

DEFENSIVE **PASS INTERFERENCE** – KNOW IT – SEE IT – CALL IT

Illegal interference is interference with an eligible receiver in the target area, or interference which prevents an eligible receiver from reaching the target area, when there is a reasonable expectation that the receiver would have had the opportunity to attempt to complete the pass.



Playing through the back/early contact

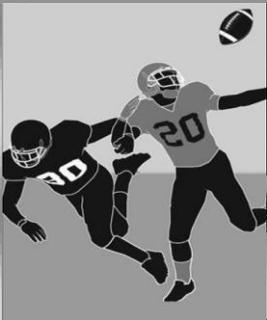
A defender cannot come over a receiver's back to try to play a pass. Be careful not to penalize a defender who actually gets around the side of the receiver to bat down or perhaps even intercept a pass.

When a safety hits the receiver even a split second before the ball arrives, the contact is illegal. Make sure, though, that you actually see the interference; don't let crowd reaction help you to call it.



Not playing the ball

The rules give defenders and receivers equal rights to try to catch a pass, but for a defender to exercise that right, it follows that he must be looking at the ball. If, while a pass is in the air, the defender is looking at the receiver and contact materially impedes the receiver in his attempt to catch the pass, interference should be called.



Grabbing the arm

Interference should be called when a defender grabs and pins one of the receiver's arms as he begins to reach up to catch the ball, thus allowing him to get only one arm up to make the catch.

No Interference

Situations that do not qualify as pass interference.

- Incidental Contact
- Uncatchable Pass
- Accidental Entanglement
- Deflected or touched pass by an eligible receiver



Arm Bar

A defender cannot put his forearm across an offensive player's chest or arm(s) while the two are running side by side and use it as leverage to restrict him from getting to the ball or raising his arms. That applies whether the defender is playing the receiver or the ball. As in the other instances, there must be a material restriction or impeding of the receiver.



Hook and turn

A defender cannot grab a receiver around the torso and use his arm as a hook to spin the receiver around before the pass arrives, thus preventing him from catching the pass. In calling the foul, officials must ensure that there is a material restriction; simply placing an arm on the receiver is not enough for a flag.



Jersey Grab

Grabbing part of the receiver to prevent them from catching the ball including the jersey and pulling it away to try to impede the reception is an infraction.

Remember

Stick with your key, but be ready to adjust.

Don't focus on the ball.

Don't be too close and get an angle.

Avoid getting "straight-lined" as the pass interference may not be detected.