



Forward Progress  
Give'em What They Earn

Presented by:

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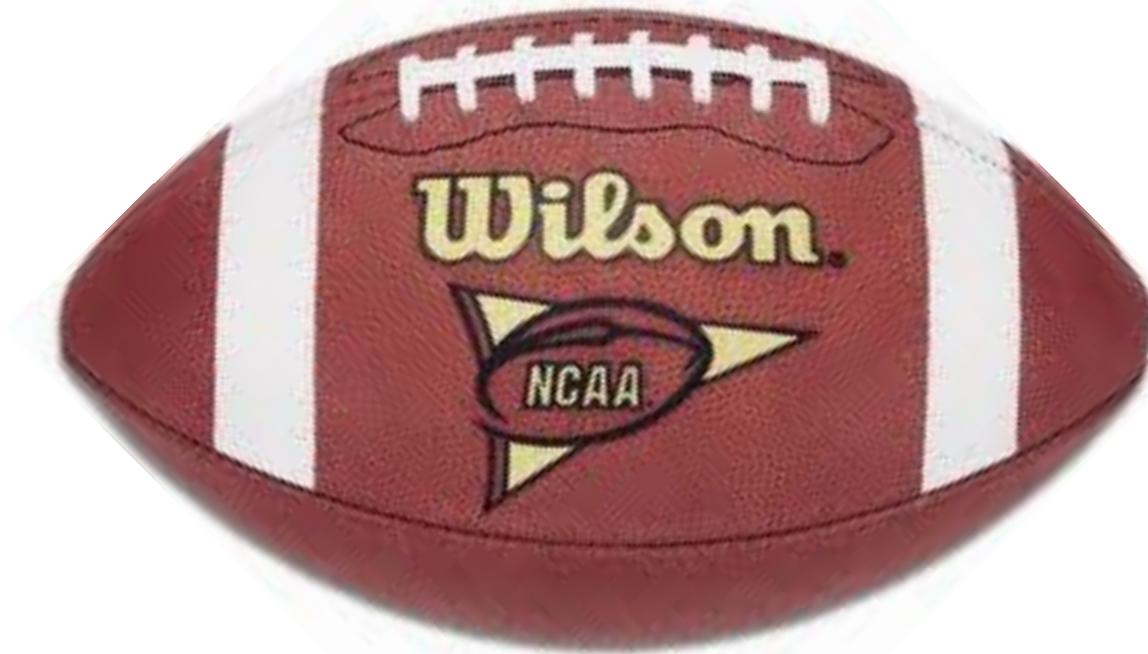
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# What is Forward Progress?

- Forward progress is the end of advancement of a runner toward the opponent's goal and determines the dead ball spot. When an airborne player makes a catch, forward progress is the furthest point of advancement after he possesses the ball if contacted by a defender. (Federation Rule 2-15-1, 2)

# What does this really mean?

- Focus is on where the ball becomes dead.



# Common Misconceptions

- Where the knee was down.
- Where the player steps out of bounds.
- The whistle “never blew”.
- A runner “breaks” out of a pile. (big judgment call)



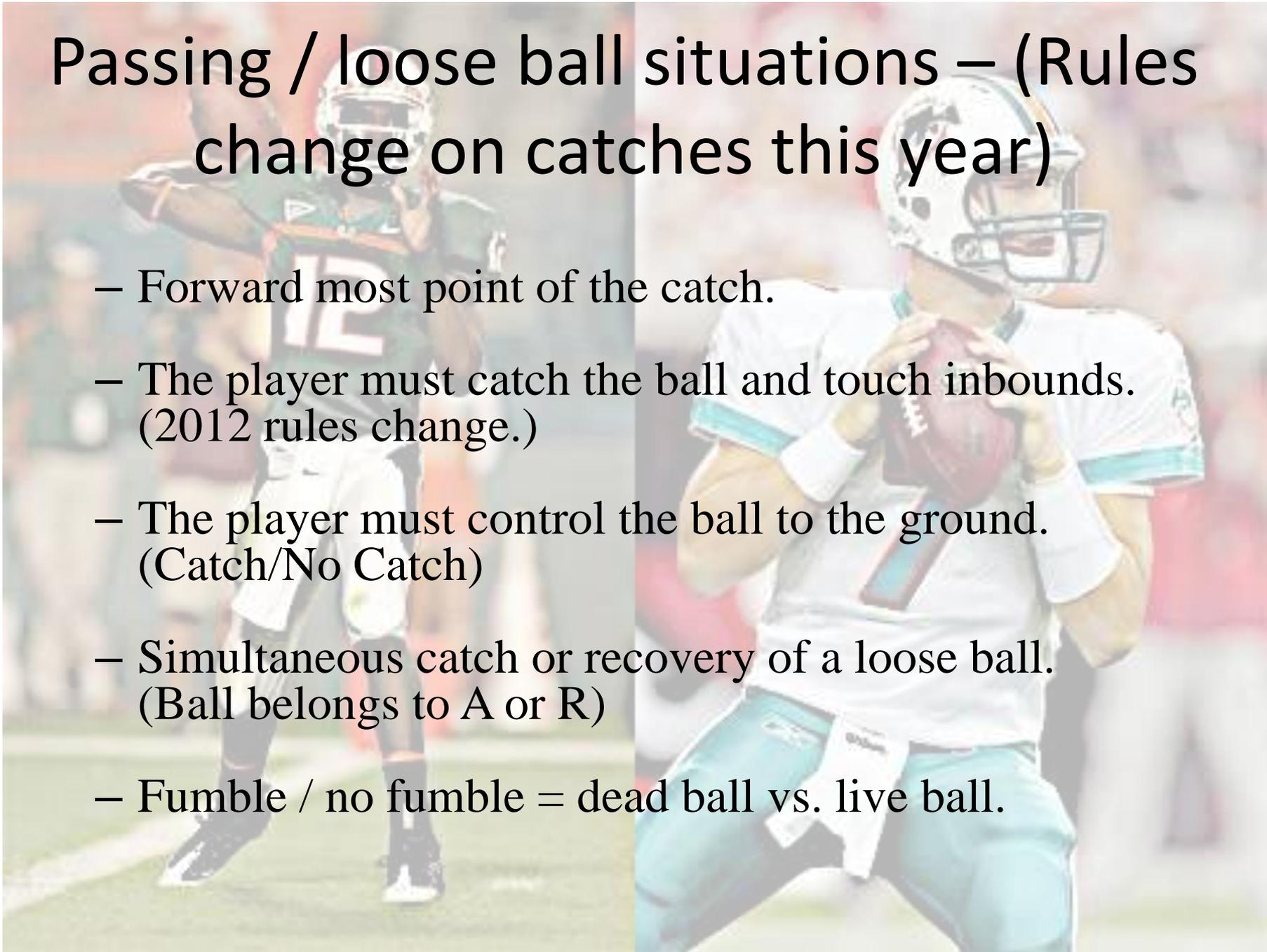
# What kills the ball?

(Rules, Rules, Rules)

- Any part of the runner's body, other than the hand or foot, touches the ground.
- After any score.
- The Runner's helmet comes off.
- Simultaneous possession of a live ball by opposing players.
- The runner's forward progress is stopped.
- Inadvertent whistle.
- A loose ball touches a player or object out-of-bounds (i.e. a loose ball touches a pylon)

# Passing / loose ball situations – (Rules change on catches this year)

- Forward most point of the catch.
- The player must catch the ball and touch inbounds. (2012 rules change.)
- The player must control the ball to the ground. (Catch/No Catch)
- Simultaneous catch or recovery of a loose ball. (Ball belongs to A or R)
- Fumble / no fumble = dead ball vs. live ball.



# Clock Status with the sidelines, goal line, and line-to-gain.

- The clock stops:
  - After any score.
  - When the runner's forward progress goes out of bounds.
  - Once the line to gain is reached. (Critical pre-game point)
  - Incomplete passes
- The clock runs:
  - When the runner's forward progress is stopped inbounds, and then driven backwards out of bounds.
  - The line-to-gain is not reached

# Forward Progress Mechanics

- Covering official – Hold your forward progress spot.
- Mirror fellow wing official – soft spots (Don't turn to look at the chains)
  - Short yardage situations – pregame
- Wings own forward progress all day long. Ask for help when needed.
- Do not leave the spot until the ball is spotted.
- Progress stopped in bounds:
  - Wind the clock signal.
  - If the line to gain is reached, kill the clock.
  - Communicate to the back judge and referee the clock will start on the ready for play.
- Progress stopped out of bounds:
  - Kill the clock signal.
  - Communicate to the back judge and referee the clock will start on the snap.
- **COMMUNICATE**