

# Memorandum

To: MIAA Football Officials  
From: Dennis Donovan, Football Officials Representative  
Re: 2015 NCAA Changes & Modifications  
Date: May 31, 2015

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All NCAA changes were adopted, but note that #3, #4, #5, #8 and #9 do not apply to MIAA games so there is no change in MIAA rules as a result these items. The only items that apply to MIAA games and thus will change the rules for MIAA games are items #1, #2, #6 and #7.

The book may be downloaded in .pdf format from the NCAA at the following link:  
<http://www.ncaapublications.com/p-4387-2015-ncaa-football-rules-and-interpretations.aspx>

## **Rules Changes:** (In rule book order)

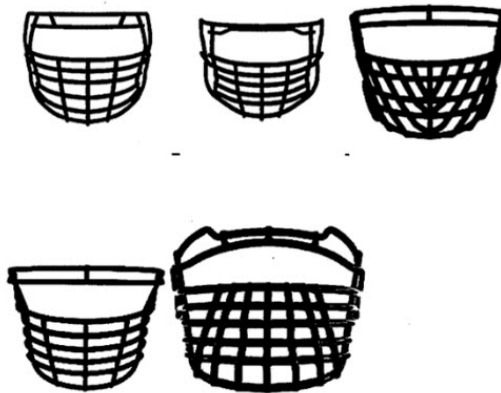
### **1. Illegal Equipment: Overbuilt Facemask (Rule 1-4-7)**

Add new paragraph *l*:

“1. Non-standard overbuilt facemask.”

**COMMENT:** The NFL has banned these facemasks there is a story here: <http://tinyurl.com/facemasks-overbuilt>. Here is a picture of the facemasks in question, the pictures are also in Appendix E.

Non Permissible Facemasks



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### **2. Illegal Equipment: Player Must Leave the Game (Rule 1-4-8)**

Replace the current paragraphs *b* and *c* by the following:

- “b. If an official discovers illegal equipment, the player must leave the game for at least one down and is not allowed to return until the equipment is made legal. The player may be allowed to return without missing a down if the team takes a charged team timeout, but in any event he may not play with illegal equipment.
- c. If equipment becomes illegal through play, the player is not required to leave the game for one down, but he may not participate until the equipment is made legal.”

**COMMENT:** The rule in 2014 and prior was an automatic charged timeout on the team whose player had the illegal equipment. Now it is the coach’s choice whether to take a timeout to keep the player in the game or let him sit out a play to remedy the illegal equipment.

**3. Pre-Game Warm-ups (Rule 3-1-1)**

Add new paragraph *a*; re-number subsequent paragraphs.

“a. Prior to regular season games, teams may have access to the field for pregame warm-ups until at least 22 minutes before the opening kickoff. This may be altered in advance through written mutual agreement of the teams. Game management personnel are responsible for administering this rule.”

COMMENT: This change will not have any effect on MIAA games.

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**4. Play Clock: Reset When Ball Is Not Ready For Play (Rule 3-2-4)**

The first sentence of paragraph *b-3* becomes:

“b-3. In the event that the 40-second play clock is running and reads 25 before the ball is ready to be snapped, the referee shall declare a timeout and signal that the play clock be set at 25 seconds.” (The remainder of the paragraph is not changed.) 2

COMMENT: Rule 3-2-4-b does not apply to MIAA games under rule 69.1.9 which states that the play clock will always be 25 seconds.

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**5. Play Clock: Helmet Comes Off Defensive Player (Rules 3-2-4 and 3-3-9)**

a. In Rule 3-2-4-c-13, delete: “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.”

b. In Rule 3-3-9-b-2, delete second sentence: “The play clock will be set at 25 seconds.”

COMMENT: This rule change is dealing with the play clock when the helmet off situation calls for a 10 second runoff. **These rules do not apply to MIAA games** under rules 69.1.9, and 69.1.13 (play clock is always 25 seconds and there is no 10 second runoff in MIAA games).

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**6. Unsportsmanlike Conduct for Pushing/Pulling an Opponent off the Pile (Rule 9-2-1)**

Add new sub-paragraph (*k*) to Rule 9-2-1-a-1:

“(k) After the ball is dead, using forcible contact to push or pull an opponent off the pile.”

COMMENT: This is a safety penalty adding to the prohibited acts during a dead ball situation.

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**7. Game Administration Interference (Rule 9-2-5)**

Modify penalty statement, as follows:

“**PENALTY—Administer as a dead-ball foul.**

**First infraction: Warning for sideline interference. No yardage penalty. [S15]**

**Second and third infractions: Delay of game for sideline interference; five yards from the succeeding spot. [S21 and S29]**

**Fourth and subsequent infractions: Team unsportsmanlike conduct for sideline interference; 15 yards from the succeeding spot. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules [S27 and S29]”**

COMMENT: This reverts the sideline control to the way it was a few years ago by explicitly putting the sideline warning back in the rule book. Officials had been following these guidelines even after the rule changed to remove the warning. This codifies how the officials have been officiating this rule.

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**8. Number of Officials: Allow up to eight (Rule 11-2-1)**

Rewrite Article 1 to read:

“ARTICLE 1. The game shall be played under the supervision of five, six, seven or eight officials.”

COMMENT: This just adds the ability to officially add the 8<sup>th</sup> onfield official. **This will not occur in MIAA games.**

**9. Instant Replay: Blocking by Team A during on-side kick (Rule 12-3-4)**

Add new paragraph *e*:

“e. Blocking by Team A players before they are eligible to touch the ball on an on-side kick.”

COMMENT: **This rule does not apply to MIAA games** under rule 69.1.18 which states that there is no Instant Replay in MIAA games.

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**Changes to Rule 69**

1. Extra Periods - Foul after Change of Possession (2<sup>nd</sup> Series)

Amend Rule 69.3.2.4 (and Football format page 10 item #8, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph) first sentence – change the phrase “live ball fouls” to “live ball personal fouls or live ball unsportsmanlike conduct fouls”.

Rationale: The intention of this rule originally was to prevent team A from getting a “free shot” at team B, and thus this rule should only apply if the foul is a personal fouls or an unsportsmanlike foul.

This change was adopted by the football committee as an editorial change to rule 69.3.2.4, thus we only apply this “free shot” rule on Live ball Personal Fouls or Live Ball Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls.

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For Information: Notable Editorial Changes

Note: The 2015 book includes blue highlight on both 2014 and 2015 rule and editorial changes.

1. 1-3-1-i – Ball Warming Devices Prohibited

- i. The ball may not be altered. This includes the use of any ball-drying or ball-warming substance. Mechanical ball-drying and ball-warming devices are not permitted near the sidelines or in the team area

2. 2-3-3 – Chop Block

It is not a chop block if the blockers opponent initiates the contact.

3. 2-10-2 – Personal Foul Defined

Personal Foul

ARTICLE 2

A personal foul is a foul involving illegal physical contact that endangers the safety of another player

4. 5-2-9 Exception – Correcting the Down

Exception: The number of the down may be corrected any time within that series of downs or before the ball is legally next put in play after that series.

5. 6-3-13 & 10-2-4 – Tack on fouls during a kick

Only Team A fouls that occur between the goal lines are eligible for the tack-on provision at Team B’s option.

6. 8-4-2-b-3 – Added section for Unsuccessful field goal attempt
  3. If the ball crosses the neutral zone, is untouched by Team B beyond the neutral zone, and is declared dead behind the neutral zone, all rules pertaining to scrimmage kicks apply (A.R. 8-4-2-VII).
7. 9-1-4 – Note 2: Defenseless player  
Added to the kick returner: “A kick returner attempting to catch or recover a kick, or one who has completed a catch or recovery and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a ball carrier”
8. Rule 9 reorganized.

Several articles were relocated within Rule 9 into 9-1 and 9-2. Section 9-3 was revamped including rewording of 9-3-4, 9-3-5 and 9-3-6. No apparent differences in the interpretation, changes are to working and organization of articles and sub paragraphs within those articles.