



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2018 NCAA FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 2

Injury Timeout – Rule 3-3-5

Any time an official suspects that a player is injured, the clock should be stopped and the covering official shall declare an injury timeout. Officials should pay special attention to players who exhibit signs of a concussion as detailed in Appendix C of the current NCAA Rules. The Football Code details that feigning injury is dishonest and is contrary to the spirit of the rules. That said, the officiating crew cannot make any medical decision based on a player that is down on the field with an injury, and that player will be given full protection under the rules. Rule 3-3-5-a-1 states, “When in question, officials will take a timeout for an injured player.” If an officiating crew has a concern about a team potentially feigning injuries, that information should be reported back to that team’s Conference for review.

In addition, anytime a player is prone on the field before a dead ball becomes alive, the officials shall declare an injury timeout, and the prone player must leave the game. This player must remain out of the game for at least one down, and can return to the game when he receives approval of professional medical personnel designated by the institution.

Play #1: After making a 1st down inbounds, Team A rushes to the line in order to snap the ball in a hurry up mode. The Referee restarts the clock after awarding Team A’s first down, and just before the snap, Linebacker B54 drops to the ground in his position and is holding his knee.

RULING: The officials will stop the clock for an injury timeout. Following the time out for the injured defensive player, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds. If less than one minute in the half, Team A has the option of a Ten-Second Runoff.

Play #2: Both teams are in position for a Free Kick play. The Receiving team has 2 deep receivers, with B21 at the goal line on the right side of the field and B44 lying motionless face down in the end zone on the left side of the field. The Referee notices B44 just before or after the Ready for Play signal.

RULING: The Referee will declare an injury timeout before the ball becomes alive. B44 must leave the game and remain out of the game for at least one down.

***Steve Shaw, Secretary-Rules Editor
September 2018***