during a scrimmage down **before team possession changes.**
- Scrimmage kick has **crossed the neutral zone** when it touches **the ground, a player, an official** or anything beyond the neutral zone.

Formation

- Scrimmage kick formation is a formation with at least **one player seven yards** or more behind the neutral zone, **no player in position to receive a hand to hand snap** from between the snapper's legs and it is **obvious that a kick may be attempted.**

Legal and Illegal kicks

- Kicking the ball is **intentionally** striking the ball with the **knee, lower leg or foot**
- A legal kick is a punt, drop kick or place kick made according to the rules by a player of Team A before a change of team possession
- Kicking the ball in any other manner is illegal

Scrimmage kick

- Any free kick or scrimmage kick **continues** to be a kick **until it is caught** or **recovered** by a player or **becomes dead**

Punt

- A **punt** is a kick by a player who **drops the ball** and **kicks it before** it strikes the ground

Place Kick

- A field goal place kick is a kick by a player for the team in possession while the ball is **controlled on the ground** by a teammate
- A tee is a device that elevates the ball for kicking purposes. It may not elevate the ball's lowest point more than **2 inches** above the ground.

Referee mechanics

- Position
 - LJ side
 - Wide
 - Angle to see snap and rushing defense on kicker/holder
- Even with or slightly in front of kicker
- Warn kicker if near end line
- Kick out of bounds downfield

Mechanics Cont'd

Other Officials' positions (4 and 5 man)

- Responsibilities

- Kicker/holder
- Sideline if kick is aborted
- Watch for blocked or tipped kick
- Did blocked kick cross neutral zone?

Mechanics Cont'd

- Responsibilities
 - 4 man, upright on your side
 - After try, check with HL and U before giving signal
 - Blocking below the waist
 - Watch blocking backs

What if's

- Kicker rolls out and punts or not
- Punt out of bounds
- Snap over kicker/holders head
- Kick never crosses the neutral zone
 - Recovered by team A
 - Recovered by team B
- Kick touched by Team A beyond neutral zone

What if's

- Kick downed by team A
- Kick recovered by team A beyond the neutral zone and goes for TD
- No one tries to advance a kick and ball is lying dead on the ground
- Illegal kick beyond the neutral zone
 - Dead ball, penalty

What if's

- Field goal or try caught by Team B in field of play
- Field goal blocked and goes out behind line of scrimmage on 3rd down

What if's

- Holder muffs the ball and knee on the ground
 - Kicker in position
 - Kicker not in position
- Bad snap from snapper
- Defender blocked into kicker
- Defender run into or roughs kicker/holder
- Kicker bluffs getting hit

Recap

- Be alert
- Anything can happen
- Get and stay in position especially when play breaks down