

2.28

SECTION 28 NEUTRAL ZONE

ART. 1 . . . The neutral zone is the space between the two free-kick lines during a free-kick down and between the two scrimmage lines during a scrimmage down. For a free-kick down, the neutral zone is 10 yards wide and for a scrimmage down it is as wide as the length of the football. It is established when the ball is ready for play.

ART. 2 . . . The neutral zone may be expanded following the snap up to a maximum of 2 yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage, in the field of play, during any scrimmage down.

1. It is not a foul if an ineligible receiver downfield if they return to the expanded neutral zone before the pass is thrown. True or False?

2. A covered back is not illegally downfield unless the ball is thrown to him. True or False?

4. Team A player ineligible downfield restrictions are terminated if:
 - A. Team B touches the ball in or behind the NZ
 - B. Team B touches the ball Beyond the NZ
 - C. A or B
 - D. Neither A or B

7.5

ART. 12 . . . Ineligible A players may not advance beyond the expanded neutral zone on a **legal forward pass play** before a **legal forward pass** that crosses the neutral zone **is in flight**. If B touches the pass in or behind the neutral zone, this restriction is terminated.

- Starts at snap--Ends at release. Returning behind NZ has no bearing on the ruling.
- It says ineligible, not linemen. Recognize & Share ineligible that are not linemen.
- Mistake: See the ball in flight then try recognizing if ineligible are down field.
- (Umpires) When lineman cross expanded NZ, see if pass has been released.

3. Illegal touching of a forward pass is enforced. (Choice all that apply)

- A. 5 yards previous spot.
- B. 5 yards spot of foul
- C. 5 yards previous spot with loss of down
- D. 5 yards from spot of foul with loss of down
- E. Loss of down from previous spot.

7-5-13

ART. 13 . . . An ineligible A player has illegally touched a forward pass if he bats, muffs or catches a legal forward pass, unless the pass has first been touched by B.

4. Illegal Touching by Ineligible (7-5-13)

A forward pass, batted, muffed or caught by an ineligible A player who is behind, in or beyond the neutral zone.

Loss of 5
yards and loss
of down

Basic Spot

In regards to the NZ, when must a passer release the ball for a pass to be legal?

SECTION 5 FORWARD-PASS CLASSIFICATION

ART. 1 . . . It is a legal forward pass, if during a scrimmage down and before team possession has changed, a player of A throws the ball with both feet of the passer in or behind the neutral zone when the ball is released. Only one forward pass may be thrown during the down.

Pass Beyond or In/Behind the NZ

What are some differences between in ruling between a pass beyond or In/Behind the NZ?

6.2

ART. 6 . . . The touching of a low **scrimmage kick** by any player is ignored if the touching is in or behind the expanded neutral zone. The neutral zone shall not be expanded into the end zone.

6.2.3

ART. 3 . . . Any K player may catch or recover a scrummage kick while it is in or behind the neutral zone and advance, unless it is during a try.