

Week 2 Observers Plays of Interest

These clips all came from the same game and focus on a variety of situations that we need to be aware of.

CLIP #1—on the first clip watch the slot receiver on the camera side of the field (second receiver from the bottom). Here the receiver goes downfield and blocks. The quarterback has thrown a completed pass beyond the line of scrimmage so we have a penalty. This is something that we feel happens more often than we expect it to and officials need to be aware that if the receiver is blocking downfield and the ball is thrown downfield, we need to have a flag. Remember, it is easy to wave off a flag if you had a receiver blocking downfield but the pass was thrown behind the line of scrimmage.

CLIP #2—this is an unusual play that I've never seen anything like in all my years of officiating. Its 4th down and the Playclock is running. The team on offense decides to kick a field goal but they don't tell everyone—such as the kicker who is lined up as receiver at the bottom of the screen. A team attendant brings the tee out but can't find anyone to give it to and eventually leaves. Since the Playclock is running, we have a situation where if the ball is snapped we have an attendant not just on the field, but potentially in the middle of the action. This is when the crew should shut the play down and get the attendant off the field for safety sake.

CLIP #3—this clip is about the new Intentional Grounding exception and is shown to get you thinking about the communication that must happen between the crew. The quarterback takes the snap, rolls out so they are outside the Free Blocking Zone and while under heavy pressure attempts to throw the ball away. However, the pass does not reach the line of scrimmage. The LJ, who was near the line of scrimmage throws a flag but then picks it up because (I think) he recalled that Intentional Grounding is the referee's call. However, the referee's focus is on the quarterback who is under heavy pressure (that is what the referee should be watching). The learning lesson from this play is about the communication the crew needs to have regarding how they communicate if we had a penalty for Intentional Grounding or if we had the exception legally applied. Talk about this in your pregame before your next game.

Have a great week.