

CANADIAN FORWARD PASS

The most important change in the Western Canada Rugby rules for the current season pertains to the Forward Pass play, and are quoted here in their official form.

1. **General definition**—A **COMPLETED** Forward Pass is one that, **HAVING** **CROSSED THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE** before it has touched (a) the **GROUND** (b) an **INELIGIBLE** player, or (c) any obstruction on or back of the goal line. The Pass must not go **OUT OF BOUNDS**. If a Pass goes **Out of Bounds**, even though touched by an **Opponent**, the **Touch** rule does not apply and the Pass will be considered as **INCOMPLETED** and penalized as such.

2. An **INCOMPLETED** Forward Pass in general does not comply with the Requirements of a "completed" Forward Pass.

3. **PENALTY** for **INCOMPLETED** Forward Pass. The "general penalty" for an Incompleted Forward Pass is:

Re-scrimmage with loss of one down, if on third down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

4. **EXCEPTIONS** to **GENERAL PENALTY** for Incompleted Pass.

(a) If the ball touches or is touched by an **ORIGINALLY INELIGIBLE** player who has **not** become **ELIGIBLE** through an opponent having touched the ball.

Penalty—loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

(b) If Pass is Incompleted **BEHIND PASSER'S** Goal line. Penalty—2 points for opponents.

(c) If two successive Incompleted Passes (1st and 2nd downs)

Penalty (for second Incompleted Pass)—Re-scrimmage with loss of 10 yards from point of last scrimmage.

(d) If Pass is **INCOMPLETED** behind the **Defending team's** Goal line.

Penalty—loss of ball on opponents 25 yard line.

(e) If Pass is **THROWN** from a scrimmage within the **Defending team's** 25 yard line and is **INCOMPLETED**.

Penalty—loss of ball on opponent's 25 yard line.

5. **FORWARD PASS** may be **THROWN** and **COMPLETED** under the following conditions:

(a) It may be **THROWN** only by the team which put the ball in play **FROM A SCRIMMAGE**.

(b) It may be **THROWN** on any "down."

(c) It may be **THROWN** by any **Eligible** player on the attacking team.

(d) It must be **THROWN** from a point at least five (5) yards behind the line of scrimmage.

Penalty—Re-scrimmage with loss of one down. If on 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

(e) Only **ONE** Forward Pass may be thrown from each scrimmage, (a subsequent Forward Pass shall be considered as an "off-side" and penalized accordingly).

(f) The Pass must cross the line of scrimmage, even though "blocked" by an opponent.

Penalty—Re-scrimmage with loss of one down. If on the 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

(g) The **PASSER** need not be the first man of the attacking side to receive the ball from the scrimmage.

(h) The Pass can only be Completed by being **CAUGHT** by an **ELIGIBLE RECEIVER**.

6. **ELIGIBLE RECEIVERS OF PASS.**

(a) All opponents (Defending team).

(b) The **PLAYER** on **EACH END** of the **Wing Line** and the **PLAYERS** who are at least one (1) yard back of the **WING LINE** of the **PASSING TEAM**. These players are eligible unless one of them touches the ball when he **only** of his side remains eligible.

If, however, an **Opponent** touches the ball, **ALL** players become eligible.

7. **POSITION OF PLAYERS OF PASSER'S TEAM ON LINE OF SCRIMMAGE.**

In a scrimmage from which a Forward Pass is thrown, the attacking team must have at least Seven (7) players within one (1) yard of the line of scrimmage, in a **single** line and not advancing towards their opponent's goal line at the instant the ball is put into play.

Penalty—Re-scrimmage with loss of one down. If on 3rd down, loss of ball at point of last scrimmage.

8. **POSSESSION OF BALL.**

(a) When a team makes a Forward Pass, the ball is considered to be in its possession until the pass is completed or until, and unless the pass has been declared **INCOMPLETE**.

(b) If a pass is caught simultaneously by **ELIGIBLE** players of the **OPPOSING TEAMS**, the ball shall **belong** to the **PASSER'S TEAM**.

(c) If two **ELIGIBLE** players of the same team catch the pass simultaneously the **PASS** shall be considered as **COMPLETE**.

9. **INTERFERENCE; BLOCKING; OBSTRUCTING, etc.**

It is **not** permissible to Interfere with, or Block or Obstruct, in any way, any player of either team who is **ELIGIBLE** to catch the pass, except as follows:

(1) Players of the **Defending** side may block only within one yard of the line of scrimmage.

Penalty—loss of 10 yards.

(2) Players of the attacking side who are within one (1) yard of the line of scrimmage and in a single line when the ball is put into play may create interference 3 yards in advance of the line of scrimmage.

Penalty—loss of one down and 10 yards. If on the 3rd down, loss of ball.

(3) "Blocking" by the attacking side **behind the line** of scrimmage for the protection of the **PASSER** is permitted as for a kick or Fake Kick.

(4) When two or more **ELIGIBLE** players simultaneously come in contact when making a bona fide effort to secure possession of the ball, it shall not be considered as Interference.