

**Double fouls during a play, both on one team or fouls on each team, can lead to tricky penalty enforcement.**

Play One — On first-and-10 from the opponent's 45-yard line, the offense puts a flanker in motion. He turns up field before the snap. On the play, the right guard holds at the 48-yard line. The pass is complete for a 9-yard gain. How do you enforce the penalties for these fouls?

Answer — Only one live-ball foul can be penalized so the defensive captain must choose. He should decline the 5-yard illegal-motion penalty and accept the 10-yard holding penalty. Holding fouls from behind the line of scrimmage are walked off from the spot of the foul.

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Play Two — Snapping the football on second and six from the opponent's 35-yard line, the running back carries for 7 yards. On the play, the right tackle holds at the 33-yard line, while the defensive safety grabs the running back's face mask during the tackle. How do you enforce these penalties?

Answer — These two live-ball fouls offset. You replay second down at the 35-yard line.

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Play Three — The same situation as in Play Two except the defensive foul is a late hit on the ball carrier. How do you enforce these fouls?

Answer — This is a live-ball and a dead-ball foul situation. They do not offset. You penalize in the order of occurrence. The 10-yard holding penalty is walked off from the spot of the foul to the 43-yard line. The 15-yard personal foul penalty for the dead-ball late hit is then walked off to the 28-yard line. It will be a first down at the 28-yard line.

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Play Four — Snapping the football from the opponent's 40-yard line on first-and-10, the quarterback drops back to pass. His right tackle holds at the 45-yard line. The pass is intercepted at the 23-yard line. During the return, a defensive team player blocks a potential tackler in the back at the 35-yard line. The tackle is made at the 31-yard line. What is the result of this play?

Answer — Since the defensive team did not foul until after gaining possession of the football, its captain can decline offsetting penalties and keep the football with his team's foul enforced. The holding penalty is declined while the block-in-the-back penalty is enforced at the end of the run. It will be first-and-10 for the defensive team at its own 21-yard line.

Note: The penalty was not enforced from the spot of the foul because it occurred beyond the end of the interception return.