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# OFFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE

## CAOA OVERVIEW

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- Physical contact is required to establish interference.
  - Offensive pass interference restrictions are in effect from the time the ball is snapped until it is touched by any player.
  - It is the responsibility of the offensive player to avoid the opponents.
  - Pass interference rules apply only during a down in which a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone.
    - A legal forward pass has crossed the neutral zone when it first strikes the ground, a player, an official or anything beyond the neutral zone inbounds. A legal forward pass is beyond or behind the neutral zone where it crosses the sideline.
  - Pass interference can only occur beyond the neutral zone.
  - Pass interference rules do not apply after the pass has been touched anywhere inbounds by an inbounds player or an official.
    - After a pass has been touched, any player may execute a legal block during the remaining flight of the pass.
  - A Team A *ineligible* player may make immediate contact within one yard beyond the neutral zone and drive the opponent no more than three yards beyond the neutral zone.
    - Eligible linemen are not covered by this rule.
    - It is an ineligible receiver downfield foul if the opponent is driven more than three (3) yards beyond the neutral zone and a legal forward pass crosses the neutral zone.
  - If two opponents are in equally advantageous positions moving toward the pass beyond the neutral zone, it is a foul only if there is an obvious intent to impede an opponent.
  - The penalty for offensive pass interference is 15 yards from the previous spot and loss of down.
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