

## **2011: NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE ACTION**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **A. 2011 Changes Approved in 2010**

##### **1. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct fouls will be administered by rule depending on when they occur. Fouls occurring while the ball is alive will be administered in the same manner as any other live-ball foul. Those occurring after the ball has become dead will continue to be treated as dead-ball fouls.

##### **2. TELEVISION MONITORS IN PRESS-BOX COACHES' BOOTHS**

Starting in 2011 teams may place television monitors in the coaches' booths in the press box. The television capabilities must be identical for the home team and visiting team coaches. Coaches' booths must not include replay equipment, recorders, or any electronic equipment other than to allow viewing the live telecast.

#### **B. Changes for 2011**

##### **1. BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST**

Blocking below the waist (other than against the ball carrier) is illegal.

**Exceptions:** Before a change of possession on scrimmage downs that do not include kicks, blocking below the waist is allowed as follows:

(a) Players of the offensive team who at the snap are (1) on the line of scrimmage more than seven yards from the middle lineman of the offensive formation, or (2) in the backfield outside the tackle box, or (3) in motion, may block below the waist only along a north-south line or toward the sideline adjacent to them at the snap.

(b) Players of the offensive team who at the snap are inside the tackle box or on the line of scrimmage inside the seven-yard limit may block below the waist.

(c) Players of the defensive team who at the snap are inside the blocking zone extended to the sideline may block below the waist inside that area until the blocking zone disintegrates (Rule 2-3-6-b).

**PENALTY:** Personal foul, 15 yards. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules.

##### **2. THREE-ON-ONE BY DEFENSIVE LINE ON FIELD GOALS AND TRYS**

On a field goal or try kick attempt it is illegal for three Team B players on their line of scrimmage inside the blocking zone to align shoulder-to-shoulder and move forward following the snap. **PENALTY:** Live-ball foul. Five yards, previous spot.

##### **3. BLOCKING OUT OF BOUNDS**

It is illegal for any player to initiate a block against an opponent who is out of bounds. The spot of the foul is where the blocker crosses the sideline in going out of bounds. **PENALTY:** Personal foul, 15 yards. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules.

#### 4. 10-SECOND RUNOFF OF THE GAME CLOCK AT THE END OF EACH HALF

With the game clock running and less than one minute in either half, if a player of either team commits a foul that causes the clock to stop, the officials may subtract 10 seconds from the game clock at the option of the offended team. The offended team may accept the yardage penalty and decline the 10-second subtraction. If the yardage penalty is declined the 10-second subtraction is declined by rule. The fouling team may avoid the 10-second subtraction by using a timeout, if one is available.

#### 5. INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

To conserve time or avoid loss of yardage a passer may legally end the down by throwing the ball into an area where there is an eligible receiver. The requirement that the receiver “have a reasonable opportunity to catch the ball” is no longer a part of this rule.

#### 6. LOCKING LEGS BY THE OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

It is no longer illegal for offensive players on the line of scrimmage to lock legs.

#### 7. STATUS OF DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS

A disqualified player must leave the playing enclosure within a reasonable amount of time after his disqualification. He must remain out of view of the field of play under team supervision for the duration of the game.

#### 8. EQUIPMENT

(a) **Gloves:** There is no restriction on the color of gloves.

(b) **Towels:** Towels must be solid white with no words, symbols, letters, or numbers, and must be no larger than 4” by 12”.

(c) **Communication Equipment:** The presence and location of communication equipment (cameras, sound devices, etc.) within the playing enclosure is under the jurisdiction of game management personnel.

### **C. Other Considerations By The Rules Committee**

1. HELMETS The committee is concerned at how easily players’ helmets seem to come off during the normal course of play. Officials are admonished to be diligent about having players snap on their chinstraps and to enforce all elements of the required equipment rules (e.g., mouthpieces). Also officials will keep track of the number of helmets that come off during each game.

2. POSITION OF THE UMPIRE *College Football Officiating LLC (CFO)* has asked the rules committee for guidance regarding relocating the umpire to the offensive backfield. The committee recommends that officials experiment with this location in the spring practices and games.

3. FEIGNING INJURIES In response to some reports of possible faked injuries during the season, the committee reminds the coaching community that the Coaching Ethics section of The Football Code expressly forbids such conduct.