



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

NCAA FOOTBALL RULES

2014 Key Editorial Changes—Amended

Items in **red** are those added since the earlier posting on March 17.

1. Numerals not in contrast with the jersey: Clarification of 2013 Interpretation

Add paragraph *d* to Rule 1-4-8 (FR-24)

d. Teams wearing jerseys that do not conform to Rules 1-4-4-c **and 1-4-5 will be asked to change into legal jerseys before the game and before the start of each quarter until the jerseys are changed. Officials shall charge a team timeout at the start of each quarter the illegal jerseys are worn.**

2. Clarification of an airborne player

Amend paragraph *b* of Rule 2-27-6 (FR-40)

b. An airborne player is a player not in contact with the ground **because he leaps, jumps, dives, launches, etc., in other than normal running action.**

3. Classify receiver of a backward pass as a Defenseless Player

Amend Rule 2-27-14-b (FR-41) to read:

“b. A receiver attempting to catch a **forward pass or in position to receive a backward pass...”**

Adjust Note 2 of Rule 9-1-4 (FR-88) accordingly.

4. Clarification of Inbounds and Out-of-Bounds Player

New Article 15 to Rule 2-27 (FR-41)

Player In Bounds and Out Of Bounds

ARTICLE 15. a. *Out of Bounds*

1. A player is out of bounds when any part of his body touches anything other than another player or a game official on or outside a boundary line.

2. An out-of-bounds player who becomes airborne remains out of bounds until he touches the ground in bounds without simultaneously being out of bounds.

b. In Bounds

- 1. An inbounds player is a player who is not out of bounds.**
- 2. An inbounds player who becomes airborne remains in bounds until he is out of bounds.**

5. More than eleven players on defense—live-ball foul

Clarification of Rule 3-5-3-c (FR-56):

“If officials do not detect the excessive number of players until during the down or after the ball is dead, **or if Team B players have entered the field just before the snap but have not been in the formation**, the infraction is treated as a live-ball foul. **(A.R. 3-5-3-V)”**

6. Targeting Fouls

(a) Amend Rule 9-1-3 (FR-86) to read:

“No player shall target and ~~initiate~~ **make forcible** contact against an opponent with the crown (top) of his helmet.”

(b) Amend Rule 9-1-4 (FR-87) to read:

“No player shall target and ~~initiate~~ **make forcible** contact to the head or neck area...”

7. Personal Fouls by Team B on Pass Plays--Clarification of Enforcement

Addition to 9-1 Penalty statement (FR-86)

For Team B personal fouls during a legal forward pass play (Rule 7-3-12):

Enforcement is at the end of the last run when it ends beyond the neutral zone and there is no change of possession during the down.

Enforcement is at the previous spot for personal fouls during all other pass plays.

New Article 12 to Rule 7-3 (FR-79)

Team B Personal Fouls During Legal Forward Pass Play

Penalties for personal fouls by Team B during a completed legal forward pass play are enforced at the end of the last run when it ends beyond the neutral zone. If the pass is incomplete or intercepted, or if there is a change of possession during the down, the penalty is enforced at the previous spot. (Rule 9-1 Penalty)

8. Include Backward Pass Out of Bounds as a Reviewable Play

Amend Rule 12-3-2-e-2

e. Pass ruled forward or backward.

- 1. If the pass is ruled forward and is incomplete, the play is reviewable only if **the ball goes out of bounds** or if there is clear recovery of a loose ball in the immediate continuing action after the loose ball. If the replay official does not have indisputable video evidence as to which team recovers, the ruling of incomplete pass stands.**

9. Allow Intentional Grounding to be reviewable in clearly obvious situations when the penalty results in a safety.

Amend Rule 12-3-2 (FR-107) by adding a new paragraph *f*:

“f. Location of the passer when he is obviously in the field of play and a ruling of intentional grounding would result in a safety by penalty.”

10. Include recovery of a loose ball as a reviewable play

Amend Rule 12-3-3 (FR-107) by adding a new paragraph *j*:

“j. Catch or recovery of a loose ball in the field of play or an end zone.”

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