

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

SCCFOA



2018
NCAA Football Rules
Changes



RULE CHANGE PROCESS

- **Two-Year Rules Change Cycle**
- **2018 Is an ON Year – Player Health and Safety and overall playing rules relating to football strategy are considered.**
- **Commissioner, Coordinator, AFCA, and Competition Committee Input.**
- **Rules Committee action on March 2nd, with PROP approval completed on April 13th.**

Knee Pads and Pants

(Rule 1-4-4-d)

2017 Change to take effect in 2018

- Knee pads must be covered by pants.
- Furthermore, the pants and knee pads must completely cover the knees.
- Coaches' Certification
- If an official discovers illegal equipment, or if a player is not wearing mandatory 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 return without missing a down if the team takes a charged team timeout and the equipment is made legal.

Knee Pads and Pants

NCAA[®] UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT RULES



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Play Clock after Touchdowns / Kickoffs

(Rule 3-2-4-c)

For NCAA Division 1-AA and Division III

- Continuing the effort to keep the game moving, the committee approved two changes concerning pace of play.
- After a Touchdown, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds in order to expedite the try.
- Following a kickoff, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds in order to restart play more quickly.

Kickoff – Fair Catch

(Rule 6-5-1 / 6-5-3)

- If a Team B player makes a fair catch of a free kick behind Team B's 25-yard line, the ball belongs to Team B at its own 25-yard line.
- During a free kick, if a Team B receiver gives any waving signal that does not meet all of the requirements of a valid fair catch signal, and subsequently catches the ball behind the B-25 yard line the ball belongs to Team B at its own 25-yard line

Kickoff – Fair Catch

(Rule 6-5-1 / 6-5-3)

- To get the 25 yard line the person who signals (valid or invalid) must make the catch.
- B35 signals, muffs the kick but it doesn't touch the ground and B35 now catches the kick... 25 yard line.
- B35 signals at the 5, muffs the ball & it touches the ground; and any Team B player recovers at the 4 yard line... B's ball @ 4 yard line.
- B35 signals at the 5, muffs the ball and it goes forward and OOB at the 7 yard line... B's ball @ 7 yard line.
- B35 signals at the 5; B42 makes the catch at the 7 yard line... B's ball at the 7 yard line.
- You must be the player catching the free kick who signals to get the 25 yard line.

KCI Penalty Exception on Free Kick
(Rule 6-4-1 Penalty)

- **PENALTY [a-g] - For foul between the goal lines (other than a foul behind the B-25 on a free kick): Receiving team's ball, first down, 15 yards beyond the spot of the foul for an interference foul [S33].**
- **For a foul on a free kick play behind the B-25-yard line against a player who has given a valid fair catch signal: Penalize from the B-25 [S33].**

Try Down / Opportunity to Score
(Rule 8-3-2-a)

- If a Touchdown is scored during a down in which time in the 4th period expires, the try shall not be attempted unless the point(s) would affect the outcome of the game.
- Exception: If the scoring team is ahead by one or two points, they have the option to forego the try.

Blocking Below the Waist

(Rule 9-1-6)

- **No change to linemen with initial position completely inside the tackle box.**
- **All other Team A players are allowed to block below the waist only if the force of the initial contact is from the front. Note: 10 – 2 is redefined as forward of the “area of concentration” of the player being blocked.**
- **(Three exceptions)**
- **Players may not block below the waist when the block occurs 5 yards or more beyond the neutral zone.**
- **Players outside the tackle box at any time after the snap or in motion at the snap may not block below the waist toward the initial position of the ball at the snap.**
- **Once the ball has left the tackle box a player may not block below the waist toward his own end line.**

Leaping

(Rule 9-1-11-b, 9-1-11-c)

- It is a foul if a defensive player moves forward and tries to block a field goal or a try by leaving his feet and leaping into the plane directly above the frame of the body of an opponent.
- It is not a foul if the player was aligned in a stationary position within one yard of the line of scrimmage when the ball was snapped.
- It is a foul if a defensive player who is inside the tackle box tries to block a punt by leaving his feet and leaping into the plane directly above the frame of the body of an opponent.

Field Goal Penalty Enforcement

(Rule 10-2-5-d)

- **Rule change that brings together the penalty enforcement on successful Extra Points and Field Goals.**
- **When a field goal is successful, Team A shall have the option of canceling the score and have the penalty enforced from the previous spot or declining the penalty and accepting the score.**
- **Team A may accept the score with penalties for Personal Fouls and Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls enforced on the succeeding kickoff or from the succeeding spot in extra periods.**

Targeting

(Rule 9-1-3 & 9-1-4)

- There was considerable discussion regarding possible adjustments to the targeting rule, but the committee decided to leave it unchanged for the 2018 season.
- The committee felt that the change that we have witnessed in player behavior has been significantly positive.
- The adjustment made to allow the replay official to examine all aspects of the targeting rule has been a positive change.

Editorial Change: Forward Pass

(Rule 2-19-2-b)

- When a Team A player is holding the ball to pass it forward toward the neutral zone, any intentional forward movement of his hand ~~or arm~~ with the ball firmly in his control starts the forward pass. If a Team B player contacts the passer or ball after forward movement begins and the ball leaves the passer's hand, a forward pass is ruled regardless of where the ball strikes the ground or a player.

Editorial Change: Unfair Clock Tactics
(Rule 3-4-3)

- If the game clock is stopped ~~only~~ to complete a penalty for a foul by the team ahead in the score (or either team if the score is tied) inside the last two minutes of a half, it will start on the snap, at the option of the offended team.

Editorial Change: Loose Ball Out of Bounds

(Rule 4-2-3-a)

- A ball not in player ~~possession~~ control, other than a kick that scores a field goal, is out of bounds when it touches the ground, a player, a game official or anything else that is out of bounds, or that is on or outside a boundary line.

Editorial Change: Roughing the Passer (Rule 9-1-9-a)

- Current – No defensive player shall charge into a passer or throw him to the ground when it is obvious the ball has been thrown.
- Proposed - No defensive player shall unnecessarily rough a passer when it is obvious the ball has been thrown.
- The following actions are illegal but not limited to:
 - 1. Targeting fouls as noted in Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-4.
 - 2. Forcible contact to the head or neck area that does not meet the requirements of Rule 9-1-4 (Also reference Rule 9-1-2).
 - 3. Forcible contact that is avoidable after it is obvious the ball has left the passer's hand. (*Exception: A defensive player who is blocked by a Team A player[s] with a force so that he has no opportunity to avoid contact with the passer. However, this does not relieve the defensive player of responsibility for personal fouls as described in elsewhere in this section.*)
 - 4. Forcibly driving the passer to the ground and landing on him with action that punishes the player.
 - 5. Any action that is a Personal Foul as described elsewhere in this Section.



2018 NCAA Football
Major Mechanics
Changes



2018
Crew of Seven
Mechanics Changes
CHANGES FROM 2017 MANUAL

Source: 2018 CCA Football Officiating Manual For A Crew of 7 & 8

Change from the 2017 manual	
Defenseless player philosophy	Regarding defenseless players, when in question, a player is defenseless.
Fair catch signal awareness on free kicks	<p>Referee: Should be alert and is primary when player gives a fair catch signal and observes the actions of players when a signal is given.</p> <p>Head Line-Judge & Line Judge: Be alert for fair catch signals and the actions of players when a signal is given.</p>

2018
Crew of Seven
Mechanics Changes
CHANGES FROM 2017 MANUAL

Source: 2018 CCA Football Officiating Manual For A Crew of 7 & 8

Change from the 2017 manual	
Awareness of lateral position of ball after touchback or ball placed on Team B's 25-yard line	<p>After a touchback or fair catch inside the Team B 25-yard line, all crew members, especially wing officials on the sideline of Team B, should be alert if the head coach wants to relocate the position of the ball.</p> <p>For NCAA Division 1-AA and Division III... If the head coach wants to relocate the position of the ball that must be communicated before the play clock goes under 25 seconds.</p>
Awareness of lateral position of ball for tries	<p>After a touchdown, all crew members, especially wing officials on the sideline of the scoring team, should be alert if the head coach wants to relocate the position of the ball.</p> <p>For NCAA Division 1-AA and Division III... If the head coach wants to relocate the position of the ball that must be communicated before the play clock goes under 25 seconds.</p>
Referee faces pressbox on measurement	<p>Once the chain is down, the Referee will always face the pressbox to make his ruling.</p>

2018
Crew of Seven
Mechanics Changes
CHANGES FROM 2017 MANUAL

Source: 2018 CCA Football Officiating Manual For A Crew of 7 & 8

Change from the 2017 manual	
Procedure for teams leaving team area for confrontation	If both teams leave the team area to engage in something other than a fight, and the crew cannot identify squad members leaving the team area vs. players, substitutes, etc., it is acceptable for the Referee to announce all players of both teams are guilty of an unsportsmanlike conduct foul. This mechanic should only be used in extreme circumstances when both teams' tempers are running extremely high. This is significant because now every player has been charged with an unsportsmanlike conduct foul and any subsequent unsportsmanlike conduct foul will result in that player's disqualification. Fouls for which the penalty: includes automatic disqualification will be administered by rule.

2018
Crew of Seven
Mechanics Changes
CHANGES FROM 2017 MANUAL

Source: 2018 CCA Football Officiating Manual For A Crew of 7 & 8

Change from the 2017 manual	
Procedure for obviously intentional fouls relating to game clock	<p>UNFAIR ACTS</p> <p>Rule 9-2-3 gives the Referee much latitude in handling obviously unfair acts during a game. This would include situations that arise when a team commits a blatant, obvious and intentional foul or fouls to gain a clock advantage late in a game. As cited in The Football Code, such actions are in direct conflict with the strong statements under Coaching Ethics.</p> <p>As a new interpretation, crews should penalize these intentional fouls as unsportsmanlike conduct fouls and subsequently reset the game clock in these type situations back to the time at the snap of the play in question. Officials will also note that each player committing these unsportsmanlike acts will have a counter in terms of unsportsmanlike conduct fouls. As point of note, this does not apply to intentional fouls committed during the course of the game, as the rules handle these situations quite well</p>