

Iowa - Minnesota Post-Game: Big Ten Officials Explanation of Over-Turned Hawkeyes Punt Return Touchdown Late in the Fourth Quarter

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Big Ten Referee Tim ODey

Following the Minnesota-Iowa Game: On Review Overturning Iowa TD On Punt Return In Fourth Quarter

“Let’s start with definitions that surround the play. With regard to it there are valued and invalid signals that can be given during any kick play. An invalid signal is any waving motion by a receiving team member that happens throughout the kickdown. That’s the first piece of information you have to apply here.

The second piece that comes from rule 6, is that any catch or recovery of a kick after an invalid signal is given causes the ball to become dead upon recovery or catch. Those are the basis for what we made a decision on after seeing the play.

Going back to the play. The receiver makes a pointing gesture with his right hand and he makes multiple waving gestures with his left hand. If you look at the video you’ll see that. That waving motion of the left hand constitutes an invalid fair catch signal. So when the receiving team recovers the ball, by rule it becomes dead. So that is a reviewable element of the game. We let the play run out and then when we went to review, review shows with indisputable evidence that there is a waving motion with the left hand. And that is when these rules are applied.

It’s legal to point but any waving motion of the hands during a kick play is considered an invalid signal.”

Matt Weitzel

Associate Athletic Director, Strategic Communications