

the committee is a great improvement and that in every case where a change in rule was made that legislation was practical.

While greatly satisfied with the new rules made for incorporation in the new guide, Mr. Bible places a high valuation on the work done by the committee in clarifying rules already in the book, and which have heretofore caused more or less confusion and misunderstanding because of different meanings that have been attached to their construction by officials and coaches.

He thinks that the supplement to the guide which will contain the many interpretations formulated in the phraseology of the football men on the committee and the explanations by examples will be great help to coaches and officials in understanding the code this year.

The appointment of an interpretation committee, composed of Walter Camp, W. S. Langford, William Morice and W. H. Hackett, to handle the disputes arising from interpretation of the rules which were not sufficiently explained by the regular committee was another good step taken.

"The committee faced an enormous task of selecting from the mass of recommendations made for changes of rules and the formulation of new ones, those worthy of consideration," Mr. Bible said, "and did well in holding down legislation and leaving to the coaches and officials those minor decisions requiring only a spirit of sportsmanship instead of a knowledge of technicalities."

Mr. Bible is particularly enthusiastic over the change made in the manner of handling the ball after a touchdown. The rule as amended when a touchdown is made the side scoring the touchdown will put the ball in play anywhere on or outside of the 5-yard line for a single scrimmage from which by any legal play (as from an ordinary scrimmage) run, pass or kick it may score a field goal or a touchdown which will net only one point.

If the attacking side makes a foul or an illegal play or an incompleting forward pass the chance for the one point is lost. If the defending side offends, the score of one point will be given to the offensive team.

This arrangement will place the burden of making the one point on the entire team of eleven men instead of on one man and it will open up the field for more strategy, thus making it more scientific than the old simple play and intensely more interesting to the spectators, Mr. Bible says. Dependable drop kickers and place kickers will be even more valuable now than before because usually the team will try a drop or place kick for the one point rather than use the run or pass. The only objection to be offered in his opinion is that it continues the strain on the team allowing the men no time to relieve their nerves and collect themselves before the next play.

Under the old rule the kick for a goal was not really the climax of a touchdown, he said, but was in reality an anti-climax. The new regulation provides for a scrimmage that will mean the actual climax so much desired."

The rule closing down on the shift play will stop many abuses that have been made, he thinks. The new rule reads that in all shift plays both feet must be stationary on the ground, is interpreted to mean that sufficient

pause must occur to admit of officials seeing that the play is legal and that the ball was not snapped while the men were in motion. It is the intention of the rule that when a man shifts to a new position he shall come to a full stop so that all momentum is lost and shall make a new start from a position of rest when the ball is put into play."

"It is well known," Mr. Bible said, "that in most all shift plays heretofore, momentum has not been entirely lost and as a result the men have been in motion and thus have taken an unfair advantage of the defense. The rule will not abolish the legitimate advantage of concentration by shifting but will simply limit its abuse."

#### Clipping.

"Clipping or cutting down from behind, a practice which many coaches and officials have objected to was carefully interpreted this year and made a part of the rules, to read as follows: 'Clipping or throwing the body from behind across the leg or legs or below the knees of a player not carrying the ball should be ruled as unnecessary roughness. Note—this rule is not meant to apply to close line plays.'

"This rule will not prohibit the line men from going through on the opposite side from where the play is going and cutting down the defense. It should prevent many injuries of men who are in no position to protect themselves from attack."

#### Scoring Touchdown.

"Unnecessary roughness will be reduced and much unfairness prevented by the rule which provides that hereafter 'a touchdown shall be scored as soon as the man crosses the goal line. Officials shall blow the whistle as soon as they are convinced that the ball has crossed the goal line or on a forward pass when the pass is completed behind the goal line.'

"Many fumbles after the ball has been taken behind the goal line have deprived teams of merited victory, and many injuries have been inflicted as a result of roughness behind the goal line in the attempt to cause fumbles. This rule will cover the situation well recognizing a touchdown fairly made and dispensing with all roughness.

#### Man in Motion.

"As a consequence of the addition made to the rule in reference to a man being in motion before a ball is put into play and which specifies that 'any man who thus starts from the line of scrimmage must be at least 5 yards behind the line when the ball is snapped,' will prevent the line man from driving into his opponent unaware and will clear up any question in the minds of the officials as to whether the player was in motion toward his goal at the time the ball was put in play. The habit has been that the lineman would give the snapping signal and start into the line an instant before the ball was snapped, giving him an advantage of momentum when he hit the line, and thus making a very much abused rule. The new rule will not affect the back field and it will not take any of the strategy out of the play.

#### Substituting Men.

"Much emphasis will be held upon the importance of coaches doing their big work before the game and depending less upon the opportunity of coaching during the progress of a game by taking out men to gather information and sending them back

at the next period with advice and information as a result of the substitution rule which has been changed to read 'a player taken out in one half cannot return to the game in the same half, but can go back any time during the next half. This means that if a player is taken out in the first half he can not go back until the second half and if taken out in the second half he is out for good.

"The practice of coaches will probably continue but it will mean that they will have to extend their coaching by developing more men for each place so that those cut out of the game when pulled for information may be replaced with equally dependable men.

"For this reason the rule has been criticised by coaches of smaller schools who do not have surplus material on which to work. It will also come in for much more criticism by coaches in general for the reason that it takes away the opportunity of pulling men who get hurt during the extent of their injury and administering to them. Many times it happens that injured men if taken from the field and given first aid, can go back after a short rest and play the rest of the game and the new rule prevents that assistance to players.

#### Forward Pass.

"The committee took a step toward placing limitations around the forward pass, a thing that it has hesitated to do because of the desire to see that form of play develop in the game.

"Heretofore, illegal interference with a pass meant only the loss of a down, but as the rule now reads, 'when a player interferes with an opponent in any manner until the ball has been touched except in an actual attempt to catch or bat the ball himself his side will be penalized by 15 yards and a down.'



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#### Kickoff Rule.

"The disadvantage that was always suffered by the side who lost the toss for the kickoff was done away with by the amendment of the kickoff rule which provides that after the winner has chosen the goal the other team will have the right to choose between kicking off and receiving.

#### Shortening Games.

"Possibility of a game being called on account of darkness was dispensed with in the rule adopted which provides that when a game is delayed in starting the referee shall have the right after conferring with the two captains between halves to shorten the last half or the last quarter.

#### Notifying Captains.

"An unnecessary requirement of having the referee notify the captains of both sides three minutes before the fifteen minute intermission between halves was up, was ruled out and as a result a bothersome practice eliminated, since it really operated to no advantage and simply meant an interruption with the work of the coaches during the period. It was also an imposition on the referee for the reason that it was very difficult for him to locate the captains."

—A.M.C.—

Rat—How would you like a monkey for a pet?

Co-ed—Oh, this is so sudden.

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