



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

### ADDENDUM TO 2011-12 NCAA FOOTBALL RULES

**Editor's note** Since publication of the *2011 and 2012 Football Rules and Interpretations* there have been a number of editorial changes and other modifications to the rules section. This addendum comprises these changes, including the new rules adopted in 2012.

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#### **Rule 2-10**

##### **Adjacent Sideline** (New article)

ARTICLE 10. a. For a player stationary or in motion at the snap, the adjacent sideline is the sideline to his outside.

b. For a player in motion who is effectively behind the snapper at the snap and it is not clear which is the sideline to his outside, the adjacent sideline is the sideline toward which he is moving.

#### **Rule 3-2-4**

##### c. 25-Second Clock

(New item)

13. An offensive team player's helmet comes completely off during the down. The play clock is set to 40 seconds if the helmet comes completely off a player of the defensive team. [**Exception:** If there is an option for a 10-second subtraction in either half the play clock is set at 25 seconds for any player.]

#### **Rule 3-3-2**

##### e. Starts on the Referee's Signal

(New item)

16. A player's helmet comes completely off during the down.

#### **Rule 3-3-9**

##### **Helmet Comes Off—Timeout** (New Article)

ARTICLE 9.

a. If during the down a player's helmet comes completely off, other than as the direct result of a foul by an opponent, the player must leave the game for the next down. The game clock will stop at the end of the down.

b. When the helmet coming off is the only reason for stopping the clock, the following conditions apply:

1. With one minute or more remaining in either half the play clock will be set at 25 seconds if the player is on offense and at 40 seconds if the player is on defense. The game clock will start on the referee's signal.

2. If there is less than one minute in the half the opponent has the option of a 10-second subtraction. The play clock will be set at 25 seconds. If there is a 10-second subtraction the game clock will start on the referee's signal. If there is no 10-second subtraction the game clock will start on the snap. The 10-second subtraction may be avoided by the use of a team timeout, if available. There is no option for a 10-second subtraction if helmets come off opposing players.

c. If the ball carrier's helmet comes off as in paragraph *a* (above) the ball is dead (Rule 4-1-3-q). If the player is not the ball carrier the ball remains alive, but he must not continue to participate in the play beyond the immediate action in which he is engaged. Prolonged participation is a personal foul (Rule 9-1-17). By definition such a player is obviously out of the play (Rule 9-1-12-b).

d. A player who intentionally removes his helmet during the down commits a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct (Rule 9-2-1-a-1-i).

#### **Rule 6-1-1**

##### **Change of kickoff location**

Unless relocated by a penalty, the kicking team's restraining line on a kickoff shall be its **35**-yard line, and for a free kick after a safety, its 20-yard line.

#### **Rule 6-1-2**

(New paragraph)

b. After the ball has been made ready for play all players on the kicking team except the kicker must be no more than five yards behind their restraining line. A player satisfies this rule when one foot is on or beyond the line five yards behind the restraining line. If one player is more than five yards behind the restraining line and any other player kicks the ball, it is a foul.

#### **Rule 6-1-7**

(New paragraph)

b. If the result of the free kick is a touchback (Rule 8-6) for Team B, they will put the ball in play at their 25-yard line.

#### **Rule 6-4-1**

(New paragraphs)

a. It is an interference foul if, before the receiver touches the ball, a Team A player enters the area defined by the width of the receiver's shoulders and extending one yard in front of him. When in question it is a foul.

e. During a free kick a player of the receiving team in position to receive the ball has the same kick-catch and fair-catch protection whether the ball is kicked directly off the tee or is immediately driven to the ground, strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of the ball kicked directly off the tee.

f. Contact by Team A involving a targeting foul (Rule 9-1-4) or other personal foul that interferes with the receiver's opportunity to catch a kick may be ruled either as interference or as a personal foul. The 15-yard penalty is enforced at the spot where the dead ball belongs to Team B or at the spot of the foul, at the option of Team B. If the foul involves an act that ordinarily would result in disqualification, the fouling player must leave the game.

#### **Rule 8-6-2**

##### **Snap After a Touchback**

ARTICLE 2. After a touchback is declared, the ball belongs to the defending team at its own 20-yard line, except when the touchback results from a free kick, in which case the ball belongs to Team B at its 25-yard line (Rule 6-1-7).

#### **Rule 9-1-6**

##### **Blocking Below the Waist**

##### ARTICLE 6

There shall be no blocking below the waist (other than against the ball carrier) except as allowed below. (Rule 2-3-2 and A.R. 9-1-6-I-VII)

##### a. *Scrimmage Downs*

1. Before a change of team possession a Team A player who is beyond the neutral zone may not block below the waist toward his own goal line. When in question, the block is directed toward his goal line.

2. Before a change of team possession the following players of Team A are **restricted** with regard to blocking below the waist:

(a) A lineman more than seven yards from the middle lineman of the offensive formation at the snap.

(b) A back aligned at the snap with the frame of his body completely outside the tackle box or completely outside the frame of the body of the second lineman from the snapper in either direction toward a sideline.

(c) A back who is in motion at the snap and during this continuous motion was outside the area in *b* (above) any time after the ball was ready for play and before the snap. Note: A back is *not* restricted if he starts from a set position inside the specified area and during that continuous motion he does not leave the area (see par. 4 below).

3. A restricted player may not block below the waist against any opponent who is inside the tackle box. Outside the tackle box a restricted player may not block below the waist in a direction away from his adjacent sideline. He may legally block below the waist along the north-south line (Rule 2-12-9) or toward his adjacent sideline, but not toward his own goal line when he is beyond the neutral zone (see *a-1* above).

4. All other players of Team A are **unrestricted** and may legally block below the waist, other than in *a-1* above. In particular, a player is unrestricted if he is in motion at the snap and is never outside the area in paragraph 2-*b* after the ball is ready for play and before the snap.

5. Before a change of team possession players of Team B may block below the waist only within the area defined by lines parallel to the goal line five yards beyond and behind the neutral zone extended to the sidelines. Blocking below the waist by players of Team B outside this zone is illegal.

6. Players of Team B may not block below the waist against an opponent who is in position to receive a backward pass.

7. Players of Team B may not block below the waist against an eligible Team A pass receiver beyond the neutral zone unless attempting to get to the ball or ball carrier. This prohibition ends when a legal forward pass is no longer possible by rule.

*b. Kicks*

During a down in which there is a free kick or scrimmage kick, blocking below the waist by any player is illegal except against a ball carrier.

*c. Change of possession*

After any change of team possession, blocking below the waist by any player is illegal except against a ball carrier.

**Rule 9-1-11**

**Leverage, Leaping and Landing**

ARTICLE 11

(New Paragraph)

c. No defensive player who is inside the tackle box may try to block a punt by leaving his feet in an attempt to leap directly over an opponent.

1. It is not a foul if the player tries to block the punt by jumping straight up without attempting to leap over the opponent.
2. It is not a foul if a player attempts to leap through or over the gap between players.

**Rule 9-1-17 (New Article)**

**Continued Participation Without Helmet**

ARTICLE 17.

A player whose helmet comes completely off during a down may not continue to participate in the play beyond the immediate action in which he is engaged.

**Rule 9-2-1**

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

(New item)

- (i) Intentionally removing the helmet while the ball is alive.

***Rogers Redding, Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Football Rules Committee  
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