

California Football Officials Association

2023 Classification Exam

Officials Version

KEYS

Team A (Offense) or Team B (Defense) is designated as **A or B**

Team A or Team B's 45 yard-lines, example: **A-45** or **B-45**

Player A or B's number is 40, example: **A40** or **B40**

Second down and 6 yards to go for A at the B 23 yard-line, example: **A, 2/6, B-23**

The Kicking or Receiving teams are designated as **K or R**

Team K or Team R's 45 yard-lines, example: **K-45** or **R-45**

Player K or R's number is 65, example: **K65** or **R65**

Fourth down and 12 yards to go for K at the R 45 yard-line, example: **K, 4/12, R-45**

ACRONYMS

BW block or blocking below the waist

BSB blind side block

ENZ expanded neutral zone

EXC exception

FBZ free blocking zone

KCI kick catch interference

NZ neutral zone

OPI / DPI offensive / defensive pass interference

PSK post-scrimmage kick

SKF scrimmage kick formation

UC unsportsmanlike conduct

BIB block in the back

DNA does not apply

ES enforcement spot

EZ end zone

HC head coach

LOS line of scrimmage

OOB/IB out of bounds/ in bounds

PF personal foul

QB quarterback

SS succeeding spot

RB running back

When referring to Rule 2, Section 29, Article 1 of the NFHS Rule Book, this will be noted as 2-29-1 (with dashes). When listed as 2.29.1 (with periods), please refer to the NFHS Case Book.

Additional instructional resources can be found at: www.YouTube.com/@CFOAFootball

1. Team K punts the ball across the expanded neutral zone, and during the kick, Team R holds Team K. Team R is next to put the ball into play. The basic spot is the: (10-4-3)
 - A. Previous spot
 - B. Spot of the foul
 - C. End of the kick
 - D. Succeeding spot
2. The home team's equipment manager, trainer and team doctor provide the Referee with a personal doctor's note authorizing #33 to be able to play with a tinted visor on their helmet. The request will be granted and #33 can play with a tinted visor given the team doctor has approved. (1-5-3)
 - A. True
 - B. False

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3. A, 4/Goal, B-3. QB A1 pitches the ball to A21 at the B-7. A21 sweeps to his left and dives at the B-2 in an attempt to score. B15 hits A21 which causes him to land out of bounds beyond the goal line extended. The ball was in A21's left hand, toward the sideline, outside of the pylon. (2-26-3)
- A. Touchdown
 - B. B, 1/10, line of scrimmage is the foremost point where the ball crosses the sideline plane.
4. K, 4/10, K-20. Attempting to catch the ball at the R-40, R12 muffs the kick after making a valid fair catch signal. K22 attempts to recover the ball but muffs the ball and it goes out of bounds at the R-45. (2-34, 2.34.1)
- A. K, 1/10, R-45
 - B. Replay the down. K, 4/10, K-20.
 - C. R, 1/10, R-45.
5. A, 1/Goal, B-7. RB A21 receives a hand-off at the B-10 and runs for a touchdown. WR A2 holds B10 at the B-2. The next play will be: (10-4-4d)
- A. A, 1/Goal, B-12
 - B. A, 1/10, B-12
 - C. A, 1/Goal, B-17
 - D. A, 1/Goal, B-10
6. K, 4/4, R-23. K17 is 12-yards behind the line of scrimmage, lined up to attempt a field goal. Holder K20 is 7-yards behind the line of scrimmage, squatting down, without his knee on the ground. After the snap, K20 throws a completed pass to K19 in the endzone. This is a legal play if: (2-14-2a; 7-2-5)
- A. This is legal formation, Touchdown.
 - B. Team K has 5 players numbered 50-79 on the line of scrimmage at the snap.
 - C. K17 can be no more than 10-yards behind the line of line of scrimmage.
 - D. None of the above.
7. A, 2/20, B-45. QB A1 throws a pass to A21. During the pass, B3 holds and interferes with A21 at the B-35. The pass falls incomplete at the B-32. (7-5-10)
- A. A, 1/10, B-35
 - B. A, 2/5, B-30
 - C. A, 1/10, B-30
 - D. A, 2/10, B-35
8. K, 4/10, R-45. Kicker K1 punts the ball from the K-45, it is blocked by R90 and is grounded at the R-49. K1 picks up the ball and advances to the R-34 where he is tackled. (6-2-3. 6.2.3a)
- A. R, 1/10, R-49. First touching of the kick by K1 gives R the opportunity to take the ball at that spot if R does not commit a foul during the down.
 - B. K, 1/10, R-34. Any K player may advance a kick recovered behind the neutral zone.
 - C. K, 4/10, R-45. Replay the down.

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9. K, 4/2, B-18. Team A is lined up in a legal scrimmage kick formation. After the snap, B90 grabs and pulls A47 from his position on the offensive line to open a gap for B75 to block the kick (pull and shoot). The field goal is good. (8-4-5)
- A. Team K may accept the result of the play and enforce the foul from the succeeding spot
 - B. K, 1/10, B-9; Team K may enforce the foul from the previous spot
 - C. Holding by Team R is legal. Team K has no options, free kick from the K-40
 - D. Both A and B
10. K, 4/6, R-43. Punter K1 kicks the ball and it hits the ground at the R-4 where it continues toward the endzone. K21 jumps from the field of play toward the endzone and bats the ball one yard deep in the endzone back to the R-2 where K22 falls on it. The ball never touched the ground in the endzone. (6-3-1)
- A. R, 1/10, R-20. Touchback.
 - B. R, 1/10, R-2. Spot where the kick ended.
 - C. R, 1/10, R-12. Spot where the kick ended, plus 10-yards for illegal batting by K21.
11. K, 4/5, K-27. R32 illegally blocks K2 below the waist at the R-48 before R1 catches the kick at the 50 and advances to the K-45 where he is tackled. The enforcement spot is: (2-41-6)
- A. The spot of the foul. The foul occurred behind the end of the kick.
 - B. The previous spot since the foul occurred during the kick.
 - C. The end of the kick. Post scrimmage kick enforcement.
 - D. The end of the run. The basic spot is beyond the end of the kick, so enforce from the basic spot.
12. The neutral zone may be expanded following the snap up to a maximum of 2 yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage. (2-28-2, 7-5-12)
- A. True
 - B. False
13. A, 1/10, A-35. Team A has 10 players on the field. Before the snap, A10 runs on the field and lines up as the widest receiver between his sideline and the numbers. (7-2-1)
- A. Legal as long as Team B has enough time to cover the player
 - B. Illegal
14. A, 3/2, A-40. Defensive Tackle B90 jumps into the neutral zone and is able to get out of the neutral zone before the snap occurs and did not cause a Team A lineman to move. (7-1-5)
- A. Dead-ball, Encroachment
 - B. Live-ball, Encroachment
 - C. No foul, B90 was not in the neutral zone when the ball was snapped.

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15. A, 1/10, A-20. TE A99 breaks the huddle and gets into a 3-point stance, one hand on the ground, on the end of the line of scrimmage. QB A1 sees the defensive formation and yells, "check, check, easy, easy" and looks toward the sideline. TE A99 lifts his hand, not simulating the snap, to look toward the sideline and goes in motion to the other side of the offensive line. (7-1-7c)
- A. Legal
 - B. Illegal
16. Free kick, K-40. K66 is one step beyond the K-40 at the time of the kick. This is a live-ball foul that Team R can enforce from the succeeding spot or previous spot. (7-1-3a)
- A. True
 - B. False
17. A, 3/7, B-12. Team A has 5 players in their backfield at the snap. QB A1 throws a pass that is intercepted by B23 in the endzone. B23 returns the interception for a touchdown. (8-2-3)
- A. Touchdown. B, Try, A-1.5
 - B. Team B must decline the foul in order to take the result of the play. Touchdown.
 - C. After the Try, B, Free Kick, B-45
 - D. Both A and C are options for Team B
18. The basic spot for the foul committed during a loose-ball play is the: (10-4-2)
- A. Previous spot
 - B. End of the run
 - C. Spot of the foul
 - D. Succeeding spot
19. Free kick, K-40. Kicker K1 kicks the ball from the tee high into the air in an area with very few R players. K20 catches the kick, before it has touched the ground, at the R-35 where he is tackled immediately by R-88. (6-1-6, 6-5-6)
- A. K, 1/10, R-35
 - B. R, 1/10, 50
 - C. R, 1/10, R-35
 - D. K, Free-kick, K-45.
 - E. B, C and D
20. A, 1/10, B-25. First overtime possession. QB A1 throws a pass that is intercepted by B2 and returned for a touchdown. After the interception and during the return, B99 illegally blocks A50 in the back at the B-20. The next play will be: (CIF Overtime Procedures)
- A. A, 1/10, B-15
 - B. B, 1/10, B-25
 - C. B, 1/10, B-35
 - D. Touchdown for B, game is over

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21. K, 4/10, K-40. Kicker K1 punts the ball high in the air and R21 gives a fair catch signal at the R-35. K5 makes early contact with R21 before the ball arrives. The ball hits the ground and touches R21 at the R-34. K5 muffs the loose-ball and recovers it at the R-20. (6-5-6a; 10-5-1b)
- A. K, 4/25, K-25. Previous spot enforcement.
 - B. R, 1/10, 50. Spot of the foul enforcement.
 - C. R, 1/10, R-20. Result of the play.
 - D. All of the above.
22. A, 1/Goal, B-7. RB A21 receives a hand-off at the B-10 and runs for a touchdown. During the run, WR A2 holds B2 in the endzone. The next play will be: (10-4-4d)
- A. A, 1/10, B-17
 - B. A, 1/Goal, B-10
23. K, 4/10, R-15. Kicker K1 kicks the ball from the R-22, it is blocked by R90 at the R-14 and bounces to the R-17. K1 picks up the ball and runs into the endzone. (6-2-3. 6.2.3a)
- A. K Touchdown. Any K player may advance a kick recovered behind the neutral zone.
 - B. K, 1/10, R-17. K cannot advance a kick.
 - C. R, 1/10, R-17. The ball is dead when K1 first touches it.
24. A, 1/10, A-20. Team A has a run/pass option offense. QB A1 fakes a handoff to A21 who runs up the middle of the line simulating that he has the ball. A1 runs to his left with the ball and is at the A-25 when the Umpire, thinking A21's forward progress is stopped, blows their whistle. Team A has the option to replay the down from the previous spot or take the result of the play at the dead-ball spot. (4-2-3)
- A. True
 - B. False
25. A, 1/10, A-20. B93 is in the neutral zone at the snap. (7-1-6a)
- A. Live-ball foul, Team A has a "free play"
 - B. Dead-ball foul, covering official blows their whistle to kill the play
 - C. No foul, B93 did not make contact with a Team A player or cause an A player to move
26. A, 2/4, B-6. QB A1 throws a pass that is intercepted by B21 at the B-6. After the interception, B70 illegally blocks A20 in the back at the B-20, A90 grabs and pulls B21's facemask in an attempt to tackle him at the B-45, and B55 holds A15 at the A-10. B21 scores a touchdown. (10-2-4)
- A. B, 1/10, B-10
 - B. B, 1/10, A-20; Block in the back and Facemask offset
 - C. Fouls offset, replay the down
 - D. Fouls offset, touchdown for Team B

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27. K, 4/10, K-20. Kicker K1 punts the ball from the K-13. R23 muffs the punt at the K-49, and it rolls to the K-44 where it is recovered by K30. (6-2-4)
- A. R, 1/10, K-44.
 - B. R, 1/10, K-49.
 - C. K, 1/10, K-44.
28. A, 1/10, A-20. QB A1 is sacked at the A-15. Right Guard A54 holds B90 at the A-16. The basic spot is:
- A. Previous spot
 - B. End of the run
 - C. Spot of the foul
 - D. Succeeding spot
29. A, 4/Goal, B-6. Late in the game, Team A is trailing Team B by 6 points. RB A21 receives the hand-off and runs to the B-3 where he is driven out of bounds by B40. B40 continues to tackle A21 and makes a second act, forcefully throwing A21 to the ground 4-yards outside the field of play. Team A had 5 players in the offensive backfield at the snap. These fouls will offset, and the down will be replayed. (10-2-5a)
- A. True
 - B. False
30. K, Free Kick, K-40. K1's kick is low to the ground and strikes R20's knee in an attempt to catch the kick. The ball rolls out of bounds at the R-35. Team R has options on where the ball will next be put into play. (6-1-10, 10-5-1a)
- A. True
 - B. False
31. A, 3/G, B-10. Running Back A21 takes the hand off and runs into the endzone for a touchdown. During the run, Wide Receiver A2 held B2 in the end zone. The next play will be: (10-4-4d, 10-4-7)
- A. A, 3/G, B-19
 - B. A, 3/G, B-10
 - C. A, 3/G, B-5
32. Free kick, K-40. Team K trails Team R, 20-24 with 1:30 remaining in the 4th quarter. Team K may have 3 players lined up to the right of the kicker in an obvious on-side kick situation. (6-1-4)
- A. True
 - B. False

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33. A, 2/5, A-8. QB A1 drops back to pass and begins to scramble in the endzone under a heavy rush. RT A75 holds B99 in the endzone. A1 runs to the A-10 where he is tackled. The penalty will be enforced from the previous spot. (8-5-2c)
- A. True
 - B. False
34. A, 1/10, A-20. QB A1's pass is intercepted by B23 at the A-35 after B23 interfered with WR A2, pulling him to the ground during the pass. During B23's run, A65 illegally blocks B75 below the waist at the A-15. These fouls will offset, and the down will be replayed. (10-2-1, 10-2-2)
- A. True
 - B. False
35. A, 1/10, A-20. B1 grabs and twists A21's facemask at the A-15. A21 continues to run and is tackled at the A-25. The personal foul will still be enforced from the previous spot since the foul occurs behind the line of scrimmage. (10-4-5f)
- A. True
 - B. False
36. A, 1/Goal, B-7. Running Back A21 runs a sweep to the left and runs untouched into the endzone for a touchdown. 4-yards into the endzone, B30 forcibly knocks A21 to the ground. (8-2-5)
- A. A, Try, B-1.5
 - B. A, Free Kick, R-45
 - C. Either A or B
37. A, 3/10, B-43. QB A1 throws a pass that is tipped by A22 at the B-8, then tipped by B2 at the B-6, and intercepted by B20 at the B-4. B20 was running toward his endzone at the time of the interception. A22 tackles B20 in Team B's endzone. (8-5-2a)
- A. B, 1/10, B-4
 - B. Safety, B Free Kick from the B-20
 - C. Touchback. B, 1/10, B-20
38. K, 4/10, K-20. During the kick, K20 illegally blocks R40 below the waist at the K-40. R1 catches the kick at the 50 and advances to the K-45 where he is tackled. (10-4-2EXP)
- A. R, 1/10, K-30.
 - B. K, 4/20, K-10.
 - C. Either A or B.

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39. A, 1/10, A-20. QB A1 drops back and throws a completed pass to A2 at the A-40 where he is tackled. After throwing the pass, B99 picks up A1 and forcefully drives him to the ground. (10-5-1g, 9-4-4)
- A. Team A will decline the personal foul for Roughing the Passer and take the result of the play
 - B. Team A can “tack-on” the personal foul for Roughing the Passer to the end of the run
40. A, 2/15, A-30. QB A1 drops back and throws a completed pass to A2 at the A-35 where he is begins his run. While being tackled at the A-40, A2 fumbles the ball, and the ball rolls out of bounds at the A-45. After throwing the pass, B99 picks up A1 and forcefully drives him to the ground. (10-5-5)
- A. A, 1/10, B-40
 - B. A, 1/10, B-45
 - C. A, 1/10, A-40
41. A muff and a fumble are two different terms that define how a ball became loose. A muff is the touching of a loose ball by a player in an unsuccessful attempt to secure position. A fumble refers to any loss of player possession other than by handing, passing or legal kick. (2-18, 2-27)
- A. True
 - B. False
42. Free-kick, K-40. All K players, except the kicker, have one foot on one side of the K-35 line and one foot on the other side. This is a legal free-kick formation. (6-1-3b)
- A. True
 - B. False
43. A, 1/10, A-20. Team A is in a legal formation and the snapper has placed both his hands on the ball. QB A1 sees the defensive formation and yells, “check, check, easy, easy” and looks toward the sideline. Snapper A79 removes one hand from the ball, not simulating a snap, and looks toward the sideline. (7-1-3a)
- A. Legal
 - B. Illegal
44. A, 2/7, A-30. QB A1 drops back and throws a completed pass to A2 at the A-35 where he is begins his run. While being tackled at the A-40, B3 grabs and twists A2’s facemask and A2 fumbles the ball. The ball is recovered by A21 who runs to the B-20 where he is tackled. (10-3-2, 10-4-8)
- A. A, 1/G, B-5
 - B. A, 1/10, B-20
 - C. A, 1/G, B-10

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45. A, 1/15, A-5. QB A1 pitches the ball backwards to RB A21. Defensive End B99 runs unblocked into the offensive backfield and bats the ball into the endzone where it is grounded and rolls across the endline. (2-13, 8-5)
- A. Touchback
 - B. Safety
46. A, 1/15, A-5. QB A1 pitches the ball backwards to RB A21 who muffs the ball at the A-2 where the ball hits the ground at the A-3. Defensive End B99 runs unblocked into the offensive backfield and in an attempt to recover the ball at the A-2, bats the ball into the endzone where it is grounded and rolls across the endline. (2-13, 8-5)
- A. Touchback
 - B. Safety
47. K, 4/10, R-40. K1's kick is high and R1 signals for a fair catch at the R-5. The ball bounces off R1's chest at the R-5 and is grounded at the R-7 when K30 attempts to recover and muffs the ball into the endzone. K30 recovers the ball in the endzone. (2-13-4a)
- A. Touchback
 - B. Safety
 - C. Touchdown for K
48. A, 1/10, A-20. QB A1's pass is intercepted by B23 at the A-35 after B23 interfered with WR A2, pulling him to the ground during the pass. During B23's run, A65 illegally blocks B75 below the waist at the A-15. These fouls will offset, and the down will be replayed. (10-2-1, 10-2-2)
- A. True
 - B. False
49. A, 1/10, B-25. First overtime possession. QB A1 throws a pass that is intercepted by B2 and returned for a touchdown. At the A-7, B2 starts to high-step while holding the ball toward his opponents, and performs a backflip into the endzone. The next play will be: (CIF Overtime Procedures)
- A. B, 1/10, B-40
 - B. Touchdown for B, game is over
 - C. A, 1/10, B-12.5
 - D. B, 1/10, B-25
50. K, 4/10, R-45. K1's kick is high and R1 signals for a fair catch at the R-15. The ball hits R1 in the chest and the Back Judge blows his whistle as the ball is grounded. Team R has the option to take the ball at the dead-ball spot since there was a legal scrimmage kick and Team K was not in possession. (4-2-3)
- A. True
 - B. False