



**CANADA**

## **2025 TACKLE RULE CHANGES FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The following rule changes, clarifications, and corrections, approved by the Tackle Rules Committee, are for immediate distribution and implementation. ***(The changes are italicized and in bold type)***. They will be added to the next printed edition of the Rule Book due in May 2025.

**Rule 1 Section 2 Article 1 page 2**

Replace examples with

Age	Dimensions	Wilson	Nike	Baden
6 - 9	Length: 9.5-10" Width: 6-6.5" Diameter: 17.5-18.5"	Pee Wee (K2)	Size 6	Pee Wee (Size 5)
9 - 12	Length: 9.5 - 10.5" Width: 6-6.5" Diameter: 18.5-19"	Junior (GST)	Size 7	Junior (Size 6)
12 - 14	Length: 10.5-11" Width: 6.5 - 6.75" Diameter: 19.5"	Youth (GST)	Size 8	Youth (Size 7)
14+	Length: 11" Width: 7" Diameter: 21"	Official	Size 9	Official (Size 9)

Reason for change: Clarification

**Rule 1 Section 5 Article 6 page 5**

Move to

**Rule 8 Section 4 Article 5 page 49**

Reason for change: Editorial maintain logical flow

**Rule 1 Section 10 Article 8 page 10**

**Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds**

It is illegal for a player to go out of bounds and return to the field and participate in the play unless that player went out of bounds as a result of:

- a) a slippery field
- b) contact with an opponent; or
- c) a missed block or tackle.

The player is allowed to return to the field and participate in the play but must re-establish themselves in the field of play with at least one foot in bounds and no contact with out of bounds.

Penalty – L10

It is illegal for an out-of-bounds player to reach back into or re-enter the field of play to touch or recover a loose ball.

Penalty - LB PF

It is illegal for an out-of-bounds player to participate on a Kick-off before possession has been established.

Penalty - L10 from the point of kick-off.

If a player of Team B reaches back into the field of play while still out of bounds and touches a kickoff.

Penalty: Ball is dead at spot of touch with possession awarded along with 10-yard penalty for Illegal participation.

**Replace with**

**Article 8 – Player Out of Bounds**

It is illegal for a player to go out of bounds and return to the field and participate in the play unless that player went out of bounds as a result of:

- a) a slippery field
- b) contact with an opponent; or
- c) a missed block or tackle.

The player is allowed to return to the field and participate in the play but must re-establish themselves in the field of play with at least one foot in bounds and no contact with out of bounds.

Penalty – L10

It is illegal for an out-of-bounds player to reach back into or re-enter the field of play to touch or recover a loose ball.

Penalty - LB PF

***If a player from either team illegally participates by going out of bounds on a Kick-off before possession has been legally gained***

***Penalty - L10 from the point of kick-off repeat kick-off or option***

***If a player from either team illegally participates by going out of bounds after possession has been legally gained on a Kick-off:***

***Penalty - L10 PP, PBH, PBD or option***

If a player of Team B reaches back into the field of play while still out of bounds and touches a kickoff.

Penalty: Ball is dead at spot of touch with possession awarded along with 10-yard penalty for Illegal participation.

Reason for change: Editorial wording change only, to reflect how penalty is to be called and applied

**Rule 1 Section 11 Article 1 (c 5) page 10**

c) The following equipment is mandatory and shall be worn by all players. The prime responsibility of proper equipment rests on the Head Coach or their designate. The equipment shall be designed and manufactured by a professional manufacturer and cannot be altered in any way.

5) mouthguard covering all the upper jaw teeth, as specified in Article 3 of this Section 11.

Penalty c): Loss of 5 yards from point where the ball would have been put into play, if no other foul had occurred or added to the penalty for any other foul. The offending player shall be removed from the game until the illegal equipment is replaced. Immediate substitution will be made, but the game shall not be delayed. If more than 1 player offends on the same play, only 1 penalty L5 will be applied for that play. Fouls on subsequent plays will be penalized in the same way – L5 on each play where 1 or more players offend

**Replace with**

c) The following equipment is mandatory and shall be worn by all players. The prime responsibility of proper equipment rests on the Head Coach or their designate. The equipment shall be designed and manufactured by a professional manufacturer and cannot be altered in any way.

5) mouthguard covering all the upper jaw teeth, as specified in Article 3 of this Section 11.

***It shall be illegal for a player to have a second mouthguard, which would include but not limited to an extra-oral mouthguard attached or fixated to the helmet or facemask.***

Penalty c): Loss of 5 yards from point where the ball would have been put into play, if no other foul had occurred or added to the penalty for any other foul. The offending player shall be removed from the game until the illegal equipment is replaced. Immediate substitution will be made, but the game shall not be delayed. If more than 1 player offends on the same play, only 1 penalty L5 will be applied for that play. Fouls on subsequent plays will be penalized in the same way – L5 on each play where 1 or more players offend

Reason for change: To address the tendency of players to wear a 2nd mouthguard attached to their faceguard, which can be misleading for officials wishing to ensure player safety and compliance with rule.

**Rule 1 Section 11 Article 2 page 11**

**Add**

- i) ***A player has the option of wearing a manufactured protective helmet cover “Guardian Caps” during practices and or games. The helmet cover must be designed and manufactured by a professional manufacturer and cannot be altered in any way.***

Reason for change: Clarification

**Rule 5 Section 2 Article 4(A) page 28**

**Article 4 – Offside on Kick Off**

a) At the instant the ball is kicked off, players of Team A shall not be in advance of the ball, except the player who may be holding the ball for the kick off or the kicker who is always considered to be onside.

Penalty: L5, kick off repeated.

**Replace with**

**Article 4 – Offside on Kick Off**

a) At the instant the ball is kicked off, players of Team A shall not be in advance of the ball, except the player who may be holding the ball for the kickoff or the kicker who is always considered to be onside.

Penalty: L5, kick off repeated **or L5 PBD**

Reason for change: Maintain game flow and player safety