



NCAA 2015 Rule Book

Summary of Penalties

LEGEND: “O” refers to official’s signal number (see Code of Official’s Signals); “R” is the rule number; “S” is the section number; “A” is the article number

LOSS OF A DOWN

	<u>O</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>A</u>
Illegal scrimmage kick [also loss of five yards].....	31	6	3	10
Illegally handing ball forward [also loss of five yards]	35*	7	1	6
Planned loose ball play [also loss of five yards]	19	7	1	6
Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds [also loss of five yards].....	35	7	2	1
Illegal forward pass by Team A [also loss of five yards]	35*	7	3	2
Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2
Forward pass illegally touched by player out of bounds.....	16*	7	3	4
Illegally batting ball [also loss of 10 yards] (see exceptions).....	31*	9	4	1
Illegally kicking ball [also loss of 10 yards] (see exceptions).....	31*	9	4	4

LOSS OF FIVE YARDS

Alteration of playing surface for an advantage.....	27	1	2	9
27 Improper numbering	23	1	4	2
23 Coin-toss infractions.....	19	3	1	1
Delay after three timeouts expended.....	21	3	4	2
Illegal delay of the game.....	21	3	4	2
Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2
Disconcerting offensive signals.....	21	3	4	2
Substitution rules infractions	22	3	5	2
More Than Eleven Players in the formation or during the play	22	3	5	3
Putting ball in play before it is ready	21	4	1	5
Exceeding 40/25-second count	21	6	1	2
Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2
Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	2
Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked.....	19	6	1	2
Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (free kick).....	19	6	1	2
Free kick out of bounds	19	6	1	2
Illegal kick [also loss of down if by Team A]	31*	6	3	10
Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12
Defensive Linemen—3-on-1 on field goal formation.....	19	6	3	14
Taking more than two steps after fair catch.....	21	6	5	2
Illegal snap	19	7	1	1
Snapper’s position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3
Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready	19	7	1	3
False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3
Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3
Player out of bounds when ball is snapped.....	19	7	1	4
Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap.....	20	7	1	4
Illegal Formation	19	7	1	4
Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4
Illegal shift	20	7	1	4
Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5

Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5
Interference with opponent or ball.....	18	7	1	5
Defensive player charging unabated toward a back.....	19	7	1	5
Defensive player out of bounds at the snap	19	7	1	5
Illegally handing ball forward [also loss of down if by Team A].....	35*	7	1	6
Planned loose ball play [also loss of down].....	19*	7	1	7
Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds [also loss of down if by Team A].....	36*	7	2	1
Player on scrimmage line receiving snap.....	19	7	2	3
Illegal forward pass [also loss of down if by Team A]	35*	7	3	2
Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10
Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11
Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16
Game Administration Interference [also 15 yards]	29	9	2	5
Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2

LOSS OF 10 YARDS

Home team delay	21	3	4	1
Illegal use of hands or arms (offense).....	42	9	3	3
Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3
Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3
Locked hands.....	42	9	3	3
Illegal use of hands (defense).....	42	9	3	4
Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4
Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4
Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	7
Illegally batting loose ball [also loss of down].....	31*	9	4	1
Illegally batting a backward pass.....	31	9	4	18.2
Batting ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3
Illegally kicking ball [also loss of down]	31*	9	4	4

LOSS OF 15 YARDS

Marking ball	27	1	3	3
Numbers changed to deceive the opponent	27	1	4	2
Home Jersey Worn Without Permission	27	4	1	5
Illegal signal devices [also disqualification].....	27	1	4	10
Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1
Rapid substitutions to opponents' disadvantage.....	22, 27	3	5	2
Illegal Wedge Formation	27	6	1	10
Interference with opportunity to catch a kick.....	33	6	4	1
Illegal block by fair-catch signaller	40	6	6	4
Tackling or blocking fair-catcher.....	38	6	5	5
Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8
Defensive pass interference [first down]	33	7	3	8
Striking; tripping [first down]	46,38	9	1	2
Targeting/Initiating Contact w/Crown of Helmet [first down][Also Disqualification]	24, 38, 47	9	1	3
Targeting/Initiating Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player [first down] [Also Disqualification]	24, 38, 47	9	1	4
Clipping [first down]	39	9	1	5
Blocking below the waist [first down]	40	9	1	6
Late Hit/action out of bounds [first down].....	38	9	1	7
Helmet / Face Mask Fouls [first down].....	38,45	9	1	8
Continuous contact to the helmet [firstdown].....	38	9	1	8
Roughing the passer [first down]	34	9	1	9
Chop Blocking [first down]	41	9	1	10

Leverage/Leaping [first down].....	38	9	1	11
Defensive restrictions	27	9	1	11
Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play [first down].....	38	9	1	12
Hurdling [first down]	38	9	1	13
Illegal contact against the snapper [first down]	38	9	1	14
Horse Collar Tackle [first down]	25,38	9	1	15
Roughing the kicker [first down].....	30,38	9	1	16
Kicker simulating being roughed.....	27	9	1	16
Obscene or vulgar language.....	27	9	2	1
Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1
Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1
Engendering ill will.....	27	9	2	1
Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1
Persons leaving team area.....	27	9	2	1
Illegal return of disqualified player	27	9	2	1
Noise by persons subject to rules	27	9	2	1
Concealing the ball.....	27	9	2	2
Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2
Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2
Intentionally contacting an official [also disqualification].....	27	9	2	4
Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1

LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE

If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	—	10	2	6
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OFFENDED TEAM'S BALL AT SPOT OF FOUL

Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty) [first down]	33	7	3	6
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CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION

Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	8
Wearing illegal equipment.....	23	1	4	8
Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4
Head coach's challenge.....	21	12	5	1
Illegal cleats [Also disqualification]	23	9	2	2

VIOLATION

Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team.....	16	6	1	3
Illegal touching of scrimmage kick	16	6	3	2
Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11

DISQUALIFICATION

Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10
Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1
Targeting/Initiating Contact w/Crown of Helmet	38	9	1	3
Targeting/Initiating Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player .	38	9	1	4
Two unsportsmanlike fouls.....	47	9	2	6
Illegal cleats.....	47	9	2	2
Contacting an official	47	9	2	4
Use of tobacco	47	9	2	7
Fighting	47	9	5	1

AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)

Pass interference.....	33	7	3	8
Striking; tripping.....	46,38	9	1	2
Targeting/Initiating Contact w/Crown of Helmet	38	9	1	3
Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4
Clipping	38	9	1	5
Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6
Late Hit/action out of bounds	38	9	1	7
Helmet / Face Mask Fouls	38,45	9	1	8
Roughing the passer.....	34	9	1	9
Chop Blocking	41	9	1	10
Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11
Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12
Hurdling	38	9	1	13
Illegal contact against the snapper.....	38	9	1	14
Horse Collar Tackle	31,38	9	1	15
Roughing the kicker	30,38	9	1	16
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	27	9	2	1
Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5
Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1

WHEN-IN-QUESTION RULES

Catch or recovery not completed	-	2	4	3
Block below waist.....	-	2	3	2
Chop block	-	2	3	3
Block in the back	-	2	3	4
Ball not touched on kick or forward pass.....	-	2	11	4

SUMMARY OF PENALTIES

Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1
Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2
Forward pass and not fumble.....	-	2	19	2
It is a catchable forward pass.....	-	2	19	4
Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5
Forward progress stopped.....	-	4	1	3
Kick-catch interference.....	-	6	4	1
It is a catchable forward pass.....	-	7	3	8
Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1
Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8
Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16

REFEREE'S DISCRETION

Penalty for unfair acts.....	-	9	2	3
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