

PAC12 Command Center That Collaborates With The In Stadium Replay Officials



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San Francisco, CA



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Targeting and Player Safety



Making the Future of Football Safer

The fundamental Elements of Targeting?

1. Forcible contact to the head or neck area of a defenseless player (**protects the offensive player**).

2. Forcible contact with the crown of the helmet (**protects the defensive player**).



List of Defenseless Players

- A player in the act of or just after throwing a pass.
- A receiver attempting to catch a forward pass or in position to receive a backward pass, or has not clearly become a ball carrier.
- A kicker in the act of or just after kicking a ball, or during the kick or kick return.
- A kick returner attempting to catch or recover a kick, or one who has completed a catch or recovery and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a ball carrier.
- A player on the ground.
- A player obviously out of the play.
- A player who receives a blind-side block
- A ball carrier already in the grasp of an opponent and whose forward progress has been stopped.
- A quarterback any time after a change of possession.
- A ball carrier who has obviously given himself up and is sliding feet first.

The Process of Evaluating A Play and Whether There is a Foul For Targeting

1. Is the player “Defenseless” by definition?

- If so, that player may not be forcefully contacted in the head or neck area. OR,
- May not be forcefully contacted with the crown of the opponents helmet.

2. If the player is not “Defenseless” he is a runner, and you can only have a foul for Targeting with the crown of the opponents helmet.

3. In either case, there must be at least one high indicator.

•HIGH INDICATORS THAT TARGETING HAS OCCURRED:

At least one indicator must be present in order for a foul to be called.

30 • **LAUNCH** – A player leaving his feet to attack an opponent by an upward and forward thrust of the body to make forcible contact in the head or neck area.

40 • **THRUST** - A crouch followed by an upward and forward thrust to attack with forcible contact at the head or neck area, even though one or both feet are still on the ground.

50 • **STRIKE** - Leading with helmet, shoulder, forearm, fist, hand or elbow to attack with forcible contact at the head or neck area.

40 • **CROWN** - Lowering the head before attacking by initiating forcible contact with the crown of the helmet.

•LOW INDICATORS TARGETING LIKELY DID NOT OCCUR:

30 •Head up

•Wrap-up tackle

•Head to the side

•Changing position

A targeting foul can be called by:

- **An on-field official and reviewed by instant replay to be confirmed or overturned (All targeting fouls are reviewed); OR**
- **The review is initiated by the instant replay official from the replay booth or the command center**

The Penalty For Committing A Foul For Targeting

A targeting penalty is 15 yards and an automatic first down. That player is also ejected for the remainder of the game, and if the foul occurs in the second half, it includes a suspension for the first half of the following game.



Targeting Stats

• Targeting penalties in D1 football increased for the fourth straight season

• In 2017, 188 targeting penalties were enforced in D1 football, a 30% increase from last year.

What Is the Objective?

- **That players lower their target zone when contacting an opponent.**
- **That players have their heads up when contacting an opponent.**

LET'S LOOK AT SOME PLAYS TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT IS OR ISN'T TARGETING

