Referee Training
Illegal Contact: Test Your Knowledge

Pick6Sports.com
What is Illegal Contact?

Pick 6 Sports defines it as:

“Any contact between two players on different teams is illegal contact. This is a non-contact league.”

If there is contact on the play, throw a flag.

Pick6Sports.com
Safety is Job #1

- The referee’s primary job on the field is to **ensure safety of the players** (both physically and mentally).
- Pick 6 Sports’ mission is to put a **Smile on a Kid’s Face** by helping them build self-confidence through a positive, fun and safe environment.
What is Illegal Contact?

Illegal Contact poses significant risk to player safety or sportsmanship and includes:

**Offense:**
- Charging
- Blocking/Screening
- Offensive Pass Interference
- Diving/Leaping

**Defense:**
- Roughing the Passer
- Pass Interference
- Tackling/Wrapping
- Diving
- Stripping/Punching Ball
When You See It

1. Throw your flag at spot of foul
2. Blow the play dead immediately (because there is contact)
3. Turn to Sidelines and Communicate Illegal Contact Penalty

Penalty:
Offense: 10 yards from spot of foul and loss of down
Defense: 10 yards from spot of foul and replay down
Hand Signal - Contact

Extend arms forward (almost as if you are pushing a heavy object)
Game Scenarios
Scenario #1:

- The Seahawks have 3rd down with 6 yards to go to get a 1st down
- The center moves in front of a rushing defender to prevent the defender from reaching the QB, thus committing an Illegal Contact - Screening penalty

What down is it on the next play?
Where does the ball get marked?
Answer #1

• The ref blows the play dead immediately. With an offensive penalty, there is a loss of down.

• It would be 4\textsuperscript{th} down.
• The ball is spotted 10 yards back from spot of foul.

• As a result, the Seahawks would have a 4\textsuperscript{th} down and 16 to go on the next play.
Scenario #2:

- The Seahawks have 2nd down with 20 yards to go to get a 1st down
- The QB completes a pass to a receiver 5 yards down field who continues to run down the field. A second receiver runs alongside them, preventing defenders from pulling the ball carrier’s flag. The ball carrier finally runs out of bounds just after crossing the 1st Down Marker.

What down is it on the next play?
Where does the ball get marked?
• The second receiver committed an Illegal Contact - Screening penalty.
• It would be 3\textsuperscript{rd} down.
• The ball is spotted 10 yards back from spot of foul.
• The ref should have blown the play dead immediately upon the penalty. There would have been no apparent first down.
Scenario #3:

- The Seahawks have 2nd down with 6 yards to go to get a 1st down
- The QB completes a pass to a receiver 5 yards down field (just short of the 1st down marker), who continues to run down the field, passing mid-field. A second receiver then runs blocks a defender from pulling the ball carrier’s flag. The ref throws the flag and blows the play dead.

What down is it on the next play?
Where does the ball get marked?
The second receiver committed an Illegal Contact - Screening penalty AFTER the first down.

It would be 1st down.

The ball is spotted 10 yards back from spot of foul, behind the 1st Down Marker.

The offense can NOT get another first down.
Now it’s Your Turn
Your Turn #1

Scenario #1:
• It is 3rd and goal, about 20 yards from the end zone. The running back makes a big run and, just before the end zone, leaps over the defender and in for a touchdown.

What is the call?
What down is it on the next play?
Where does the ball get marked?
Scenario #2:
• It is 3rd and goal, about 20 yards from the end zone. The running back makes a big run. One defender, out of desperation, dives to grab the flag but misses completely. Another defender immediately pulls the flag, just saving a touchdown.

What is the call?
What down is it on the next play?
Where does the ball get marked?
BONUS: What if the other defender wasn’t there and the running back scored a touchdown?
Scenario #3:
• It is 2nd down, about 6 yards from the 1st Down Line. The QB throws the ball to a receiver 8 yards down field for a first down. However, the defender hits the receiver’s hand just before the ball arrives, so the receiver doesn’t make the catch. Incomplete pass or penalty?

What is the call?
What down is it on the next play?
Where does the ball get marked?
Think You Know?

• Email your answers to these scenarios to training@Pick6Sports.com.

• Remember to include your name (even it is part of your email address) so you can receive credit for this part of your training.