

## Inadvertent Whistle

Rule 4-2-3; Redding Study Guide pages 176-177; Football case book pages 34-36

T or F: An official's whistle will always cause a live ball to become dead

Why is the old adage "play until you hear the whistle" wrong? So what is the intent of the whistle?

Three "categories" to determine how to handle an inadvertent whistle:

1. Ball is in player possession
2. Ball is loose following backward pass, fumble, **illegal** forward pass, or **illegal** kick
3. During a snap, **legal** forward pass, or **legal** kick

In categories 2 and 3, is the ball still in team possession?

Ball is in player possession:

- Take the ball where it was blown dead
- Replay the down at the previous spot

Ball loose following backward pass, fumble, **illegal** forward pass, or **illegal** kick

- Take the ball where the player lost possession
- Replay the down at the previous spot

During a snap, **legal** forward pass, or **legal** kick:

- No option; the ball is returned to the previous spot and the down is replayed

### How do we treat a foul?

Read Rule 4-2-3 paras a, b, & c; what phrase is identical in each of the three paragraphs?

Rule 4-2-3d is a key to understanding inadvertent whistle and penalty enforcement:

"The penalty shall be administered as determined by the basic spot and takes precedence over inadvertent whistle administration if, during a down, a live-ball foul occurs prior to the inadvertent whistle and the penalty is accepted."

T or F: If B46 interferes with A81 during a forward pass and an inadvertent whistle sounds while the ball is in the air after the contact, the down must be replayed.

How treat a dead ball foul following an inadvertent whistle?

### Avoiding an inadvertent whistle:

Do not blow your whistle unless you can see the ball

Are you the covering official?

Field goal attempt; Fair catch signal on a punt

Finger whistle vs lanyard (your preference)

Take your time, don't be in a hurry...(i.e., let a pass bounce twice)

We don't need a whistle on every play

## **Referee's authority and the official's jurisdiction**

Rule 1-1 through 1-7

Some highlights:

Rule 1-1 art 6: The referee's decisions are final in all matters pertaining to the game.

Rule 1-1 art 7: The game officials shall assume authority for the contest...\_\_\_\_\_ minutes prior to game time.

Rule 1-1 art 8: The officials' jurisdiction extends through the referee's declaration of the end of the fourth period or overtime. The game officials maintain administrative responsibilities for the contest through the completion of any required reports or correspondence in response to any action occurring while the officials have jurisdiction.

The referee may use his authority to rule on any situation not specifically covered in the rules. The referee will consult with event managers when appropriate.

Potential authority/jurisdiction issues:

- Weather (lightning/thunder)
- Field safety (i.e., blocking sled too close to the field)
- Issues with parents, photographers, scorekeepers, chain crew, etc
- Time-out called for unusual heat or humidity situations
- Injury, concussion, blood