

= Safety (gridiron football score) =

In gridiron football , the safety (American football) or safety touch (Canadian football) is a scoring play that results in two points being awarded to the scoring team . Safeties can be scored in a number of ways , such as when a ball carrier is tackled in his own end zone or when a foul is committed by the offense in their own end zone . After a safety is scored in American football , the ball is kicked off to the team that scored the safety from the 20 @-@ yard line ; in Canadian football , the scoring team also has the options of taking control of the ball at their own 35 @-@ yard line or kicking the ball off themselves . The ability of the scoring team to receive the ball through a kickoff differs from the touchdown and field goal , which require the scoring team to kick the ball off to the scored upon team . Despite being of relatively low point value , safeties can have a significant impact on the result of games , and Brian Burke of Advanced NFL Stats estimated that safeties have a greater abstract value than field goals , despite being worth a point less , due to the field position and reclaimed possession gained off the safety kick .

Safeties are the least common method of scoring in American football but are not rare occurrences ? since 1932 , a safety has occurred once every 14 @.@ 31 games in the National Football League (NFL) , or about once a week under current scheduling rules . On October 21 , 1973 , Fred Dryer , playing for the Los Angeles Rams against the Green Bay Packers , became the only player in NFL History to score two safeties in a single game . A much rarer occurrence is the one @-@ point safety , which can be scored by the offense on an extra point or two @-@ point conversion attempt ; those have occurred at least twice in NCAA Division I football since 1996 , most recently at the 2013 Fiesta Bowl . No conversion safeties have occurred since at least 1940 in the NFL . A conversion safety by the defense is also possible , though highly unlikely ; although this has never occurred , it is the only possible way a team could finish with a single point in an American football game .

= = Scoring a safety = =

= = = American football = = =

In American football , a safety is scored when any of the following conditions occur :

The ball carrier is tackled in his own end zone .

The ball becomes dead in the end zone , with the exception of an incomplete forward pass , and the defending team is responsible for it being there .

The offense commits a foul in its own end zone .

= = = Canadian football = = =

In Canadian football , a safety touch is scored when any of the following conditions occur :

The ball becomes dead in the goal area of the team in possession of the ball

The ball touches or crosses the dead line or a sideline in goal after having been directed from the field of play into the Goal Area by the team scored against or as the direct result of a blocked scrimmage kick .

= = Resuming play after a safety = =

= = = American football = = =

After a safety is scored , the ball is put into play by a free kick . The team that was scored upon must kick the ball from their own 20 @-@ yard line and can punt , drop kick , or place kick the ball . In professional play , a kicking tee cannot be used ? however , a tee can be used in high school or college football . Once the ball has been kicked , it can be caught and advanced by any member of

the receiving team , and it can be recovered by the kicking team if the ball travels at least 10 yards and bounces at least once or a player of the receiving team touches the ball .

= = = Canadian football = = =

After scoring a safety touch , the scoring team has the option of taking control of the ball and beginning play from their own 35 @-@ yard line , kicking the ball off from their 35 @-@ yard line , or accepting a kickoff from the 25 @-@ yard line of the team that conceded the score . If a kickoff is chosen it must be a place kick , and the ball can be held , placed on the ground , or placed on a tee prior to the kick . As in American football , the ball must go at least ten yards before it can be recovered by the kicking team .

= = Elective safeties = =

In American football , intentionally conceded safeties are an uncommon strategy . Teams have utilized elective safeties to gain field position for a punt when pinned deep in their own territory and , when ahead near the end of a game , to run down the clock so as to deny the other team a chance to force a turnover or return a punt . Teams have also taken intentional safeties by kicking a loose ball out the back of their end zone , with the intent of preventing the defense from scoring a touchdown .

Elective safeties are more common in Canadian football , where they can result in better field position than a punt . The 2010 Edmonton Eskimos surrendered a Canadian Football League (CFL) -record 14 safeties , a factor that led CFL reporter Jim Mullin to suggest increasing the value of the safety touch from two to three points as a deterrent .

= = Conversion safety = =

In American football , if what would normally be a safety is scored on an extra point or two @-@ point conversion attempt (officially known in the rulebooks as a try) , one point is awarded to the scoring team . This is commonly known as a conversion safety or one @-@ point safety and it can be scored by the offense . There are at least two known occurrences of the conversion safety in Division I college football ? a November 26 , 2004 game in which Texas scored against Texas A & M , and the 2013 Fiesta Bowl in which Oregon scored against Kansas State . In both games the PAT kick was blocked , recovered by the defense , and then fumbled or thrown back into the end zone . Coincidentally , play @-@ by @-@ play commentator Brad Nessler called both of these games . No conversion safeties have been scored in the NFL since 1940 , although it is now slightly more likely after the rule change in 2015 which allowed the defense to take possession and score on a conversion attempt . Before 2015 , the only scenario in which a one @-@ point safety could have been scored in the NFL would have involved the defense kicking or batting a loose ball out the back of the end zone without taking possession of it . After the 2015 rule change , a one @-@ point safety can also be scored after the defense takes possession and fumbles out of their own end zone or is tackled in it after leaving it , as in the NCAA .

In college football and the NFL , a conversion safety could also be scored by the defense . To accomplish this , the kicking team would have to retreat all the way back to their own end zone and then fumble the ball out of it or be tackled in it . A more plausible scenario would involve a turnover on the extra point attempt followed by a lost fumble before the defensive player reaches the end zone , with the ball finally being downed by the offense in its own end zone . While such a conversion safety has never been scored by the defense , it is the only possible way in which a team could finish with a single point in an American football game .