

WHO DOES WHAT TO WHOM???

There is no play in football as controversial or subject to individual judgement as frequently as pass interference. Defensive pass interference occurs at a rate three times greater than offensive interference. Regardless, officials are required to rule on this very emotional and volatile play with instant unfaltering accuracy.

Pass interference applies to both the offense and the defense. Although the offensive receivers know the snap count, the pass route and the timing of the route, they are still restricted from illegal contact in the secondary. In short, the offense CANNOT GAIN AN ADVANTAGE through illegal contact in the secondary:

- Offensive receivers may not engage defenders 3 - yards beyond the neutral zone.
- Receivers may not use hands or arms to disengage defenders or gain an advantage on a release. This is illegal contact.
- Illegal contact is prohibited by both team "A" and team "B" players from the time the BALL IS SNAPPED UNTIL IT IS TOUCHED BY ANY PLAYER.
- Both receivers and defenders have TERRITORIAL RIGHTS and equal rights to the ball. Contact that occurs in pursuit of a forward pass cannot create an advantage/disadvantage situation.
- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFENSIVE PLAYERS TO AVOID CONTACT IN THE SECONDARY.

