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CHANGES IN FOOT BALL.

Alterations in the Rules That Will Affect the Game.

In speaking of the changes made in the football rules and the effect these changes will have on the playing of the game, Spaulding's Official Football Guide has the following to say:

"The changes in the rules for 1904 in the main affect most seriously the scrimmage development. Last year, between the two twenty-five yard lines in the middle of the field, a team was restricted to seven men in the line, but inside the twenty-five yard lines, that is, near the goal lines, the old formations were admissible. In 1903 the quarter-back could run only when in the middle of the field, that is, between the two twenty-five yard lines, and that meant when only seven men were on the rush line, or line of scrimmage.

"This year a team never can have less than six men on the rush line and if only six are on the rush line, then one of the men who plays behind the line must be outside the man occupying the position on the end of the line of scrimmage. But it is admissible to run the quarterback at anytime and in any part of the field so long as the above provision is complied with, and so long as he runs at least five yards outside of the spot where the ball is put in play."

This change will probably have the effect of making the choice of men playing behind the line depend not only upon their speed and agility but upon their weight and strength.

Another important change is that which makes a field-kick goal count four points instead of five, as in former years. The minor changes are not essential to the game or its form. A few of them may be briefly noted as follows:

The umpire shall have a call different from that of the referee and the play will continue until the ball is dead, after which the referee will inflict the penalty called for by the umpire's decision.

Any deliberate attempt to draw the opponents off-side by a false start has no effect on the play, for the ball is regarded as dead even if snapped.

If the winner of the toss selects the goal then the loser of the toss must take the kick-off.

The penalty for kicking out of bounds twice in succession has been lessened ten yards.

Interference with a free catch gives the offended side the choice of putting the ball in play by a scrimmage and taking a penalty of twenty yards or of making a free kick and taking only five yards penalty.

The duties of a linesman are once more narrowed. Besides the above penalties there are numerous changes in the penalties to be inflicted.

Disqualification is given for unnecessary roughness. A game is forfeited if a side refuses to play within two minutes after being ordered to do so by the referee, or if they attempt to delay the game by repeated fouls near their own goal line.

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