

## INADVERTENT WHISTLES

4-2-3 . . . An inadvertent whistle ends the down. Inadvertent whistles are administered as follows:

a. The down shall be replayed if, during a down or during a down in which the penalty for a foul is declined, an inadvertent whistle is sounded while a legal forward pass or snap is in flight, or during a legal kick.

b. The team last in possession may choose to either put the ball in play where possession was lost or replay the down if, during a down or during a down in which the penalty for a foul is declined, an inadvertent whistle is sounded while the ball is loose following a backward pass, fumble, illegal forward pass or illegal kick.

c. The team in possession may choose to either accept the results of the play at the dead-ball spot or replay the down if, during a down or during a down in which the penalty for a foul is declined, an inadvertent whistle is sounded while the ball is in player possession.

d. 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.

# INADVERTENT WHISTLES FOR DUMMIES

1. If a penalty is accepted, ignore the IW.
2. If the IW occurs during a loose ball play, replay the down.
3. If the IW occurs during a running play, the team in possession may take the ball at the end of the run and have the down count or replay the down.

PLAY 1: 4<sup>th</sup>/10 @K-20. Punt. R35 signals for a fair catch @R-45. The ball slips through his hands and is rolling @R-44. K35 is about to fall on the ball when BJ blows an IW.

RULING: The IW happened during a loose ball play. Replay the down.

PLAY 2: 2<sup>rd</sup>/10 @A-25. A runs a veer play. The ball is faked to A45 and handed to A32. A45 is “tackled” @A-28. The HL blows the whistle. A 32 was @A-30 when the whistle was blown.

RULING: A can take the ball @A-30 and have 3<sup>nd</sup>/5 or replay the down.

PLAY 3: 2<sup>nd</sup>/10 @A-25. A45 runs to the A-33 where he fumbles. The ball is rolling @A-35 when LJ blows an IW.

RULING: A can take the ball at the spot of the fumble – 3<sup>rd</sup>/2 @A-33 – or replay the down.

PLAY 4: 2<sup>nd</sup>/10 @A25. QB A10 drops back to pass. He is hit @A-20 and fumbles. While the ball is loose @A-19 R blows an IW. RULING: The IW occurred during a loose ball play. Replay the down. (Technically, they can take the ball @A-19 and have the down count, but they won't, so don't ask.)

If in any of these plays a foul occurred and the penalty is accepted, ignore the IW.

PLAY 1 REVISITED: 4<sup>th</sup>/10 @K-20. Punt. R35 signals for a fair catch @R-45. The ball slips through his hands and is rolling @R-44. K35 is about to fall on the ball when BJ blows an IW. While the kick was in the air, R22 was called for holding @K-35. RULING: The IW happened during a loose ball play. But there was a penalty. If K accepts the penalty this is PSK enforced from the end of the kick, which is @R-44. R's ball 1<sup>st</sup>/10 @R-34. If K declines the penalty, replay the down. May not seem fair, but an IW is always unfair to somebody.