



# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

SAC-JOQUIN SECTION • SOUTHERN AREA • FOOTBALL DIVISION

## 2019 MAY SATELLITE QUESTIONS

1. Clipping is a block against an opponent when the initial contact is from behind, at or below the waist, and not against a player who is a runner or pretending to be a runner. **[2-5-1] When is clipping permitted? Clipping is prohibited. (9-3-6)**
2. Blocking in the back is a block against an opponent when the initial contact is in the opponent's back, inside the shoulders and below the helmet and above the waist, and not against a player who is a runner or pretending to be a runner. **[2-5-2] When is blocking in the back permitted? When should it be called? Blocking in the back is permitted in the free-blocking zone when the following conditions are met: (a) by offensive linemen who are on the line of scrimmage and in the zone at the snap; (b) against defensive players who are in the zone at the snap; (c) the contact is in the zone. Illegal blocks in the back should be called when they materially affect the play, or when the action can be easily seen by fans, coaches, players, and officials. 2-17-3, NCOA Philosophies**
3. A blindside block is a block against an opponent other than the runner, who does not see the blocker approaching. **[2-3-10] When should a blindside block be called? What is the signal used for blindside block? Blindside blocks should ALWAYS be called. New signal for 2019—two fists touching in front the chest.**
4. When does the free-blocking zone disintegrate? **When the ball leaves the zone. (2-17-4)**
5. A1 is legally in motion at the snap, in the free-blocking zone. A1 blocks B1 below the waist within the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **2.17.2 A(a) Illegal block below the waist.**
6. A1 is legally in motion at the snap, outside the free-blocking zone. A1 comes into the free blocking zone and blocks B1 above the waist and in the back. Ruling? **2.17.2 A(b) Illegal block in the back.**
7. A1 is in shotgun formation, lined up seven yards behind the line of scrimmage ready to receive the snap. Immediately after the snap to A1, A2 immediately drops and blocks B1 below the waist. Both A2 and B1 were in the zone and on the line of scrimmage at the snap. The contact between A2 and B1 takes place in the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **2.17.2 E (a) Legal block.**
8. A1 is in shotgun formation, lined up seven yards behind the line of scrimmage ready to receive the snap. Immediately after the snap to A1, A2 rises, and slightly retreats as if to go in traditional pass blocking protection, but then dives and blocks B1 below the waist. Both A2 and B1 were in the zone and on the line of scrimmage at the snap. The contact between A2 and B1 takes place in the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **2.17.2 E (b) Illegal block below the waist. It is legal for A2 to block B1 below the waist if the contact is made immediately following the snap. Any later, and the ball is considered to have left the free-blocking zone and the block is illegal.**
9. Offensive lineman A1 is on his scrimmage line and in the free-blocking zone at the snap. Immediately after the snap, he drops back one step, then moves quickly three steps to the inside, and while still in the free-blocking zone, contacts B1 in the back. The ball has not left the free-blocking zone prior to A1's block. B1 was in the free-blocking zone at the snap. **2.17.3 A Legal block by A1.**
10. A9 is approaching B10 in the open field and at an angle. A9 pushes B10 in the back with one hand and with the other hand on the shoulder. Ruling? **2.17.3 C Illegal block in the back. (9-3-5)**
11. A2 is on the line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone at the snap. A2 pulls down the line and contacts B78 (who was in the free-blocking zone at the snap) inside the shoulders, below the neck, and above the waist and in the back while B78 and the ball are still in the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **2.17.3 D Legal**
12. After the snap, A1, an offensive lineman in the free-blocking zone at the snap, blocks B1 then disengages and blocks B2 below the waist before the ball has left the zone. Both B1 and B2 were in the zone and on the line of scrimmage at the snap. The contact takes place in the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **2.17.2 B Legal, since the ball is still in the free-blocking zone.**
13. Back A29 is lined up behind quarterback A8 within the free-blocking zone. As A8 drops back to pass, A29 blocks B17, who was in the free-blocking zone at the snap, below the waist. Ruling? **2.17.2 C Illegal block by A29. An offensive player must be on the line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone at the snap in order to block a defensive player below the waist who was also on the line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone at the snap (9-3-2)**

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14. Linebacker B7 is in the free-blocking zone, but off the line of scrimmage. B7 blocks A8 below the waist. Ruling? **2.17.2 D Illegal block. In order for a block below the waist to be legal, both the blocker and the person being blocked must be on the line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone.**
15. Quarterback A1 takes the snap and hands off to back A2 who takes a few steps left and then hands off to back A3 who attempts to run wide to the right. Linemen A54 and A65 pull and block opponents from behind in the back and while the ball is still in the zone. The defenders and linemen were in the zone at the snap and the contact occurred in the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **2.17.3 B Legal contact.**
16. K1 is attempting a try by kick. After the ball is snapped, the offensive guards and tackles each grab the jersey of an adjacent teammate. The kick by K1 is successful. Ruling? **9.2.1 I Grabbing the jersey of an offensive teammate is considered to be the same as grasping the teammate and is interlocked blocking, which is a form of illegal use of hands and carries a 10-yard penalty. Any time offensive players grasp teammates in the manner, it would have to be considered interlocked blocking whether they grab either other at the shoulders, arms, legs, ankles, etc.**
17. Following the snap on a kick try, the right tackle and tight-end step down and interlock their feet. Ruling? **Legal.**
18. Can the runner grasp the back of his blocker's jersey and use him as a blocking shield? **No. (9-2-2)**
19. As the offensive linemen charge on the snap of the ball, B1: (a) grasps guard A1 by the jersey and controls him until he sees where the ball is going; or (b) slaps A1 on the side of the helmet with an open hand and forces his head to the side with what is commonly called the "bell ringer;" or (c) contacts A1 with one hand on his shoulder pad and the other hand on his helmet in fighting off the block; or (d) pulls A1's shoulders to one side through in an effort to get to the runner; or (e) pulls A1's shoulders to one side so B2 may charge through to the runner. Ruling? **9.2.3 B (a) Holding, 10-yard penalty enforced with the all-but-one principle.**  
(b) **Illegal personal contact.**  
(c) **Legal.**  
(d) **Legal.**  
(e) **Illegal use of hands by B1, 10-yard penalty.**
20. Quarterback A6 drops back 15 yards and throws a legal forward pass intended for A2, who is 5 yards behind the neutral zone. Before the pass reaches A2: (a) B1 tackles A2; or (b) B1 blocks A2. Ruling? **9.2.3 C**  
(a) **Tackling A2 is a foul, as it is a form of holding. Defensive players are prohibited from grasping an opponent other than the runner. The foul occurs during a loose-ball play, and the 10-yard penalty will be administered from the previous spot.**  
(b) **Legal. The contact by B1 is not pass interference and if the block is legal, there is no infraction.**
21. Tight End A80 sprints from the line and then cuts sharply toward the middle of the field. A80 makes no attempt to block defensive back B55. B55 pursues A80 and pushes him from the side using his open hands. Contact is made on A80's upper arm before the pass is thrown. A80 was moving away from B55 when the contact occurred. Ruling? **9.3.2 A Illegal use of hands by B55. A defender may legally contact an eligible receivers beyond the neutral zone before the pass is in flight provided the receiver is a potential blocker. The contact may be a block or warding off the opponent who is attempting to block by pushing or pulling him. However if the receiver is not attempting to block or has gone past the yard line occupied by the defender or is moving away, it is illegal for the defender to use hands in the manner described. In this situation, it is clear that A1 is no longer a potential blocker on B55. (2-3-5a, 7-5-7)**
22. A1 and A2 combine in blocking B1 as follows: (a) both block B1 downfield with A1, making contact above the waist and A2 simultaneously making contact below the waist but above the knees; or (b) both block B1 in the free-blocking zone with A1's block above the waist and A2's block at the knees or below; or (c) A1 blocks B1 above the waist and at the same time or thereafter, A2 blocks B1 below the waist and above the knees; or (d) both A1 and A2 block B1 below the knees from the front of B1 while in the free-blocking zone. Ruling? **9.3.2 B**  
(a) **Illegal block below the waist by A2, since the block is not in the free-blocking zone.**  
(b) **Illegal chop block by A2**  
(c) **The block by A2 is legal if the block and both blockers were on the line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone at the time of the snap.**  
(d) **The combination or multiple-block is legal if the block and both blocker were in the free-blocking zone at the snap. (9-3-6)**