



2017 NCAA FOOTBALL **RULES AND EDITORIAL** **CHANGES**

Rogers Redding
Secretary-Rules Editor
National Coordinator of Football
Officials

RULES CHANGES

- **Knee Pads**
- **Leaping and Hurdling**
- **Horse Collar Tackle**

KNEE PADS

Rule 1-4-4-d

Knee Pads Must Be At Least 1/2–Inch Thick And Must Be Covered By Pants.

EFFECTIVE IN 2018: Furthermore, The Pants And Knee Pads Must Cover The Knees.

LEAPING AND HURDLING

Rule 9-1-11-b

No Defensive Player Who Runs Forward From Beyond The Neutral Zone May Leap Or Hurdle In An Obvious Attempt To Block A Field Goal Or Try. It Is Not A Foul If The Player Was Aligned In A Stationary Position Within One Yard Of The Line Of Scrimmage When The Ball Was Snapped.

Note: The Landing Location Doesn't Matter.

HORSE COLLAR TACKLE

Rule 9-1-15

All Players Are Prohibited From Grabbing The Inside Back Collar Of The Shoulder Pads Or Jersey, The Nameplate Area, Or The Inside Collar Of The Side Of The Shoulder Pads Or Jersey, And Immediately Pulling The Ball Carrier Down.

KEY EDITORIAL CHANGES

- **Halftime Intermission**
- **10-Second Runoff Supersedes Other Clock Rules**
- **Clarification Of Charged Team Timeout**
- **Clarification On Intentional Grounding
—Whom The Rule Covers**
- **Sideline Management**

HALFTIME INTERMISSION

Rule 3-2-1

**The Intermission Between Halves Of
A Regular Season Game Shall Be 20
Minutes, Unless Shortened By Mutual
Agreement Of The Administrations Of
Both Schools.**

10-SECOND RUNOFF

Exception to Rule 3-3-2-f

10-Second Runoff Supersedes All Other Clock Rules.

- If The Runoff Is Accepted, The Game Clock Starts On The Referee's Signal.**
- If The Runoff Is Declined, The Game Clock Starts On The Snap.**

TEAM TIMEOUT

Rule 3-3-7

A Charged Full Team Timeout Requested By Any Player Or The Head Coach Shall Be One Minute, Plus The 25-Second Play Clock Interval.

INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

Rule 7-3-2-h Exception

Scrambling Passer Who Takes The Snap Or The Backward Pass From The Snapper May Legally Ground The Pass If He Does Not Relinquish Possession To Another Player Before Throwing The Pass.

SIDELINE MANAGEMENT

Rule 9-2-1-b

During The Game Coaches, Squad Members, And Authorized Attendants In The Team Area May Not Be On The Field Of Play Or Outside The 25-Yard Lines To Protest An Officiating Decision Or To Communicate With Players Or Officials Without Permission Of The Referee.

SIDELINE MANAGEMENT

Rule 9-2-5-a

Coaches, Substitutes And Authorized Attendants In The Team Area Must Be Behind The Coaching Line.

SIDELINE MANAGEMENT

Be Sure To Read The Sideline Management Document Posted To The CFO Arbiter Web Site On February 13, 2017.

TECHNOLOGY

Rule 1-4-11

The *Note* At This Rule In The 2016-17 Rule Book Has Been Rescinded. There Will Be No Change To The Technology Rule.

BUT, WHAT ABOUT.....

- **Targeting??**
- **Blocking Below the Waist??**
- **Ineligible Receivers Downfield??**

NCAA FOOTBALL
MECHANICS
CHANGES FOR 2017



2017 Major Mechanics Changes

- “During the game, coaches...shall not be on the field of play....without permission of the referee.” *Rule 9-2-1-b-1*
NOTE: Coaches who enter the field of play to question, protest or otherwise demonstrate disagreement with an officiating decision are subject to an immediate 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. This unsportsmanlike conduct foul counts as one of the two leading to disqualification from the game. (*Rule 9-2-6*)
- Game Administration and Sideline Interference - **a flag should be put down on the first infraction of Rule 9-2-5.** Referees need to be sure to announce that the first instance of sideline interference is a warning and does not include a yardage penalty.

2017 Major Mechanics Changes

- Pace of the Game- At the conclusion of the 1st Half, the referee will **immediately start the 20 minute halftime clock** when he observes that there are no fouls and that there is no replay stop or challenge.
- Pace of the Game – The Referee will be actively consistent in restarting the clock after out of bounds plays and will signal to start the clock while the Umpire or Center Judge is spotting the ball. Outside of two minutes, the intent is to keep the game moving.

2017 Major Mechanics Changes

- Pace of the Game- The Referee, after awarding a 1st down shall restart the game clock. Outside of two minutes, the intent is to keep the game moving.
- Pace of the Game – Note: The Referee will be actively consistent in **restarting the game clock during the substitution process** where prescribed by rule.
- Pace of the Game – Experimental Mechanic: The use of the O2O communications system is allowed for communications from the Referee to the replay booth on Replay stoppages. The SRA communications is still required, but will be a back-

2017 Major Mechanics Changes

- Move the primary responsibility for Ineligible Receiver Downfield from the Umpire to the Head Linesman and Line Judge. Note to Umpire – if there is an empty backfield, you must be on high alert.
- Kick-off formations – Make Center Judge primary for ensuring at least 4 kicking team players on each side of the ball when it is kicked. Referee has secondary responsibility.
- Emphasis on Center Judge spotting the ball, unless another official can expedite the process. CJ will still come to the Center and wait to be released by the R.

2017 Major Mechanics Changes

- Punt Plays – When in question, the kicker is outside the tackle box.
- O2O Mechanics addressed, Official to Official and from the Booth to Official.
- Scrimmage Kick Formation – It must be obvious that a kick will be attempted. Philosophy is conservative, i.e.. Not a regular offensive set with the QB at 10 yards deep.
- Conduct and Ethics: Never do anything to draw undue attention to yourself or the crew.

2017 NATIONAL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- **Targeting and Dangerous Contact Fouls**
- **Coaches' Sideline Management and Control**
- **Managing Pace of Play, Substitutions and Length of the Game**
- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls**

Targeting

(Rule 9-1-3 & 9-1-4)

- There was considerable discussion regarding possible adjustments to the targeting rule, but the committee decided to leave it **unchanged** for the 2017 season.
- The committee felt that the change we have witnessed in player behavior has been significantly positive.
- The adjustment made last year to allow the replay official to examine all aspects of the targeting rule was a positive change.

Sideline Management

- **Expectations developed and endorsed by Rules Committee based on current rules.**
- **Heightened focus on Coaches entering the field to protest officiating decisions.**
- **Coaches expected to be leaders in presenting a positive image of the game.**
- **Delivery and coverage with all Head Coaches in the Spring.**

2017 Major Mechanics Changes

- “During the game, coaches...shall not be on the field of play....without permission of the referee.” *Rule 9-2-1-b-1*
NOTE: Coaches who enter the field of play to question, protest or otherwise demonstrate disagreement with an officiating decision are subject to an immediate 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. This unsportsmanlike conduct foul counts as one of the two leading to disqualification from the game. (*Rule 9-2-6*)
- Game Administration and Sideline Interference - a flag should be put down on the first infraction of Rule 9-2-5. Referees need to be sure to announce that the first instance of sideline interference is a warning and does not include a yardage penalty.

Pace of the Game

- **No impact on actual playing time.**
- **Administration of the Game**
- **Halftime = 20 minutes.**
- **TV / Media Efficiency**
- **Officiating Mechanics – Keep the Game Moving**