



# Defensive Pass Interference



**Eric Hartman**  
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**Big XII Conference**

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## The Rule: 7-5-(7 thru 11)

- It is forward-pass interference if any player who is beyond the neutral zone interferes with an eligible opponent's opportunity to move toward, catch or bat a pass.
- There must be contact to have DPI (i.e. face-guarding is legal).
- Can only have DPI if ball is in the air *and* pass (untouched by B) crosses the neutral zone.
- Catchability is NOT a factor.

*...it is not DPI if...*

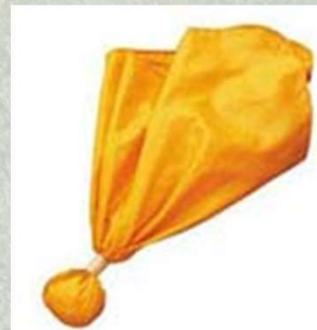
- Unavoidable contact occurs when two or more eligibles are making a simultaneous, bona fide attempt to move toward, catch or bat the pass.
- Contact by B is obviously away from the direction of the pass.



# Processing the Action: Categories of DPI

- **Early Contact**
- **Playing thru the Back**
- **Grabbing a Receiver's Arm**
- **Arm Bar**
- **Cut-Off**
- **Hook-AND-Turn**

*MAKE IT BIG...we want clear and obvious material restriction!*





## ...but not DPI if...

- Incidental Contact
- Inadvertent Tangling of Feet
- Hands on Receiver/Hand-Fighting
- Defender Gains Position
- Bang-Bang



## Points of Focus:

- Have a high football IQ
- Know your personnel
- Be situationally aware
- Identify defensive scheme pre-snap (zone vs man)
- Offensive formation and receiver positioning
- Strike zone is shoulder to waste
- Look for clues: defender beat and not playing ball; one-armed receiver; unnatural body movement

Remember, we want clear and obvious material restriction for a foul.  
**MAKE IT BIG...MAKE THERE BE A VICTIM!**