



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2024 NCAA FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 2

Injury Timeout, Ten-Second Runoff – Rule 3-3-6-f

Questions are currently being raised from coaches concerning end of game scenarios and how the 10-second runoff rule would be administered. Specifically, the questions surround how feigning an injury after making a 1st down inbounds could avoid the 10-second runoff rule.

The CFO, LLC Board of Managers (All FBS commissioners and two FCS commissioners) discussed this on its preseason call and approved language to close a potential loophole in the rules. If no adjustment is made, a team could gain a first down in bounds and gain a significant clock advantage by having an injury (feigned or real).

Therefore, to prevent teams from taking advantage of this loophole in the 10-second runoff rule, the CFO commissioners unanimously approved the language below that would close this loophole, and we received an immediate endorsement of the rules language from the rules committee members. This will be an exception to the language component in Rule 3-3-6-f that states it is a Ten-Second Runoff if the player injury is “the only reason for stopping the clock”.

The exception will be:

“If a player injury occurs on a play where there is a temporary stoppage of the clock for a first down, and the clock is stopped with 10 seconds or less remaining in the 2nd or 4th quarters, the opponent has the option of a 10-second runoff. The 10-second runoff may be avoided by the use of a charged team timeout if available.”

Play #1: 3/10 @ B-30. Late in the 4th quarter, Team A completes a pass over the middle and A88 is tackled inbounds at the B-15 for a first down. A88 remains on the ground and the Referee declares an official's timeout for injury. There is (a) 0:05 on the game clock; (b) 0:15 on the game clock.

RULING: In (a), Team B has the option of a 10-second runoff. Team A can avoid the runoff if it has a charged timeout remaining. The game is over if the 10-second runoff option is exercised. In (b), there is no option for a 10-second runoff. The clock will start on the Referee's signal following the injury timeout.

Play #2: 3/10 @ B-30. Late in the 4th quarter, Team A completes a pass over the middle and A88 is tackled inbounds at the B-15 for a first down. At the snap, (a) Team B had 12 players on the field; (b) Team A's formation was not legal (c) A77's helmet came off during the play (not a direct result of a foul by an opponent). A88 remains on the ground and the Referee declares an official's timeout for injury. There is 0:05 remaining on the game clock.

RULING: In (a) there is no option for a 10-second runoff since the official's timeout includes addressing the Illegal Substitution by Team B; (b) there is no option for a 10-second runoff since the official's timeout includes addressing the Illegal Formation by Team A; (c) Team B has the option of a 10-second runoff. Team A can avoid the runoff if it has a charged timeout remaining. The game is over if the 10-second runoff option is exercised.

Play #3: 3/10 @ B-30. Late in the 4th quarter, Team A's pass is (a) complete and A88 runs out of bounds at the B-15 for a first down; (b) is incomplete. A88 remains on the ground and the Referee declares an official's timeout for injury. There is 0:05 remaining on the game clock.

RULING: There is no option for a 10-second runoff since (a) the runner is out of bounds stopping the game clock; (b) the pass is incomplete stopping the game clock.

Play #4: 3/10 @ B-30. Late in the 4th quarter, Team A completes a pass over the middle and A88 is tackled inbounds at the B-15 for a first down. B27 remains on the ground and the Referee declares an official's timeout for injury. There is (a) 0:05 on the game clock; (b) 0:15 on the game clock.

RULING: In (a), Team A has the option of a 10-second runoff, which they may decline and the clock will start on the snap. In (b), there is no option for a 10-second runoff. The clock will start on the Referee's signal following the injury timeout.

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