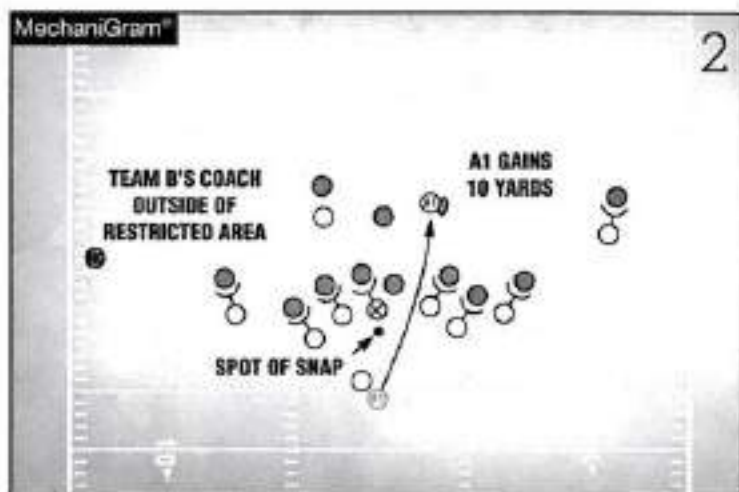


## FOULS ON RUNNING PLAYS

If the foul occurred beyond the line of scrimmage and the run ended beyond the line of scrimmage, enforce the penalty from the succeeding spot.

**PLAY 10:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1 carries to team A's 30 yardline. B2 is flagged for grabbing and twisting A3's facemask at team A's 40 yardline.

**RULING 10:** The penalty is enforced from the end of the run. It will be first and 10 from team A's 45 yardline.



### LIVE-BALL FOULS ENFORCED AS DEAD-BALL FOULS

All live-ball fouls enforced as dead-ball fouls are enforced in the same fashion as dead-ball fouls.

**PLAY 11:** As seen in MechaniGram 2, it is first and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1 carries to team A's 30 yardline. During the play, team B's coach is flagged for being outside the restricted area.

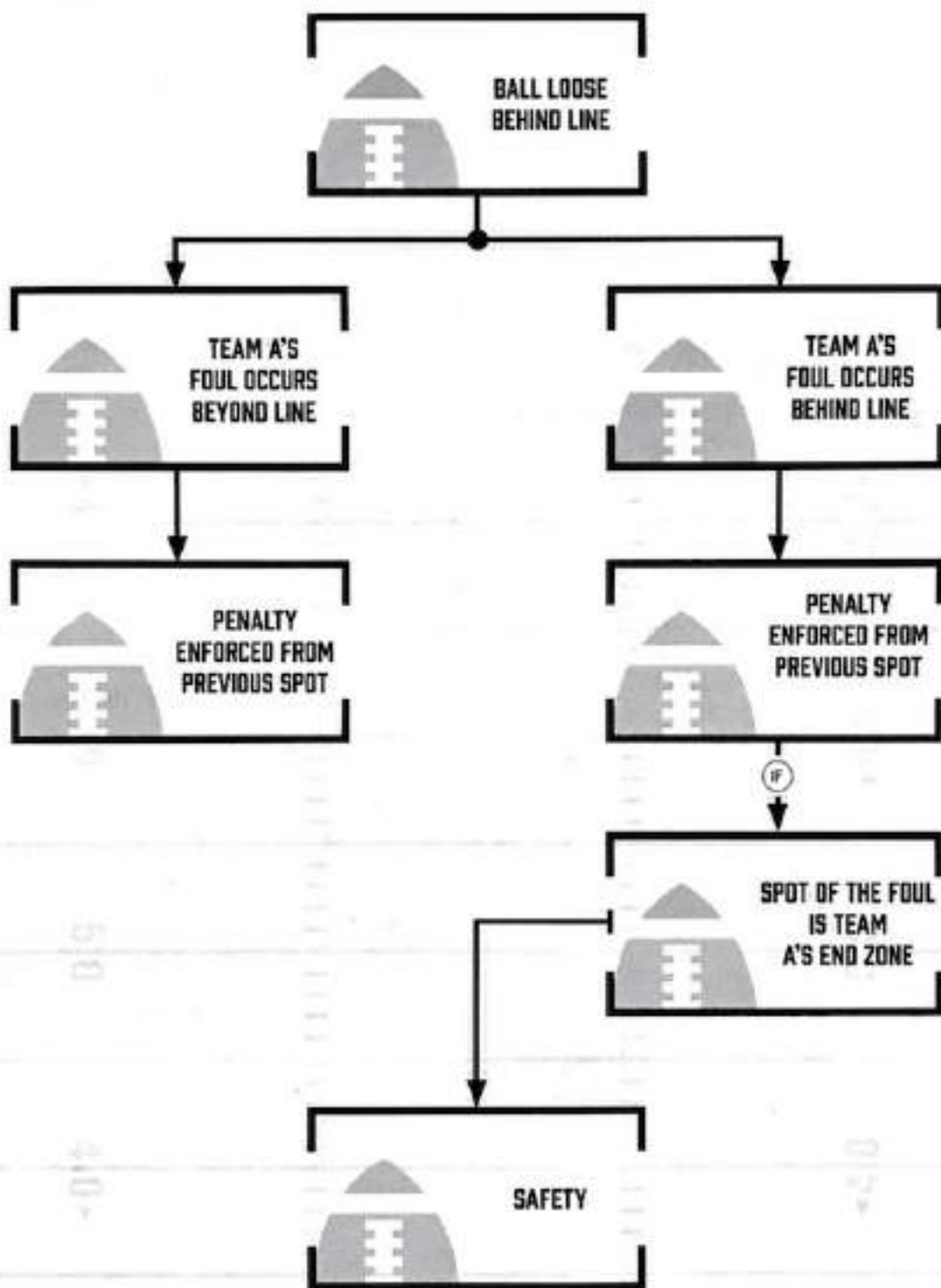
**RULING 11:** Unsportsmanlike conduct is a live-ball foul treated as a dead-ball foul. Team A will undoubtedly accept the penalty, which is enforced from the end of A1's run. The result is first and 10 from team A's 45 yardline.

# CHAPTER 7

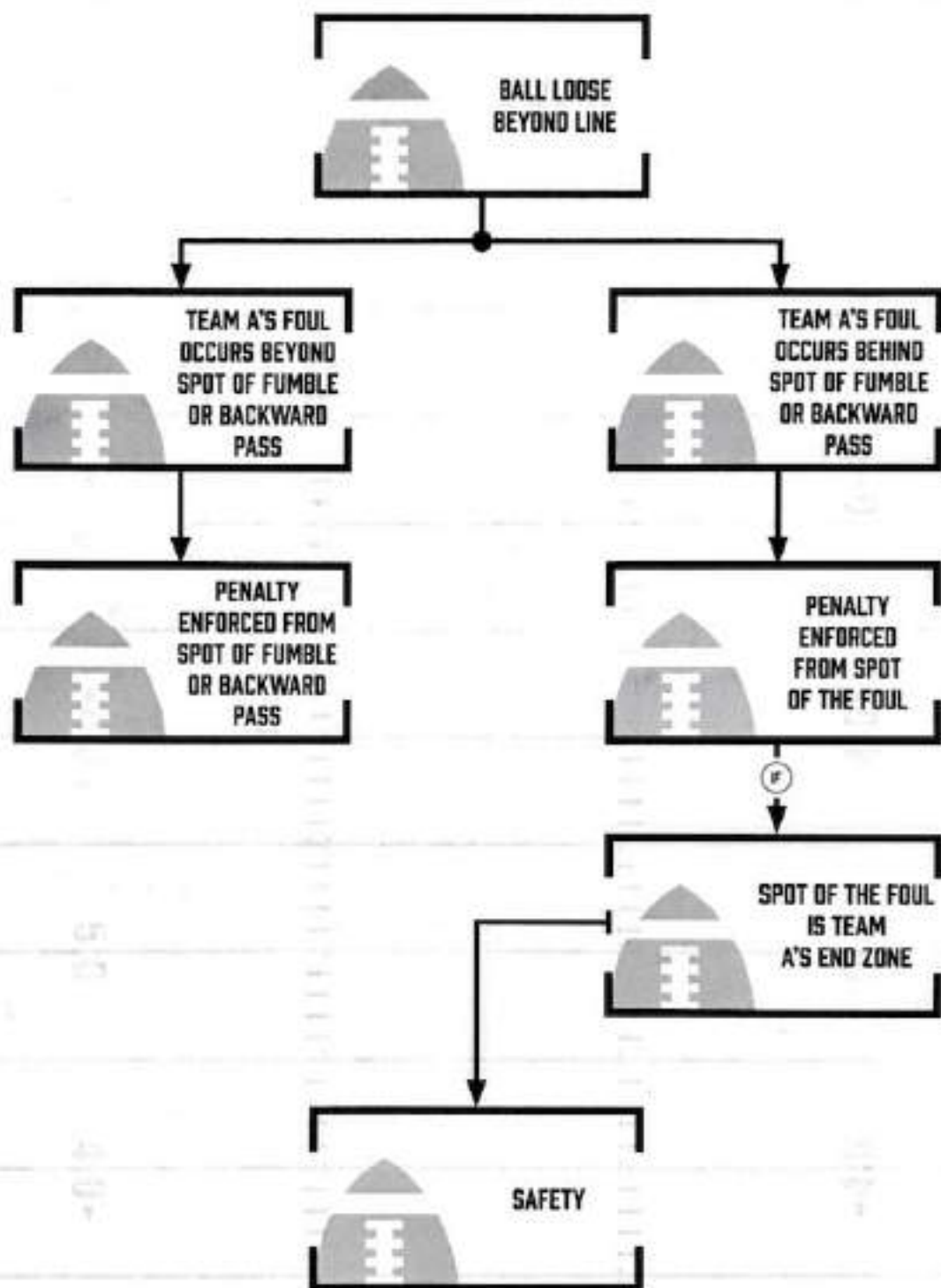
**FOULS DURING A  
BACKWARD PASS,  
FUMBLE OR LEGAL  
FORWARD PASS**



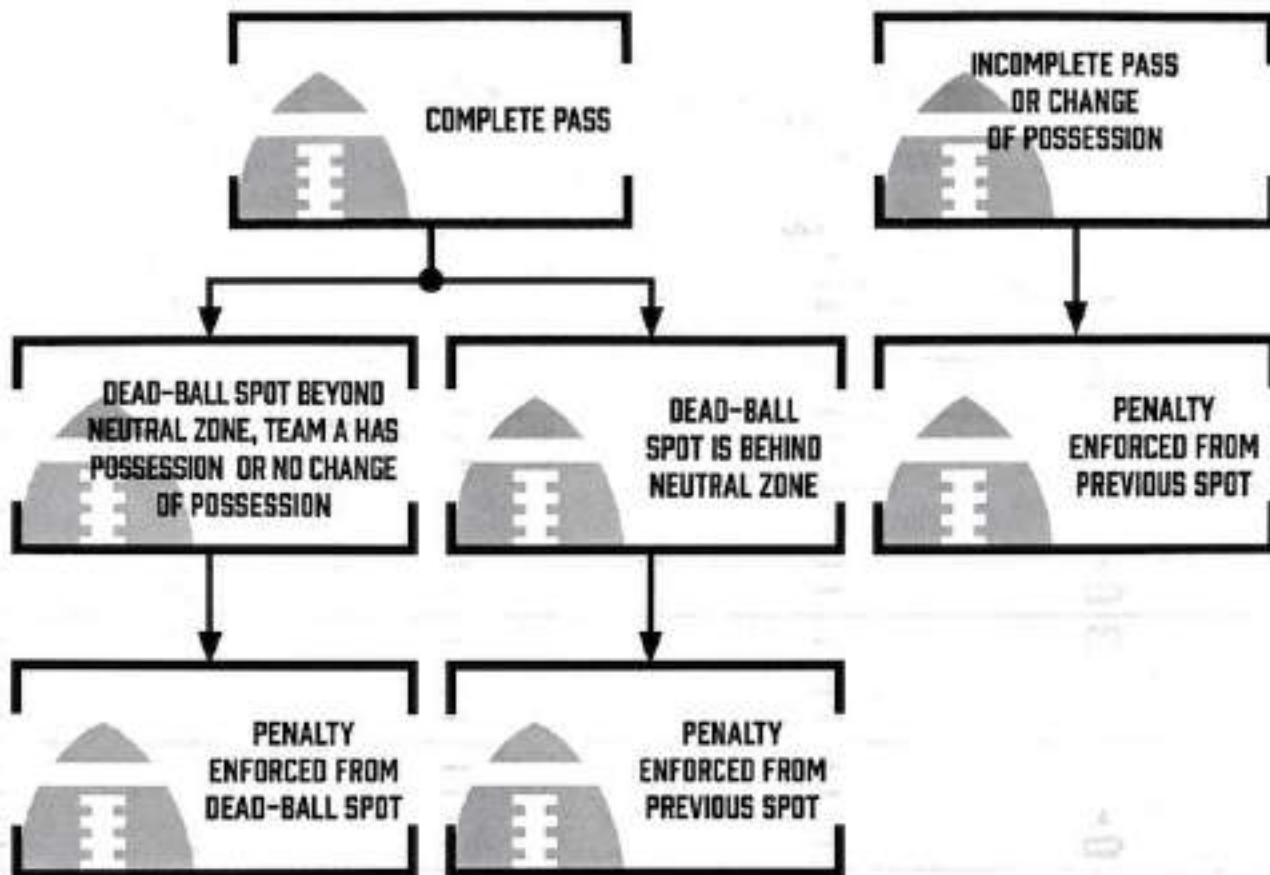
## FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE OR LEGAL FORWARD PASS



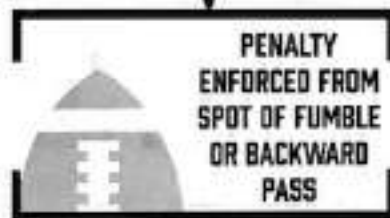
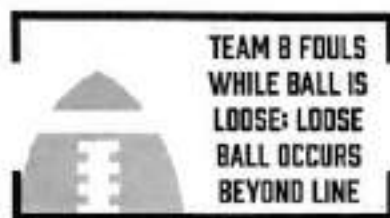
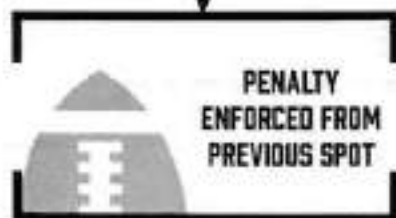
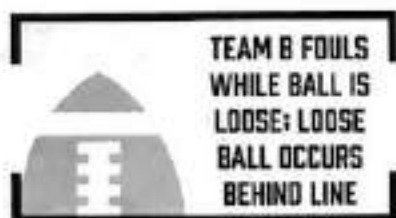
## FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS OR FUMBLE



# ***ROUGHING THE PASSER ON LEGAL FORWARD PASS***



## OTHER TEAM B FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE OR LEGAL FORWARD PASS



## FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE OR FORWARD PASS

**F**ouls during plays that involve passes are generally enforced from the previous spot. Remember, the "pass play" begins with the snap and is over when the pass is caught or incomplete.

In the plays that follow, it is assumed there are no illegal passes.

**PLAY 1:** First and 10 at team A's 30 yardline. A1's legal forward pass is incomplete beyond the line. Holding is called at team A's 45 yardline on (a) A2, or (b) B3.

**RULING 1:** In either case, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot. In (a), it will be first and 20 from team A's 20 yardline. In (b), it will be first and 10 from team A's 40 yardline.

Penalties for roughing the passer on a completed forward pass are enforced from the dead-ball spot when the dead-ball spot is beyond the neutral zone and there is no change of team possession during the down. If there is a change of possession during the down or if the dead-ball spot is behind the neutral zone, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot.

The 15-yard penalty includes an automatic first down.

**PLAY 2:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1's screen pass is caught by A2 at team A's 18 yardline, where he is immediately tackled. B3 is flagged for roughing the passer.

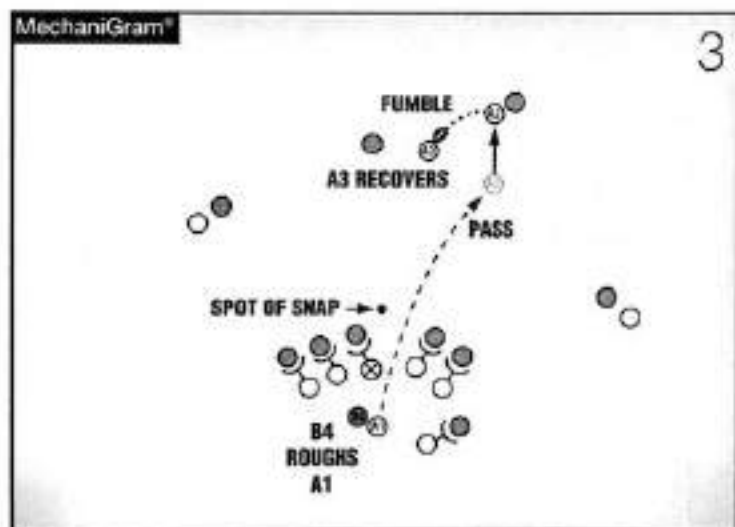
# CHAPTER 7

**RULING 2:** The penalty is enforced from the previous spot. It will be first and 10 at team A's 35 yardline.

**PLAY 3:** As seen in MechaniGram 3, it's first and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1's pass is caught by A2 at team A's 30 yardline. A2 fumbles at team A's 35 yardline. Prone A3 recovers at team A's 33 yardline. B4 is flagged for roughing the passer.

**RULING 3:** In that case, the penalty is enforced from the dead-ball spot – the spot where A3 recovers. It will be first and 10 at team A's 48 yardline.

**PLAY 4:** First and 10 from team B's 20 yardline. A1's



pass is caught by A2 at team B's 10 yardline. A2 fumbles and prone B3 recovers at (a) team B's eight yardline, or (b) in team B's end zone. B4 is flagged for roughing the passer.

**RULING 4:** In both (a) and (b), a change of possession has occurred. As a result, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot. It

will be first and goal at team B's 10 yardline.

The basic spot for penalties on loose-ball plays is the previous spot. A loose-ball play includes action during:

- A free kick or scrimmage kick other than post-scrimmage kick fouls.



## FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE OR FORWARD PASS

- A legal forward pass.
- A backward pass (including the snap), illegal kick or fumble made by team A from in or behind the neutral zone prior to a change of team possession.
- Any run that precedes such legal or illegal kick, legal forward pass, backward pass or fumble.

### ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

If a fumble, backward pass or legal forward pass occurs behind the neutral zone, the basic spot is the previous spot. If the foul occurs in team A's end zone, it is a safety if team B accepts the penalty.

If a fumble, backward pass or legal forward pass occurs behind the neutral zone and team A fouls beyond the neutral zone, enforce the penalty for team A's foul from the previous spot.

If a fumble or backward pass occurs beyond the neutral zone and team A fouls beyond the neutral zone but behind the spot of the backward pass or fumble, enforce the penalty for team A's foul from the spot of the foul.

If a fumble or backward pass occurs beyond the neutral zone and team A fouls beyond the spot of the backward pass or fumble, it is a running play. Enforce the penalty for team A's foul from the spot of the fumble or backward pass.

If a fumble, backward pass or legal forward pass occurs behind the neutral zone, enforce the penalty for all team B fouls occurring before or while the ball is loose from the previous spot.

If a fumble or backward pass occurs beyond the neutral zone, enforce the penalty for all team B fouls

# CHAPTER 7

occurring before or while the ball is loose from the spot of the fumble or backward pass.

**PLAY 6:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1's run results in a five-yard gain, but he fumbles. While the ball is loose, B2 holds A3 at team A's (a) 30 yardline, or (b) 10 yardline. A4 recovers the loose ball and advances to the 50 yardline.

**RULING 6:** In (a) and (b), the penalty for B2's foul cannot be tacked on at the end of the run, even though team A recovered its own fumble, because the spot of enforcement would be the spot of A1's fumble. Team A will likely decline the penalty in (a) and (b) and begin a new series at the 50 yardline. If team A accepted the penalty in (a) or (b), it would be enforced from the end of A1's run (team A's 25 yardline).

The basic spot for fouls during a loose-ball play is the previous spot.

**PLAY 7:** First and 10 for team A from team A's 10 yardline. A1 drops back into his own end zone to pass, but he is hit and fumbles. While the ball is loose, A2 holds B3 (a) at team A's four yardline, (b) at team A's 18 yardline, or (c) in team A's end zone. A1 recovers the loose ball and advances to team A's 15 yardline.

**RULING 7:** In all three cases, the basic spot is the previous spot because the fumble occurred behind the line. In (a) and (b), if the penalty is accepted, it is enforced half the distance from the previous spot.

## FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE OR FORWARD PASS

In (c), the foul occurred in team A's end zone. If the penalty is accepted, the result is a safety.

**PLAY B:** First and 10 from team A's 10 yardline. A1 throws a (a) backward, or (b) forward pass that is caught by A2. While the ball is loose, B3 holds at team A's 14 yardline.

**RULING B:** In both cases, the basic spot is the previous spot. If the penalty is accepted, it is enforced 10 yards from the previous spot.

### CHANGE OF POSSESSION, RUN ENDS IN END ZONE

The basic spot is the 20 yardline for fouls by either team when the opponent is responsible for forcing the ball across the goalline of the team in possession and the result of the play is a touchback, or the run ends in the end zone and is followed by a loose ball.

The basic spot is the goalline for fouls by the opponent of the team in possession at the time of the foul when the team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across the goalline of the team in possession and the result of the play is a safety, or the run ends in the end zone and is followed by a loose ball.

**PLAY 9:** B1 intercepts a pass in his own end zone and advances to team B's six yardline, where he is hit and fumbles. Prone B2 recovers (a) at team B's four yardline, or (b) in team B's end zone. While the ball is loose, B3 holds at team B's four yardline.

# CHAPTER 7

**RULING 9:** In both cases, the basic spot is the end of the run (the spot of B1's fumble). If team A accepts the penalty, it is enforced from the spot of the foul. In (a), that yields first and 10 for team B from its own two yardline. However, in (b), if team A declines the penalty, it scores a safety. B1's fumble was the force that put the ball in team B's end zone.

**PLAY 10:** As seen in MechaniGram 4, A1's legal forward pass is intercepted by B2, who is in his own

end zone and attempts to advance. A4 grasps and twists B2's facemask. B2 fumbles while still in his own end zone. Prone B3 recovers the ball in the end zone.

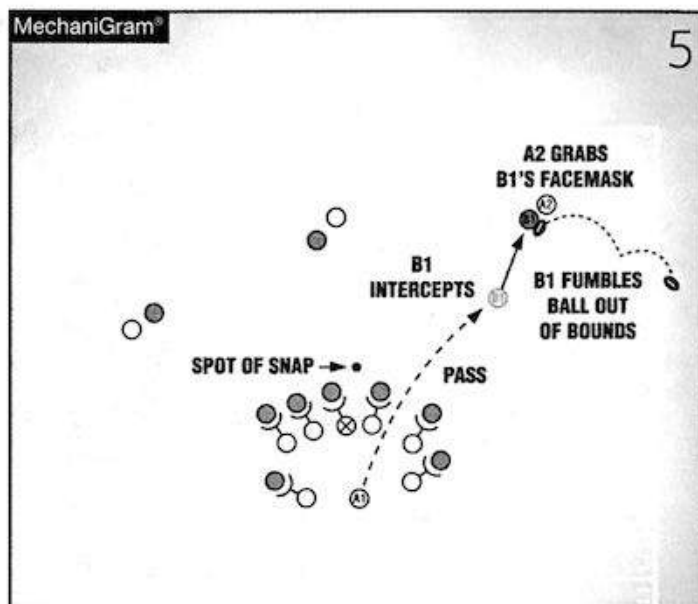
**RULING 10:** The related run ended in team B's end zone. If accepted, the penalty is enforced from the basic spot (team B's 20 yardline). The result is first and 10 for team B from its 35 yardline.



**PLAY 11:** As seen in MechaniGram 5 on page 63, B1 intercepts A1's pass at his own six yardline. B1 retreats into his own end zone, but before he can bring the ball across the goalline, his facemask is grabbed and twisted by A2. B1 fumbles and the ball rolls out of bounds at team B's three yardline.

## FOULS DURING A BACKWARD PASS, FUMBLE OR FORWARD PASS

**RULING II:** Because the related run ended in team B's end zone and the team in possession was responsible for the force, the basic spot is team B's goalline. Team B will likely accept the penalty, which results in first and 10 for team B from its 15 yardline.

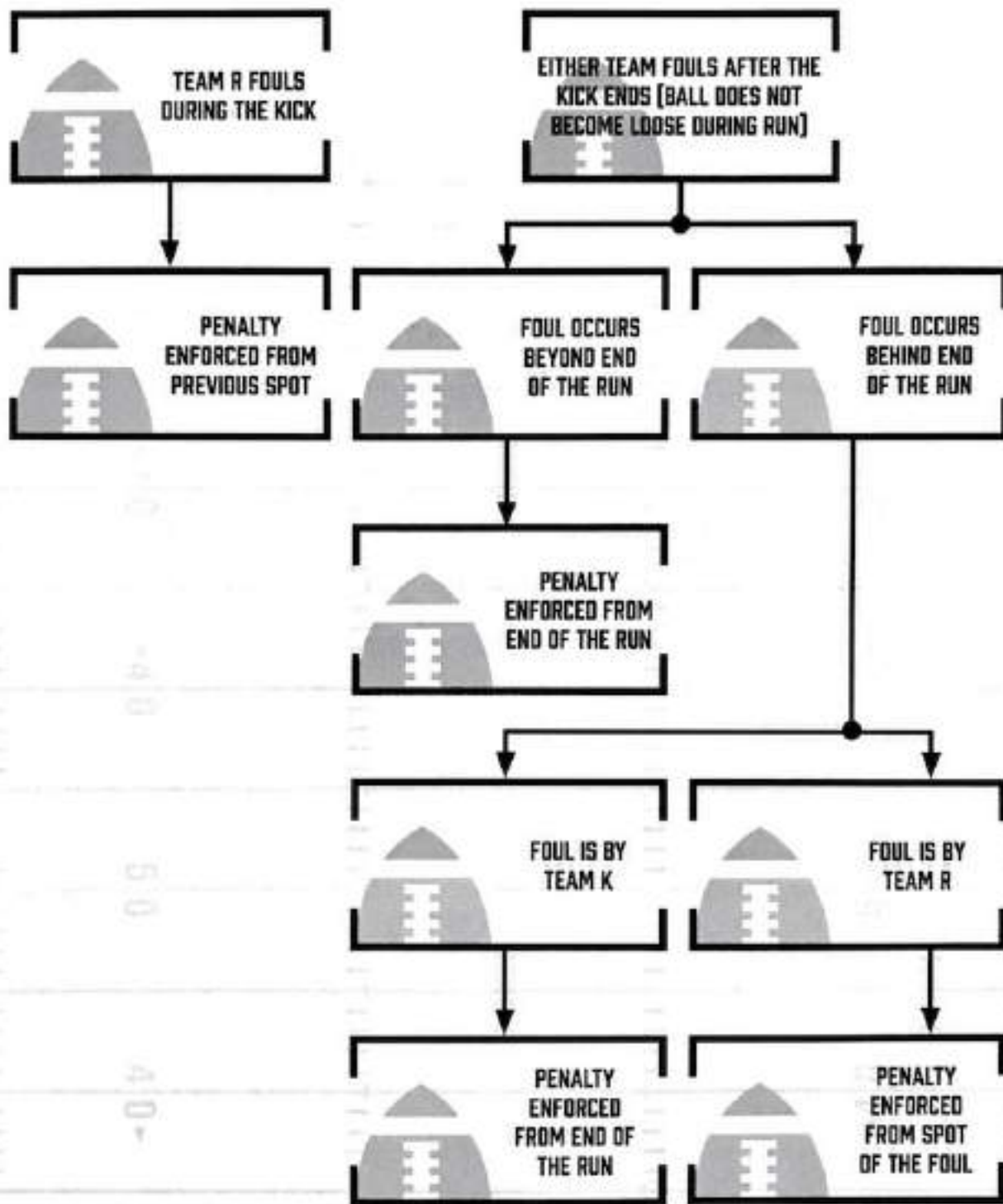


# CHAPTER 8

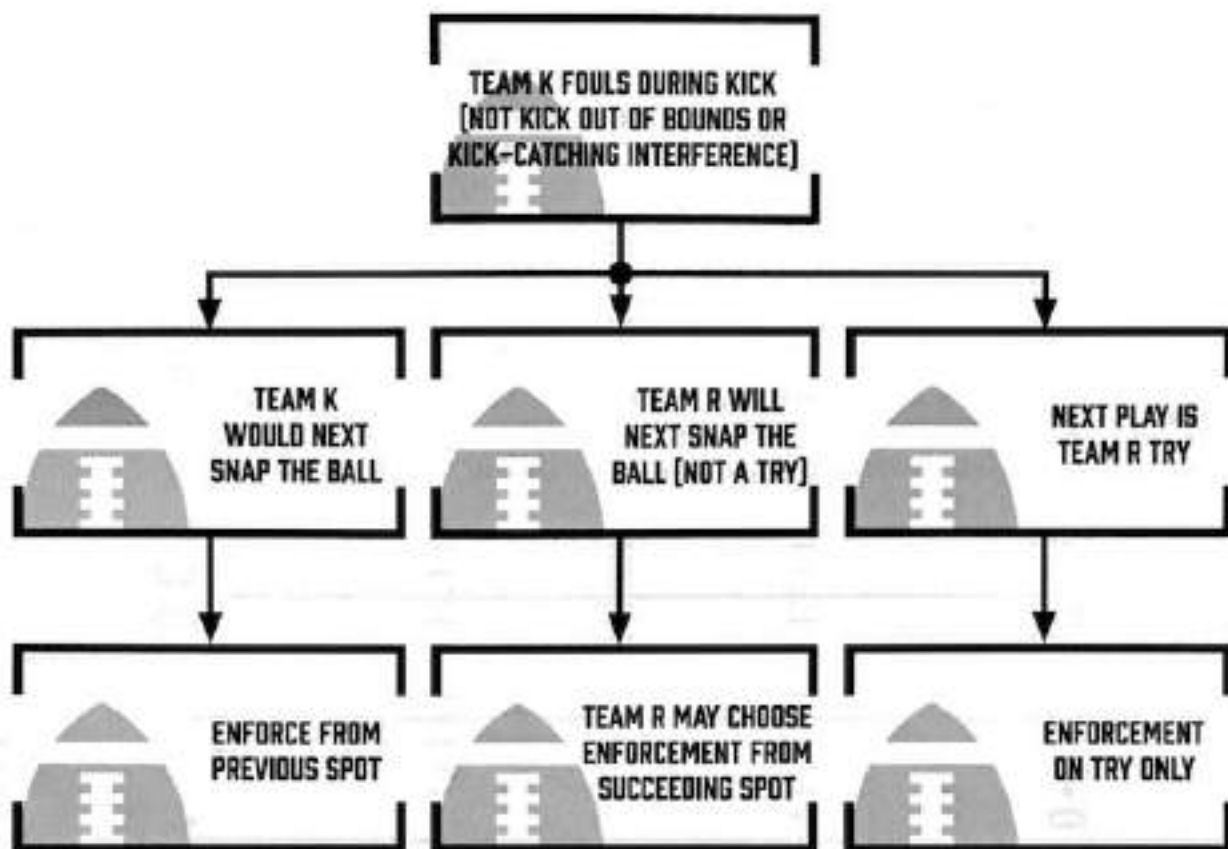
## FOULS ON FREE-KICK PLAYS



# FOULS ON FREE-KICK PLAYS



# FOULS ON FREE-KICK PLAYS



**NOTE 1:** Team R options on kick-catching interference:

- Accept the results of the play
- Accept an awarded fair catch after enforcement of a 15-yard penalty from the spot of the foul
- Accept a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot and a replay of the down

**NOTE 2:** Team R options on free kick out of bounds:

- Accept 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot
- Put the ball in play at the inbounds spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot if the previous spot is on the midfield side of team R's 25 yardline from the spot of the foul
- Accept a 5-yard penalty from the previous spot and a replay of the down



## FOULS ON FREE-KICK PLAYS

If team K commits a foul other than kick-catching interference during a free kick down and will not be next to put the ball in play, team R may choose to have the penalty enforced from the succeeding spot or at the previous spot. If team K would next put the ball in the play, the penalty is enforced at the previous spot.

**PLAY 1:** While K1's free kick is in flight, K2 grasps and twists R3's facemask. The ball is caught by R4, who returns it to team R's 25 yardline.

**RULING 1:** Team R may accept a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot and have team K rekick, or accept enforcement of a 15-yard penalty from the succeeding spot. That would give team R first and 10 at its own 40 yardline.

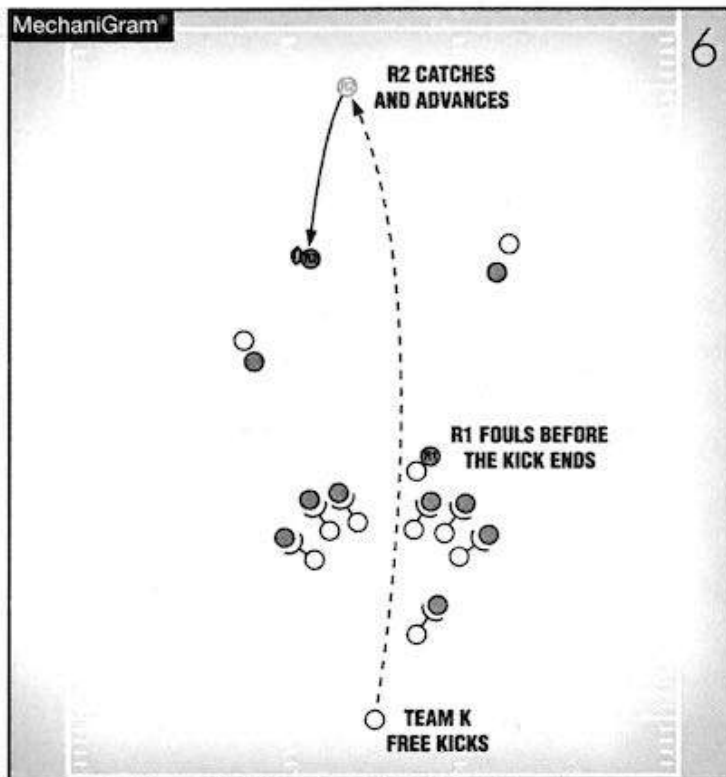
**PLAY 2:** While K1's free kick is in flight, K2 grasps and twists R3's facemask. The kick is caught by R4 at his 10 yardline and returned to team R's 20 yardline, where R4 is hit and fumbles. The ball is recovered at team R's 25 yardline by (a) R3, or (b) K4.

**RULING 2:** In (a), the penalty is enforced from the succeeding spot. That gives team R a first down at team K's 40 yardline. In (b), in order to negate the loss of possession, team R must accept enforcement from the previous spot.

If team K scores on the kick down, it must decline the penalty for any team R foul that occurs before the change of possession. There is no enforcement provision for giving the scoring team an option to enforce a penalty on the succeeding kickoff on a change-of-possession play when the foul occurs before the change of possession.

# CHAPTER 8

**PLAY 3:** R1 clips at team R's 20 yardline during R2's advance of a free kick. R2 fumbles at team R's 30 yardline. K3 recovers and advances across team R's goalline.



**RULING 3:** Since the foul occurred before team R's fumble and the subsequent change of possession and touchdown by team K, the penalty cannot be enforced on the try or subsequent kickoff. The penalty will obviously be declined.

The enforcement spot for loose-ball fouls by team R during a free kick is the previous spot.

**PLAY 4:** As seen in MechaniGram 6, team K free kicks from its own 40 yardline. R1 holds while the ball is in flight. R2 catches the ball on team R's five yardline and returns it to team R's 20 yardline.

**RULING 4:** If the penalty is accepted, team K will rekick after the 10-yard penalty is enforced from the previous spot. If team K declines, it's team R's ball, first and 10 at team R's 20 yardline.

## FOULS ON FREE-KICK PLAYS

The enforcement spot for fouls that occur after the kick ends when there is no subsequent loose ball (possession has been gained by team R) is the spot of the foul or the end of the run, because those are fouls on running plays.

**PLAY 5:** Team K free kicks from its own 40 yardline. R1 catches the kick at team R's five yardline and returns it to team R's 40 yardline. During the run, R2 clips at team R's 20 yardline.

**RULING 5:** Fouls that occur after team R recovers or catches the free kick are fouls during a running play. Enforce the penalty for team R's foul from the spot of the foul because it's behind the end of the run. The half-the-distance penalty yields first and 10 at team R's 10 yardline.

If team K is guilty of kick-catching interference, team R may take an awarded fair catch at the spot of the foul, have team K rekick after enforcement of a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot, or take an awarded fair catch with an additional 15-yard penalty.

### FREE KICK OUT OF BOUNDS

When a free kick goes out of bounds untouched inbounds by team R, it is a foul by team K. Team R has four choices: accept a five-yard penalty from the previous spot and have team K rekick; put the ball in play at the inbounds spot 25 yards beyond the previous spot; decline the penalty and put the ball in play at the inbounds spot; or accept a five-yard penalty enforced from the dead-ball spot.

# CHAPTER 8

**PLAY 6:** Team K's free kick from its 40 yardline goes out of bounds untouched at team R's 20 yardline.

**RULING 6:** If team R chooses previous-spot enforcement, team K will rekick from its own 35 yardline. Choosing to put the ball in play 25 yards beyond the previous spot would yield a new series for team R at its own 35 yardline. Accepting a five-yard penalty enforced from the dead-ball spot would result in a snap from team R's 25 yardline.

## BOTH TEAMS FOUL

When both teams commit a live-ball foul (other than non-player or unsportsmanlike) during a down, it is called a double foul. If a double foul occurs during a change-of-possession down and the team in final possession gets the ball free of a foul, it has the opportunity to retain possession. That is known as the "clean hands rule."

**PLAY 7:** While a free kick is in flight, K1 grabs R2's facemask and R3 clips K4. R5 catches the kick on his own five yardline and returns it to team R's 40 yardline.

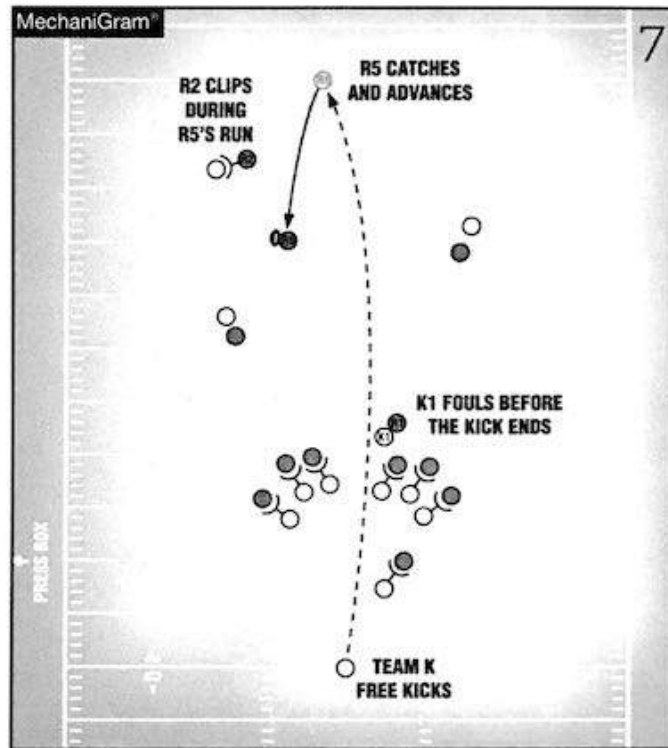
**RULING 7:** Both fouls occurred before the change of possession, so there is no option: The penalties offset. Team K will rekick from its own 40 yardline.

## FOULS ON FREE-KICK PLAYS

However, when the “clean hands” team retains possession by declining the penalty for the opponent’s foul, the penalty for the opponent’s foul may be enforced.

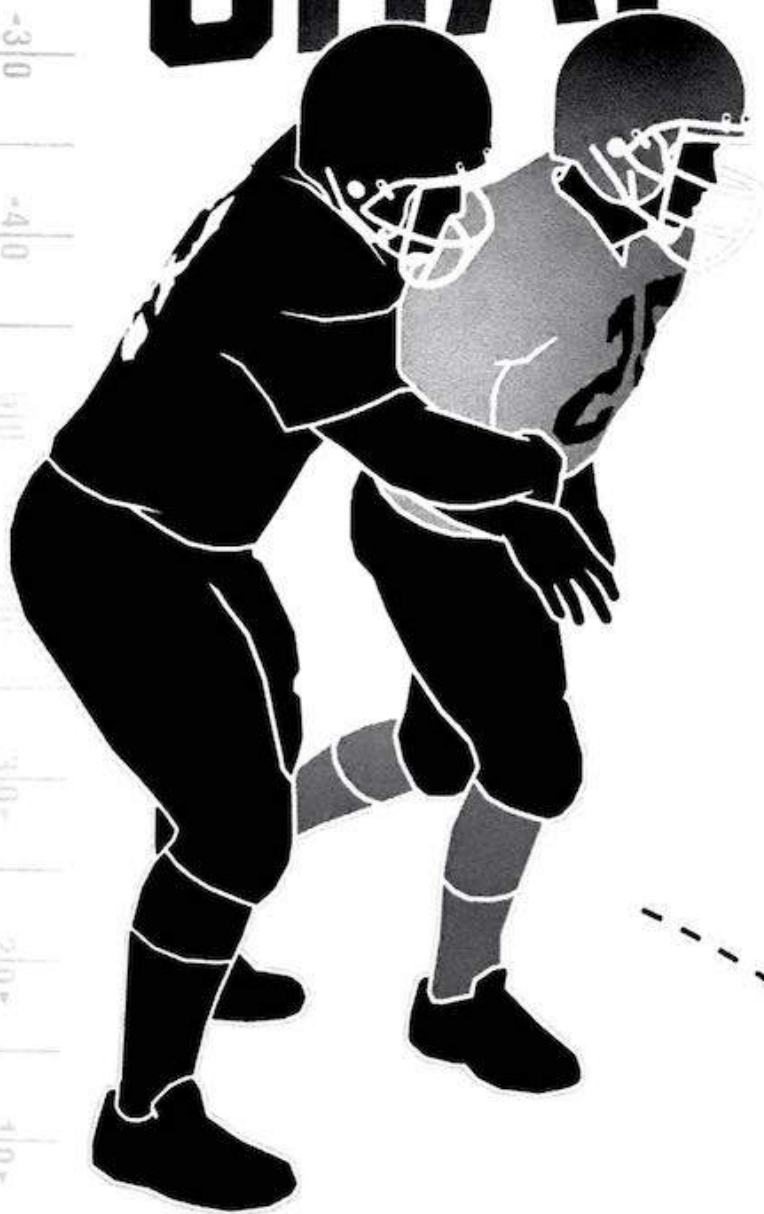
**PLAY 8:** As seen in MechaniGram 7, team K free kicks. While the ball is in flight, K1 grabs R1’s facemask. R5 catches the kick on his own five yardline and returns it to team R’s 20 yardline. During the run, R2 clips at team R’s 14 yardline.

**RULING 8:** Team R gained possession with “clean hands,” so it can decline the penalty for team K’s foul. Team K would accept the penalty for team R’s foul, which is enforced from the spot of the foul. Due to half-the-distance enforcement, that would result in first and 10 for team A from its own seven yardline. If team R accepts the penalty for team K’s foul, the down is replayed.

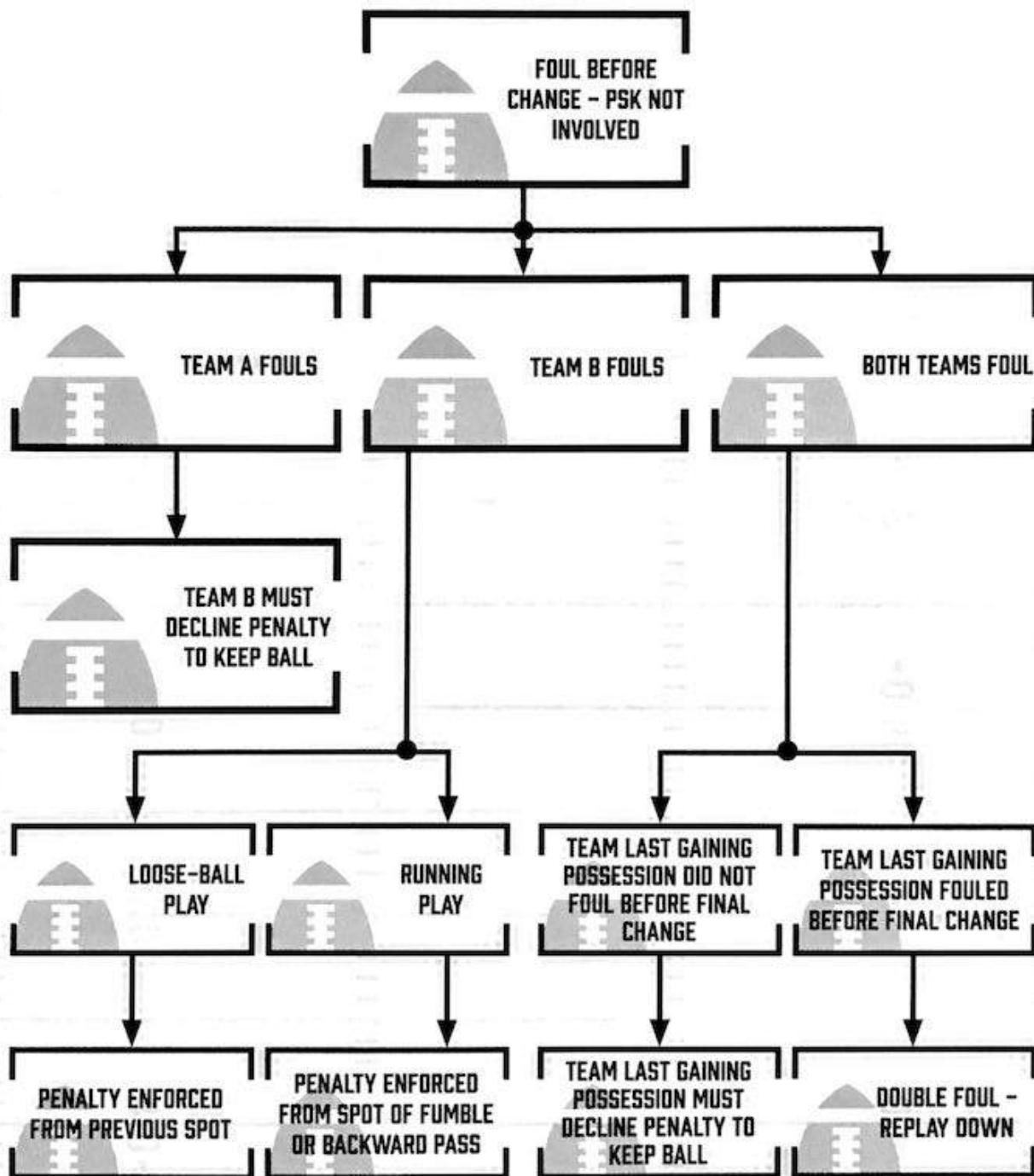


# CHAPTER 9

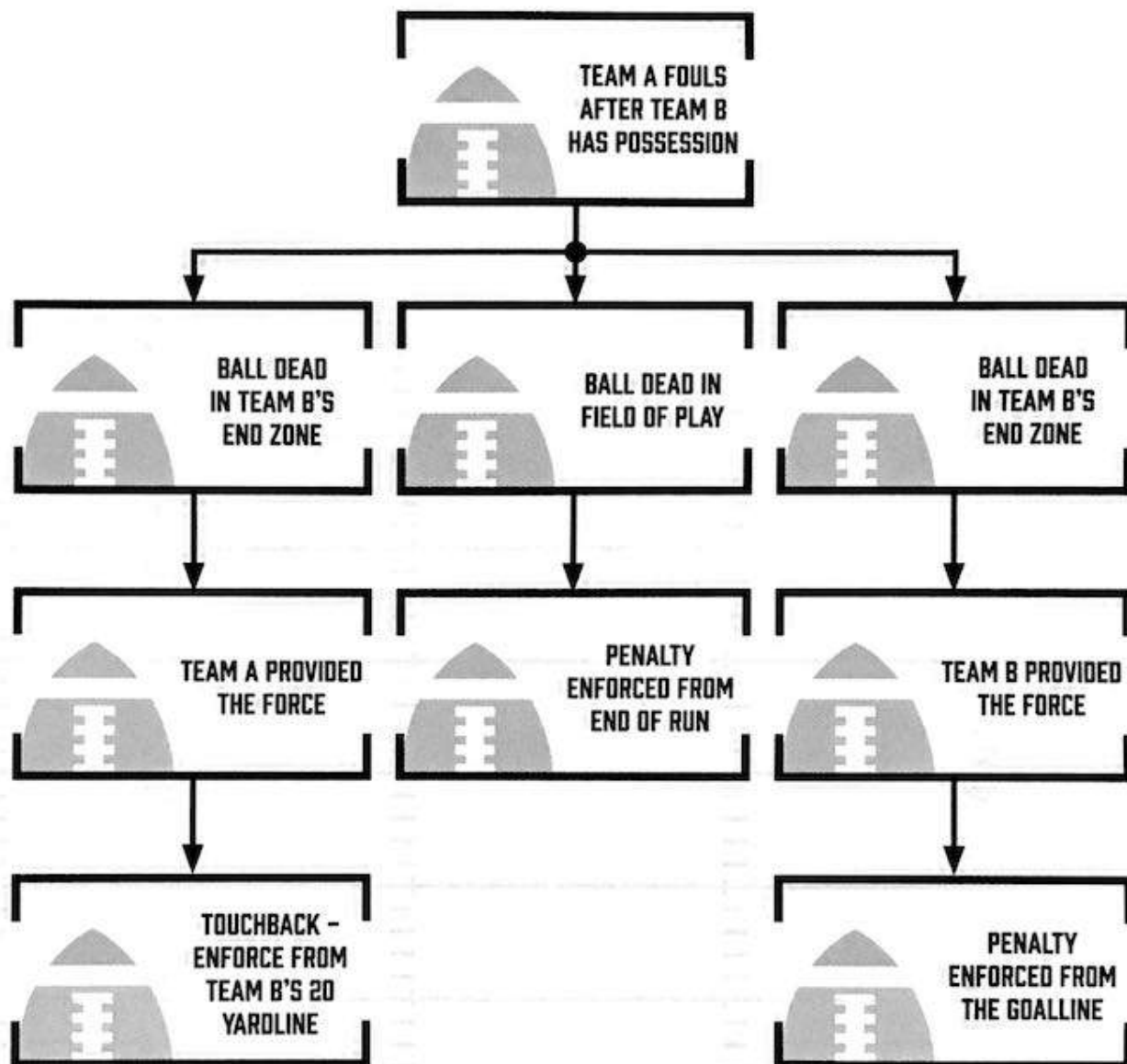
## FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS



# FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

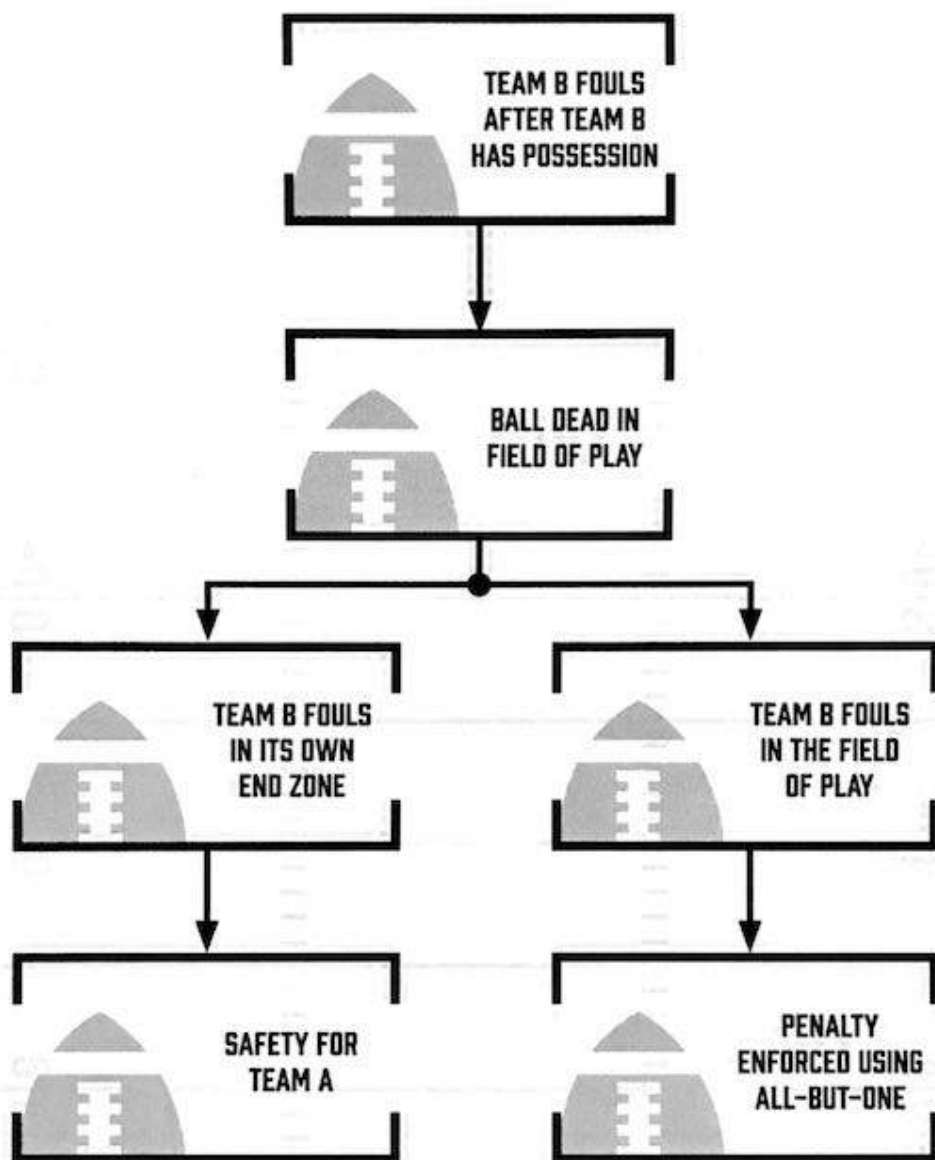


# FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

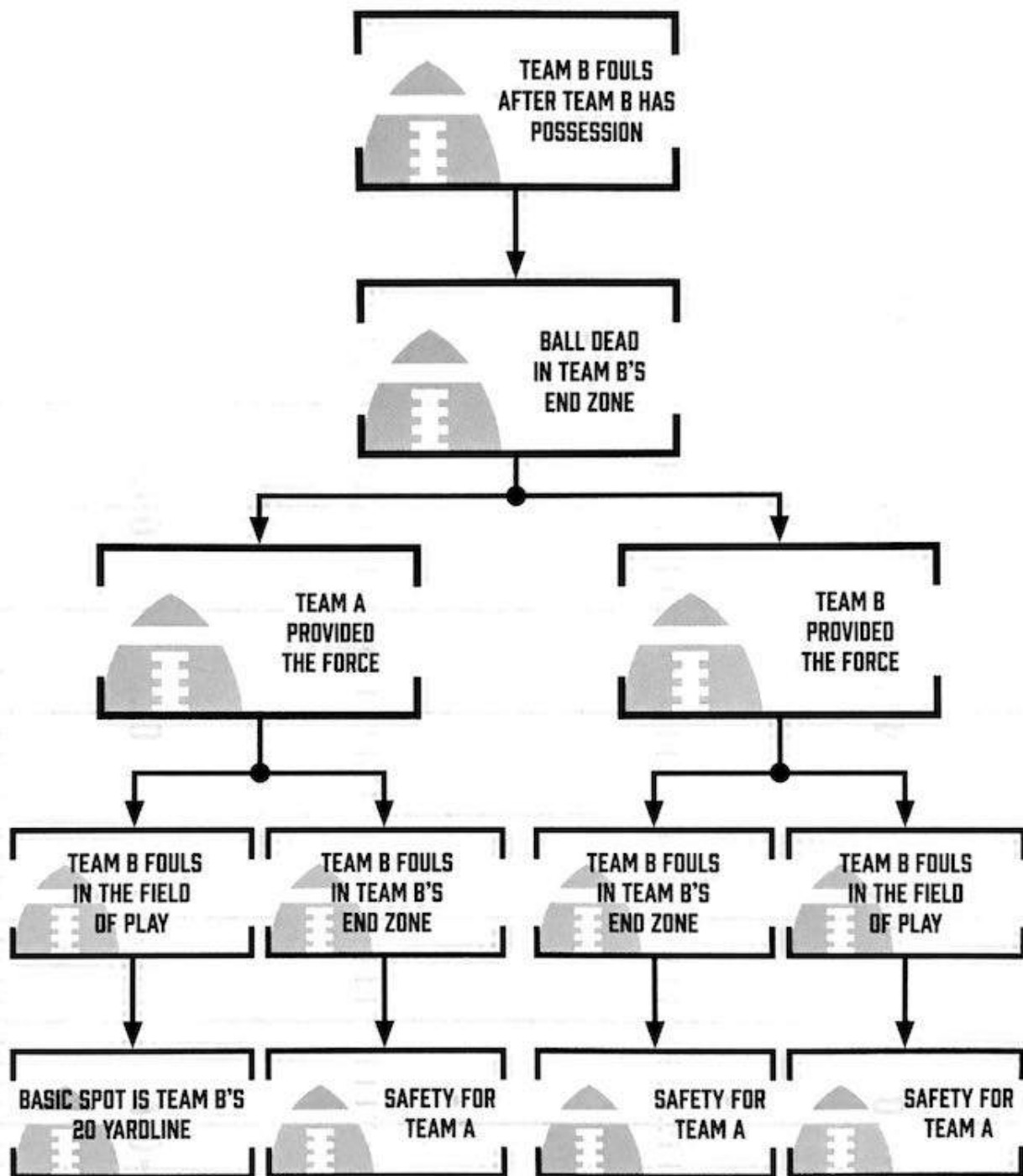




# ***FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS***



# FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS



## FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

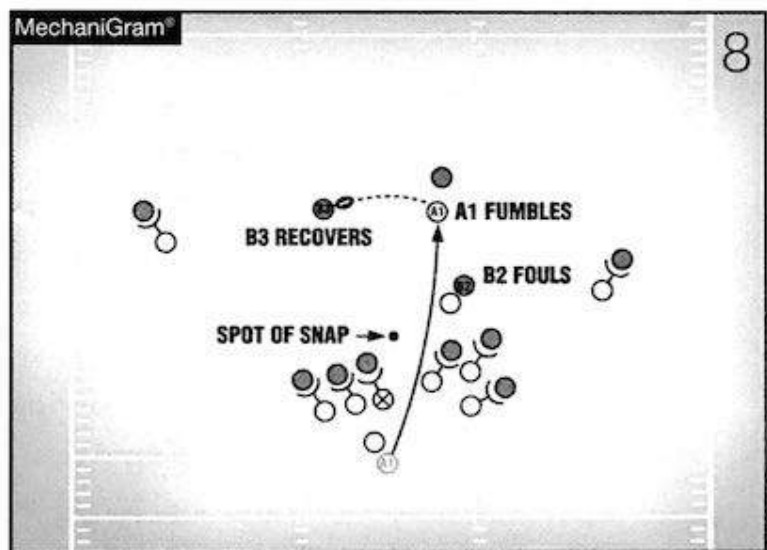
If team A commits a foul during a running play prior to a change of possession (e.g. fumble or backward pass), team B must decline the penalty for team A's foul in order to keep the ball.

**PLAY 1:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1 has the ball at team A's 25 yardline when A2 holds at team A's 22 yardline. A1 fumbles and B3 recovers at team A's 30 yardline.

**RULING 1:** Team B must decline the penalty to keep the ball. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 from team A's 30 yardline.

If team B fouls prior to the change of possession, the ball is returned to team A and the penalty for team B's foul is enforced from the spot of the fumble or backward pass.

**PLAY 2:** As seen in MechaniGram 8, it is first and 10 for team A from its own 40 yardline. A1 advances the ball to team A's 45 yardline when B2 grabs and twists A1's facemask. A1 reaches the 50 yardline and fumbles, where prone B3 recovers the loose ball.



# CHAPTER 9

**RULING 2:** Because team B fouled prior to gaining possession, it cannot keep the ball. The ball is returned to team A and the penalty is enforced from the spot of the fumble. It will be team A's ball, first and 10 from team B's 35 yardline.

If team B's foul occurs while team A's fumble or backward pass is behind the line of scrimmage, the enforcement spot is the previous spot.

**PLAY 3:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. Quarterback A1 drops back to pass and is at his own 14 yardline when he fumbles. While the ball is loose, B2 grabs and twists A1's facemask. B3 recovers at team A's 15 yardline.

**RULING 3:** Because team B fouled prior to gaining possession, it cannot keep the ball. The ball is returned to team A, and the penalty is enforced from the previous spot. It will be team A's ball, first 10 from its own 35 yardline.

## EACH TEAM FOULS

If each team fouls during a down in which there is a change of team possession and the play does not involve post-scrimmage kick enforcement, the team last gaining possession may retain the ball. In order for that to happen, the team last in possession must not have fouled before the final change of possession (clean hands) and it must decline the penalty for its opponent's foul (other than a nonplayer or unsportsmanlike). For plays that involve post-scrimmage kick enforcement, see Chapter 10.

## FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

**PLAY 4:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. Team A is illegally in motion at the snap. A1's legal forward pass is intercepted by B2 at team A's 40 yardline. B2 advances to team A's 20 yardline. During B2's run, B3 is flagged for clipping at team A's 30 yardline.

**RULING 4:** Team B may retain possession by declining the penalty for team A's motion foul. In that case, the penalty for team B's clipping foul will be enforced, yielding first and 10 for team B from team A's 45 yardline.

**PLAY 5:** First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. A1's legal forward pass is intercepted by B2 at team A's 40 yardline. B2 advances to team A's 20 yardline. During B2's run, B3 is flagged for clipping at team A's 30 yardline and A4 grasps and twists B2's facemask at team A's 35 yardline. B2 fumbles and prone A5 recovers at team A's 35 yardline.

**RULING 5:** That is a double foul. Team A fouled before gaining final possession. The penalties offset. It will be team A's ball, first and 10 at its own 20 yardline.

### PLAYS INVOLVING THE END ZONE

Remember that while "team" designations (team A, team K, etc.) remain throughout a down, after a change of team possession, team A becomes the defense (the opponents of the team in possession) and team B becomes the offense (the team in possession).

# CHAPTER 9

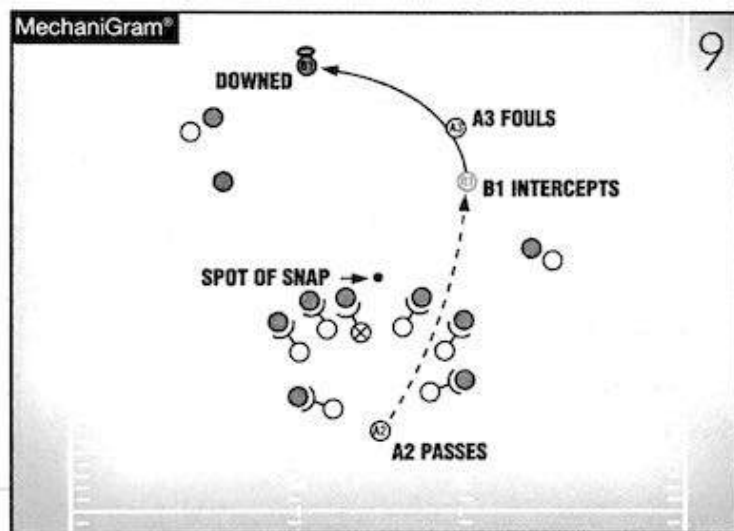
## FOULS BY OPPONENTS OF THE TEAM IN POSSESSION

When the play results in a touchback, the basic spot is the 20 yardline. When the play results in a safety, the basic spot is the goalline.

**PLAY 6:** As seen in MechaniGram 9, B1 is at his own six yardline when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 runs into his own end zone, where he is downed. When B1 is at his own two yardline, A3 grabs and twists B4's facemask.

**RULING 6:** The play results in a safety because the

team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across its goalline. Team B will accept the penalty, which is enforced from team B's goalline. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 from its own 15 yardline.



**PLAY 7:** B1 is in his own end zone when he

intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 tries to advance but is downed without leaving the end zone. During B1's run, A3 grabs and twists B4's facemask.

**RULING 7:** The play results in a touchback because the opponent of the team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across the goalline of the team in possession. The penalty is enforced from the basic spot

## FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

– team B's 20 yardline. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 from its own 35 yardline.

The basic spot is the 20 yardline for fouls committed by either team when the opponent of the team in possession at the time of the foul is responsible for forcing the ball across the goalline of the team in possession and the related run ends in the end zone and is followed by a loose ball.

**PLAY 8:** B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 tries to advance but is still in his end zone when he is hit and fumbles. The ball goes out of bounds. During B1's run, A3 grasps and twists B4's facemask at team B's 10 yardline.

**RULING 8:** The basic spot is team B's 20 yardline. The 15-yard penalty is enforced from the basic spot. Team B will start a new series at its own 35 yardline.

**PLAY 9:** B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 tries to advance but is still in his end zone when he is hit and fumbles. The ball goes out of bounds in the end zone. During B1's run, A3 grasps and twists B4's facemask in the end zone.

**RULING 9:** The basic spot is the 20 yardline. The 15-yard penalty is enforced from the basic spot, yielding first and 10 for team B from its own 35 yardline.

### FOULS BY THE TEAM IN POSSESSION

Penalties for fouls by the team in possession after a change of possession are enforced from the basic spot.

# CHAPTER 9

**PLAY 10:** B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 tries to advance but is downed without leaving the end zone. During B1's run, B3 clips A4 in the end zone.

**RULING 10:** The result of the play is a touchback because the opponent of the team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across the goalline of the team in possession. But because the enforcement spot is in team B's end zone, team A scores a safety.

**PLAY 11:** B1 intercepts A2's legal forward pass at his own six yardline. B1 retreats to his own end zone and is downed there. During B1's run, B3 clips A4 in the end zone.

**RULING 11:** Safety. The result of the play is a safety because the team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across its goalline. Acceptance of the penalty also results in a safety because the enforcement spot is in the end zone.

**PLAY 12:** As seen in MechaniGram 10 on page 83, B1 is at his own six yardline when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 advances to his own 10 yardline, where he is downed. During B1's run, B3 clips A4 in the end zone.

**RULING 12:** Safety. The ball became dead in the field of play. Acceptance of the penalty results in a safety because the enforcement spot is in the end zone.

If both the spot of the foul and the dead-ball spot are in the field of play, the penalty is enforced depending on the spot of the foul.



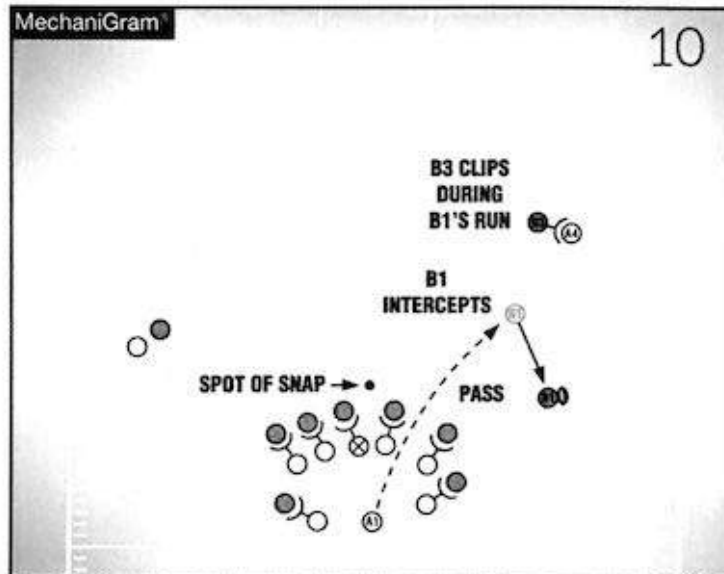
## FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

**PLAY 13:** B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 advances to his own 15 yardline. During B1's run, (a) B3 clips A4 at team B's 10 yardline, or (b) A3 grabs and twists B4's facemask at team B's 10 yardline.

**RULING 13:** The result of the play is neither a safety nor a touchback – the ball became dead in the field of play and the fouls occurred behind the end of the run. In (a), the penalty is by the team in possession and is enforced from the spot of the foul. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 at its five yardline. In (b), the foul is by the opponents of the team in possession. The penalty is enforced from the end of the run. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 at its 30 yardline.

**PLAY 14:** B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 advances to his own 20 yardline. During B1's run, (a) B3 clips A4 at team B's 30 yardline, or (b) A3 grabs and twists B4's facemask at team B's 30 yardline.

**RULING 14:** The fouls occurred beyond the end of the run. The penalties will be enforced from the end of the run. In (a), it will be team B's ball, first and 10 at its 10



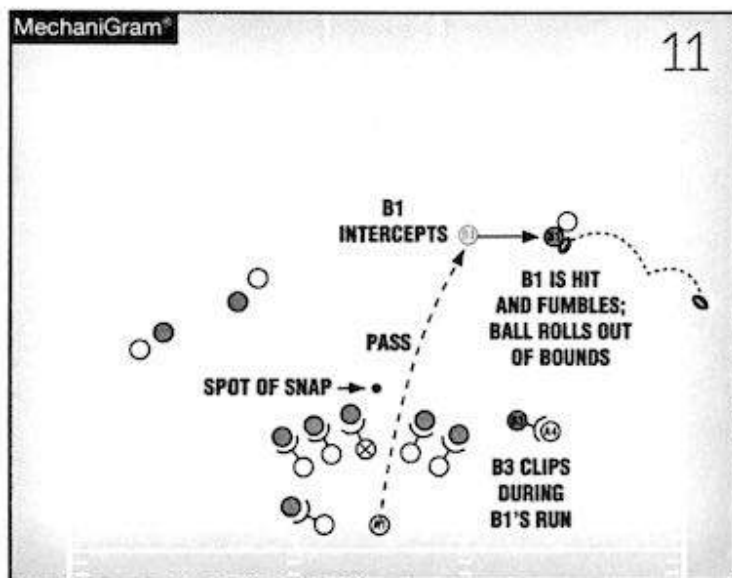
# CHAPTER 9

yardline. In (b), it will be team B's ball, first and 10 at its 35 yardline.

**PLAY 15:** As seen in MechaniGram 11, B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 tries to advance but is still in his end zone when he is hit and fumbles. The ball goes out of bounds at team B's four yardline. During B1's run, B3 clips A4 at team B's 14 yardline.

**RULING 15:** The basic spot is team B's 20 yardline. The foul occurred behind the basic spot, so the penalty

is enforced half the distance from the spot of the foul (team B's 14 yardline). That yields first and 10 for team B from its own seven yardline.



When, after a change of team possession, a related run ends in the end zone and either team fouls in the end zone, the basic spot is the goalline.

**PLAY 16:** B1 is in his own end zone when he intercepts A2's legal forward pass. B1 is still in his end zone when he is hit and fumbles. The ball goes out of bounds in the end zone. During B1's run, B3 clips A4 in the end zone.

## FOULS ON CHANGE OF POSSESSION PLAYS

**RULING 16:** The result of the play is a touchback. The basic spot is team B's 20 yardline. The foul occurred behind the basic spot. Because the spot of the foul is in team B's end zone, enforcement of the penalty will result in a safety.

The basic spot is the goalline for fouls committed on running plays by the opponents of the team in possession at the time of the foul when the team in possession is responsible for forcing the ball across its own goalline and the related run ends in the end zone.

**PLAY 17:** A1's pass is intercepted by B2 at team B's three yardline. B2 runs into his own end zone, where his facemask is grabbed and twisted by A3. That causes B2 to fumble. The ball rolls back into the field of play and goes out of bounds at team B's four yardline.

**RULING 17:** The basic spot is the goalline. After enforcement, it will be first down for team B at its 15 yardline.

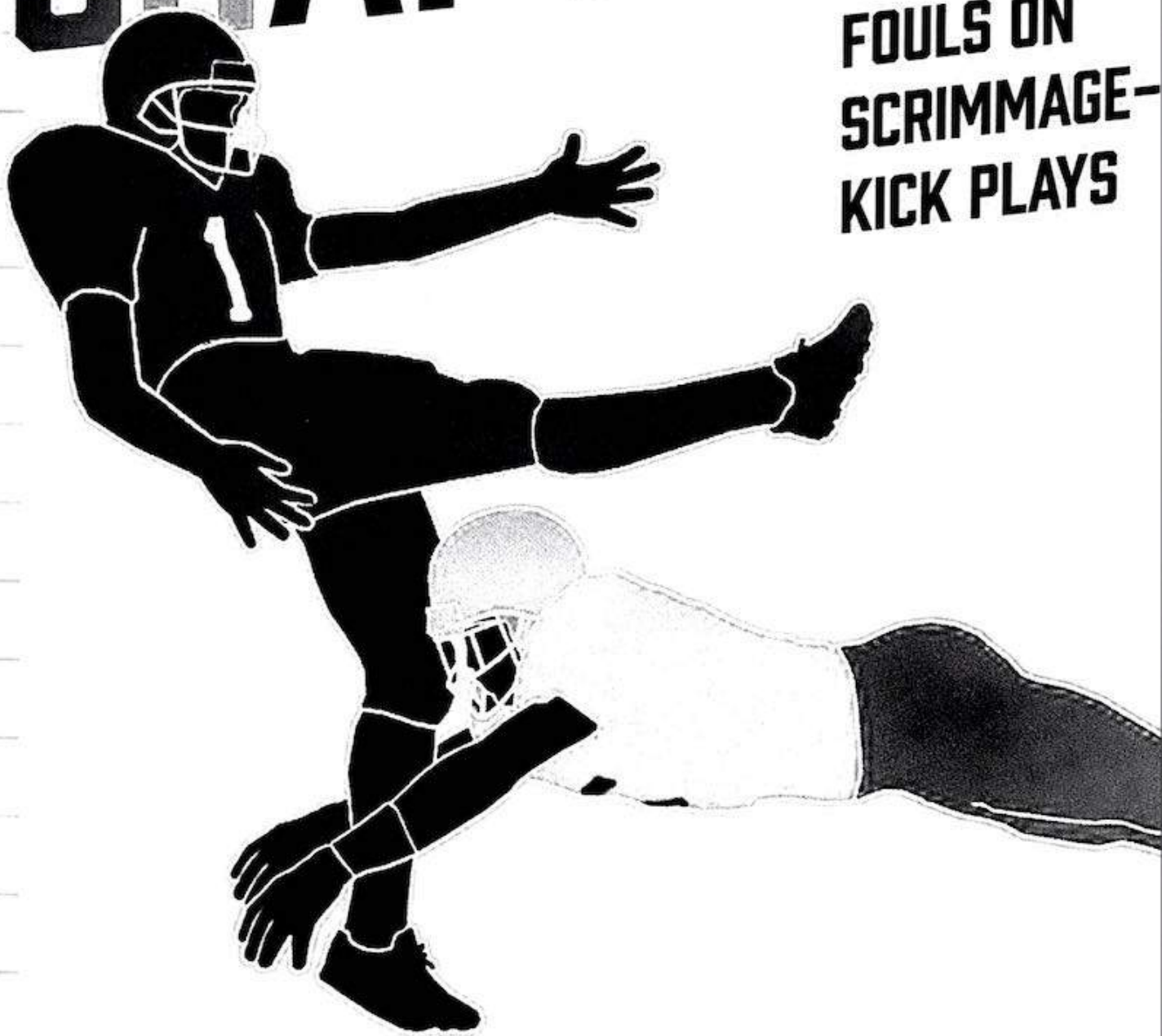
Ordinarily, the momentum exception rewards a team for making a great play inside its own five yardline. However, a foul by the team gaining possession can negate that stellar effort.

**PLAY 18:** B1 intercepts A2's legal forward pass at his own four yardline and his momentum takes him into his own end zone. B1 tries to advance but is still in his end zone when he is downed. During B1's run, B3 clips A4 in the end zone.

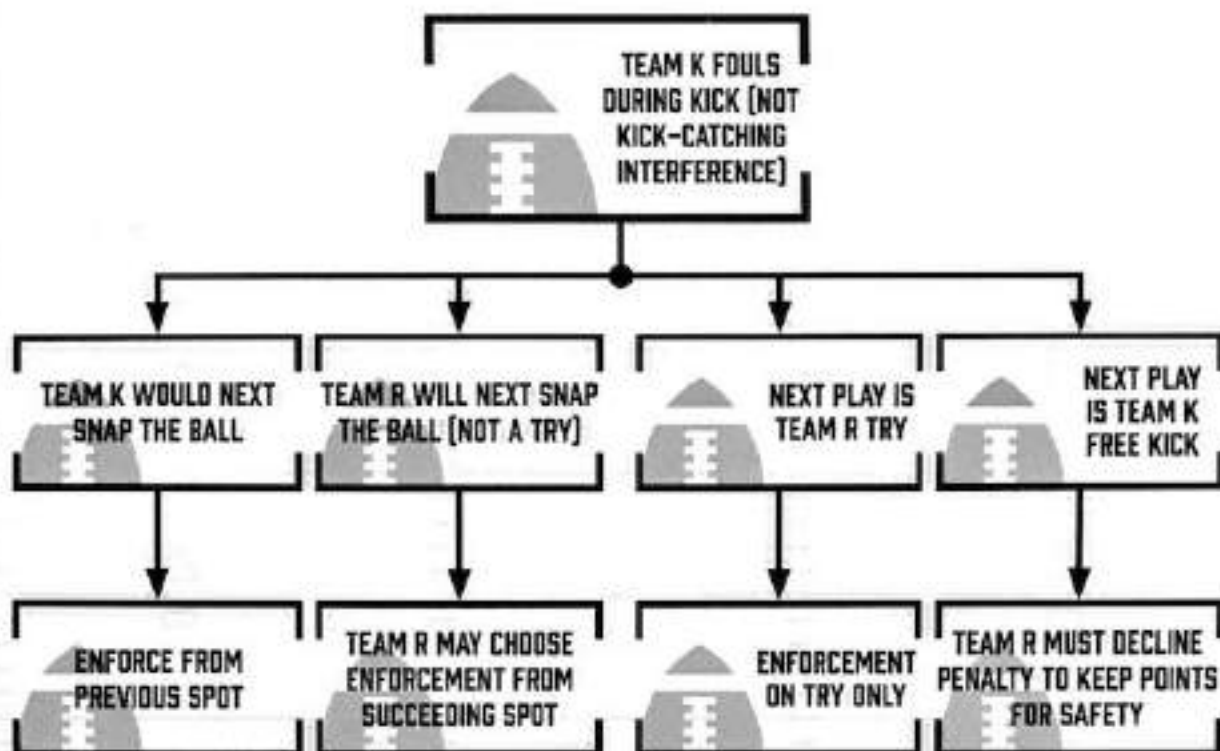
**RULING 18:** Safety. The basic spot is the momentum spot, team B's four yardline. The foul occurred behind the basic spot. Because the spot of the foul is in team B's end zone, the result is a safety.

# CHAPTER 10

## FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE- KICK PLAYS



# FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS

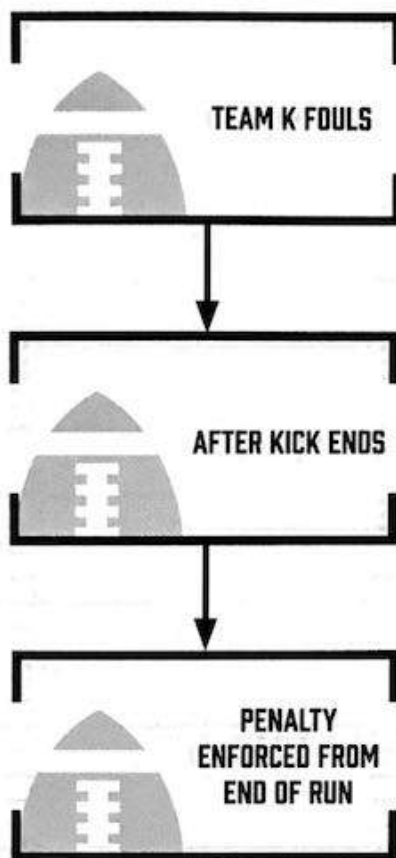


**NOTE 1:** Team R options on kick-catching interference:

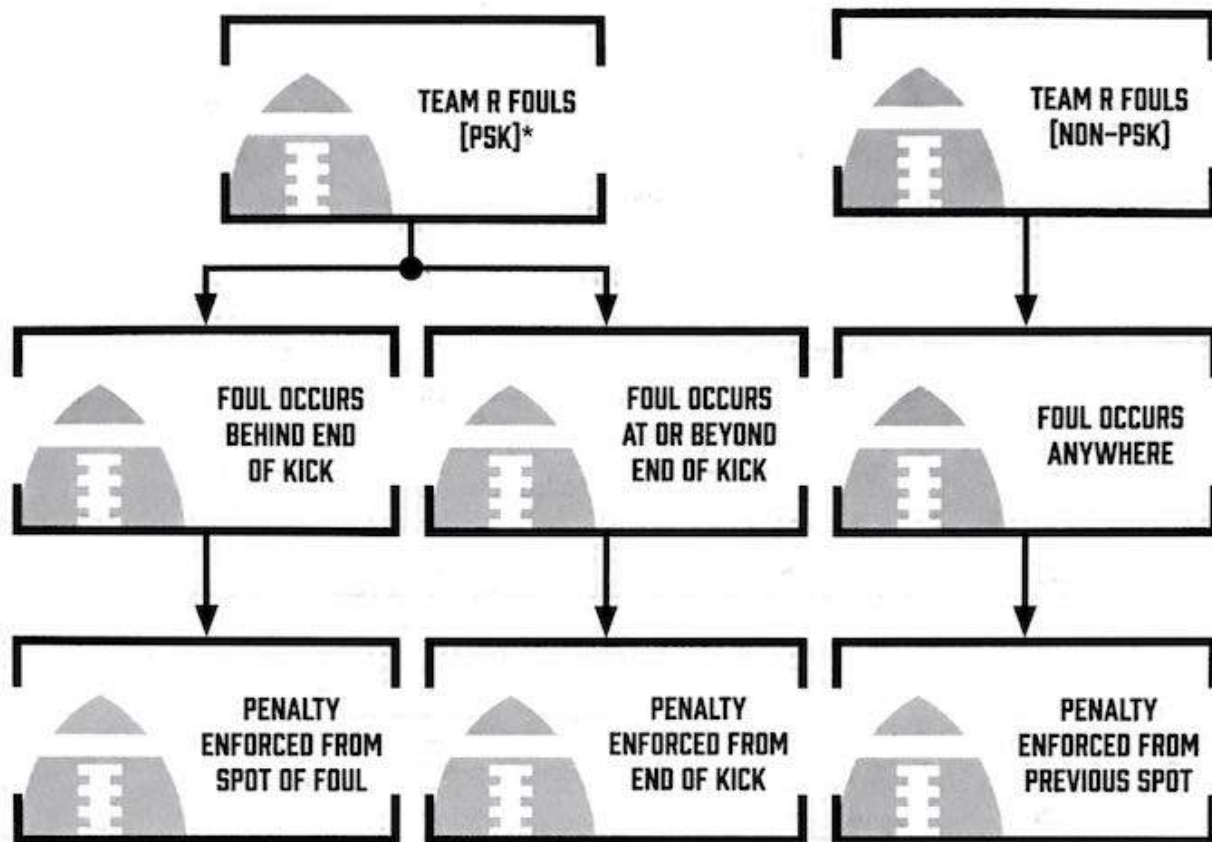
- Accept the results of the play
- Accept an awarded fair catch after enforcement of a 15-yard penalty from the spot of the foul
- Accept a 15-yard penalty from the previous spot and a replay of the down

**NOTE 2:** Safety if team K fouls in its own end zone

# FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS



# FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS



\*PSK applies if team R fouls on team R's side of the expanded neutral zone prior to end of a scrimmage kick (other than a try or successful field goal) that crosses the neutral zone, if team K does not have possession of the ball when the down ends.

# CHAPTER 10

If team K commits a foul other than kick-catching interference during a scrimmage kick (from the time of the snap until the kick ends) and team K is not next to put the ball in play, team R has the option of enforcement from the succeeding spot. That is what is known as a “tack-on” penalty.

**PLAY 1:** Fourth and 10 from team R’s 45 yardline. At the snap, team K is flagged for an illegal formation. K1’s punt (a) is caught by R2 at team R’s 10 yardline and returned to team K’s 40 yardline, or (b) rolls untouched into team R’s end zone.

**RULING 1:** In (a), team R may have the five-yard penalty enforced from the previous spot, or have the penalty enforced from the end of R2’s run. In (b), the result of the play is a touchback and the basic spot is team R’s 20 yardline. Enforcement from the succeeding spot would give team R a new series at its own 25 yardline. Team R may also have the five-yard penalty enforced from the previous spot.

**PLAY 2:** Fourth and 10 from team K’s 20 yardline. As the kick is in flight, team K is flagged for holding. K1’s punt is caught by R2 at the 50 yardline and returned to team K’s 40 yardline, where R2 is hit and fumbles. The ball is recovered at team K’s 35 yardline by (a) R3, or (b) K4.

**RULING 2:** In (a), the penalty is enforced from the succeeding spot. That yields first down at team K’s 25 yardline. In (b), to prevent team K from having the ball first and 10, team R must accept enforcement from the previous spot. It will be team K’s ball fourth and 20 from its own 10 yardline.



## FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS

If team K fouls in its own end zone, acceptance of the penalty results in a safety. Since the foul by team K occurred in the end zone, there is no option to accept the penalty at the previous spot. Team R may choose the result of the play and accept the penalty with succeeding spot enforcement. Team R may want that option if its return ended to team K's goalline. If team R scores a safety through play, the penalty may not be enforced at the succeeding spot because team K will next put the ball in play.

If team R scores a touchdown, the penalty may only be enforced on the try.

**PLAY 3:** Fourth and 10 from team K's five yardline. At the snap, team K is flagged for an illegal formation. K1's punt is blocked. The ball is recovered in team K's end zone by (a) R2, or (b) K3.

**RULING 3:** In (a), team R scores a touchdown. The five-yard penalty will be enforced on the try. There is no enforcement provision for giving the scoring team an option to enforce a penalty on the succeeding kickoff on a change-of-possession play when the foul occurs before the change of possession. In (b), team R scores a safety. Play resumes with team K's free kick from its own 20 yardline.

### POST-SCRIMMAGE KICK ENFORCEMENT

Most fouls by team R during the kick play qualify for post-scrimmage kick (PSK) enforcement. PSK applies if team R fouls on team R's side of the expanded neutral zone prior to the end of a scrimmage kick (other than a try or successful field goal) that crosses the neutral zone, if team K does not have possession of the ball when the down ends.

# CHAPTER 10

If PSK does not apply, team R fouls before the kick ends have previous spot enforcement.

**PLAY 4:** Fourth and three on the 50 yardline. R1 gives an invalid fair-catch signal at his 20 yardline while the punt is in flight. R1 then catches the kick at his 15 yardline.

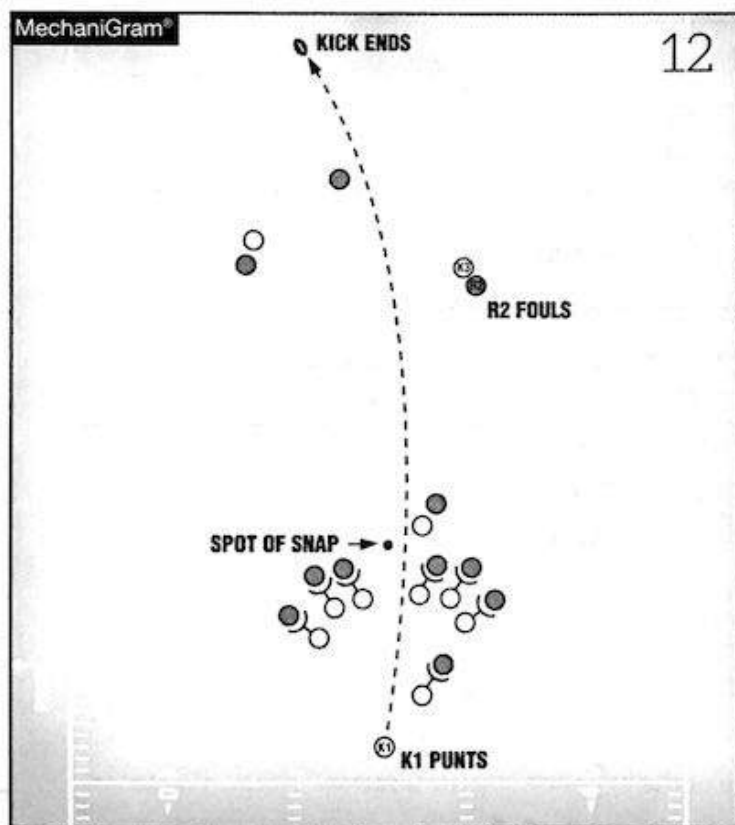
**RULING 4:** Team K would likely accept the five-yard penalty, which is assessed from the PSK spot (team R's 15 yardline) and results in team R's ball, first and 10 on team R's 10 yardline.

**PLAY 5:** As seen in MechaniGram 12, it's fourth and 10

at team R's 40 yardline. While K1's punt is in flight, R2 blocks K3 below the waist. The foul occurs at team R's 18 yardline. The untouched kick lands in team R's end zone.

**RULING 5:** PSK applies. Because the kick resulted in a touchback, team R's 20 yardline is the basic spot. Because the spot of the foul is behind the basic spot, that is the spot of enforcement. It will be team R's ball, first and 10 from its own nine yardline.

**PLAY 6:** Fourth and 10 for team K from its own 20 yardline. While K1's punt is in



## FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS

flight, R2 blocks K3 below the waist. The foul occurs at team K's (a) 18, or (b) 23 yardline. R4 makes a fair catch at the 50 yardline.

**RULING 6:** R2's block occurred before the kick ended. In (a), because the spot of the foul is behind the expanded neutral zone, PSK does not apply. The penalty is marked off 15 yards from the previous spot. That gives team K a new series at its own 35 yardline. In (b), PSK applies. The penalty is enforced from the end of the kick. It will be team R's ball, first and 10 at its own 35 yardline.

If PSK applies and the kick results in a touchback, team R's 20 yardline is the basic spot.

**PLAY 7:** Fourth and 10 at team K's 20 yardline. K1's punt is caught by R2 at team K's 45 yardline and he advances to team K's 35 yardline. During R2's run, a foul occurs at team K's 30 yardline. The foul is (a) clipping by R3, or (b) grasping and twisting the facemask by K4.

**RULING 7:** The fouls occurred during a running play and the penalty is enforced from the end of the run. In (a), it will be team R's ball, first and 10 at the 50 yardline. In (b), the penalty is added to the end of the run. It will be team R's ball, first and 10 at team K's 20 yardline.

**PLAY 8:** It is fourth and 10 at team K's 20 yardline. While K1's punt is in flight, R2 blocks K3 below the waist at the 50 yardline. R4 muffs the ball at team R's 45 yardline, where prone K5 recovers.

**RULING 8:** R2's illegal block occurred before the kick ended. PSK does not apply because team K was in possession at the end of the down. Team K will decline the penalty and start a new series, first and 10 at team R's 45 yardline.

# CHAPTER 10

PSK does not apply on a kick try or successful field goal. On successful scoring kicks, team K may have the penalty for team R fouls enforced from the previous spot or the succeeding spot. Team R fouls during an unsuccessful field goal are enforced under PSK or from the previous spot, depending on which applies.

**PLAY 9:** Fourth and 10 from team R's 30 yardline. K1's attempted field goal is short, but R2 is flagged for holding K3 at team R's 16 yardline. The untouched kick (a) lands in team R's end zone, or (b) comes to rest on team R's four yardline.

**RULING 9:** PSK applies in both cases. In (a), the result of the play is a touchback and the basic spot is team R's 20 yardline. The penalty is enforced half the distance from the spot of the foul because that is behind the PSK spot. That will leave team R with first and 10 from its own eight yardline. In (b), the basic spot is the end of the kick, team R's four yardline. Because the foul occurred beyond the basic spot, the penalty is enforced from the basic spot, yielding first and 10 for team R from its own two yardline.

**PLAY 10:** Due to a penalty, team K is attempting a try from team R's 18 yardline. K1's attempted kick try is short, but R2 is flagged for grasping and twisting K3's facemask at team R's 10 yardline. The untouched kick (a) lands in team R's end zone, or (b) comes to rest on team R's four yardline.

**RULING 10:** PSK does not apply on tries. If team K accepts the penalty in (a) or (b), enforcement is from the previous spot. Team K will next snap the ball from team R's nine yardline.

# FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS

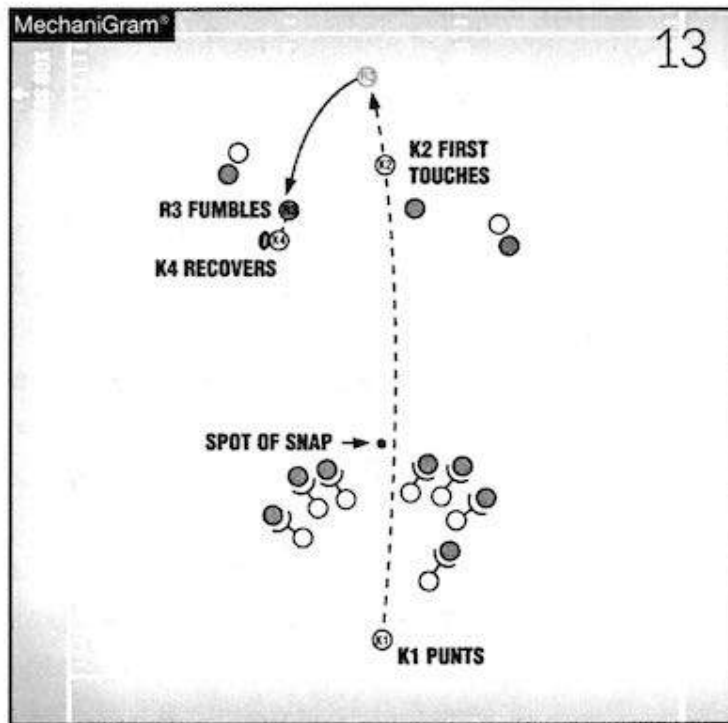
## FIRST TOUCHING

First touching can add a confusing twist to penalty enforcement on scrimmage kicks. However, it is not difficult once you understand the fundamentals of first touching.

First touching is not a foul but has many of the same characteristics as a foul. It occurs when a team K player touches a scrimmage kick that has crossed the expanded neutral zone before the ball is touched by a team R player. First touching gives team R the privilege of taking the ball at that spot of the touching.

Despite the name, there may be more than one spot of first touching. There cannot be first touching by team K in team R's end zone because the ball is dead once it breaks the plane of team R's goalline.

If team R touches the kick and thereafter during the down commits a foul, or if a penalty incurred by either team during the down is accepted, first touching privileges are cancelled.



**PLAY II:** As seen in MechaniGram 13, it is fourth and 10 from team K's 20 yardline. K1's punt is first touched by K2 at team K's 45 yardline. R3 recovers the loose ball, advances to team K's 40 yardline and fumbles. Prone K4 recovers at team K's 37 yardline.

# CHAPTER 10

**RULING 11:** Team R will choose the spot of first touching rather than the result of the play. Team R will begin a new series at team K's 45 yardline.

**PLAY 12:** Fourth and 10 at team K's 20 yardline. K1's punt is first touched by K2 at team K's 45 yardline. R3 recovers the loose ball, advances to team K's 40 yardline and fumbles. K4 recovers and advances to the 50 yardline. During K4's run, K5 is flagged for holding at team K's 30 yardline.

**RULING 12:** If team R declines the penalty, it will take the ball at the spot of first touching (team K's 45 yardline). Accepting the penalty would negate team R's ability to take the ball at the spot of first touching.

If each team fouls during a down in which there is a change of possession and all team R fouls have PSK enforcement, team R may retain the ball. In order for that to happen, team R must decline the penalty for team K fouls (other than nonplayer or unsportsmanlike).

**PLAY 13:** Fourth and 10 at team K's 20 yardline. Team K is illegally in motion at the snap. While the kick is in flight, R1 clips K2 at team K's 35 yardline. R3 makes a fair catch at team K's 40 yardline.

**RULING 13:** Team R may retain possession by declining the penalty for team K's motion foul. The penalty for R1's clip must be enforced from the end of the kick. It will be team R's ball, first and 10 at its own 45 yardline.

**PLAY 14:** As seen in MechaniGram 14, R1 catches a punt at his own four yardline. He advances to his own 15 yardline, where he is downed. During the run, R2 clips K3 in team R's end zone.

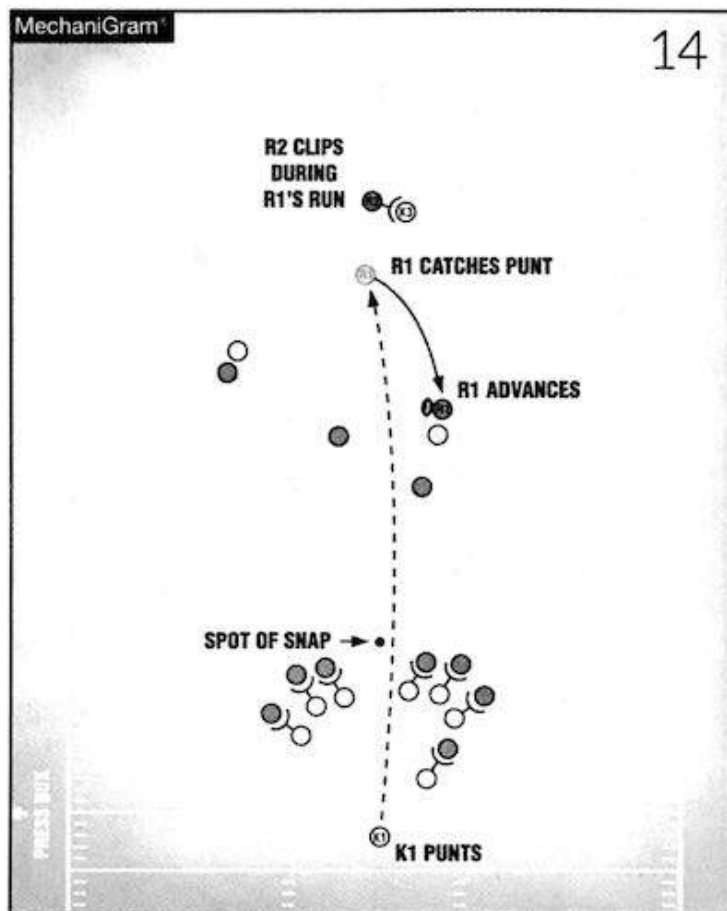
**RULING 14:** Safety. Team R's foul is behind the end of the run and is in team R's end zone.

## FOULS ON SCRIMMAGE-KICK PLAYS

### PLAY 15: K1's

untouched punt rolls into team R's end zone. While the ball is in flight, R2 clips K3. The foul occurs (a) in team R's end zone, (b) at team R's six yardline, or (c) team R's 24 yardline.

**RULING 15:** In all three cases, the play results in a touchback and the basic spot is team R's 20 yardline. In (a), team K scores a safety because the spot of the foul is behind the basic spot and the foul occurs in team R's end zone. In (b), the foul occurs behind the basic spot. The penalty is enforced from the spot of the foul. The result is first and 10 from team R's three yardline. In (c), the foul occurred beyond the basic spot. The penalty is enforced from the basic spot, yielding first and 10 for team R from its 10 yardline.



# CHAPTER 11

## DEAD-BALL FOULS





# DEAD-BALL FOULS

**BOTH TEAMS COMMIT EQUAL NUMBER OF DEAD-BALL FOULS THAT HAVE 15-YARD PENALTIES\***

**TEAM COMMITS DEAD-BALL FOUL WITH 5-YARD PENALTY; EITHER TEAM COMMITS DEAD-BALL FOUL WITH 15-YARD PENALTY\***

**TEAMS COMMIT UNEQUAL NUMBER OF DEAD-BALL FOULS WITH 15-YARD PENALTIES\***

**PENALTIES OFFSET**

**PENALTIES ENFORCED IN ORDER OF OCCURRENCE**

**EQUAL NUMBER OF FOULS OFFSET; REMAINING PENALTIES MAY BE ENFORCED**

*\*Includes live-ball fouls enforced as dead-ball fouls*

# CHAPTER 11

**D**ead-ball fouls are fouls that occur from the time the ball is dead until it is next snapped or free kicked.

The distance penalty for unsportsmanlike, nonplayer or dead-ball personal fouls committed by teams can offset. Equal numbers of 15-yard penalties by both teams will offset and remaining penalties may be enforced.

If both teams commit unsportsmanlike, nonplayer or dead-ball personal fouls prior to the completion of penalty administration for those fouls, the distance penalty for an equal number of 15-yard unsportsmanlike, nonplayer or dead-ball personal fouls will offset. Any remaining penalties will be enforced separately and in the order of occurrence.

The “trigger” for determining when penalty administration is completed is the referee signaling the foul.

Dead-ball fouls are enforced from the succeeding spot and the down counts.

Unsportsmanlike conduct and nonplayer fouls occurring while the ball is live are considered live-ball fouls enforced as dead-ball fouls. That includes the situation in which an official makes accidental contact with a nonplayer in the restricted area while the ball is live. There is no “spot” of the foul in those circumstances. Those fouls are enforced at the end of the play.

Live-ball fouls enforced as dead-ball fouls do not combine with another live-ball foul to create a double or multiple foul.

A dead-ball foul is not coupled with a live-ball foul or another dead-ball foul to create a double or multiple foul.

For enforcement of unsportsmanlike and dead-ball fouls involving scoring plays, see Chapter 15.

Equal numbers of 15-yard penalties by both teams will offset and remaining penalties may be enforced.