



**NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE**  
**2009 Summary of Proposed Major Changes for Coaches**  
**(Not yet formally approved by NCAA)**

We will forward a complete and detailed list of all rules changes, including editorial changes to the rules once those are finalized, but for those requesting a brief summary of the major changes we have listed those below.

**1-4-3-a Jersey Colors**

Creates a process to allow the visiting team to wear colored jerseys when the home team also wears colored jerseys. The Big 12 Conference already has a policy in place to allow the home team to wear white jerseys if approved in advance before the season by both schools. The new rule allows that one jersey does not have to be white, but must be of a contrasting color and approved in advance by the conference office in terms of enough contrast. Please refer to existing conference policy which would need to be followed for either a white or lighter jersey.

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**1-4-3-d Glove Colors**

This rule confirms that the portion of the glove visible against the opponent's jersey must be gray but the palms of gloves can be gray or black. The best thing to do if your equipment manager has any questions on the legality of any glove is email us a photo of the glove(s) and we can let you know if they conform to rule or if we need to get a ruling from the NCAA.

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**2-34 Definition of Tackle Box**

Defines the area used for limitations on the rules for intentional grounding and roughing the kicker. Because of changes in distances between offensive linemen, the new rule establishes the tackle box as 5 (five) yards from the snapper on either side extending back behind the QB to the end line. The box disintegrates once the QB leaves the tackle box but the five yards on each side is regardless of how many or how spread the offensive linemen are positioned.

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**3-2-3 Extension of Periods**

Prevents the offense from gaining the unfair advantage of an additional play if they complete an illegal forward pass for a touchdown as time in a half expires. So if the QB is beyond the LOS and throws a pass on the last play of a period, since the penalty involves loss of down, the period will now be over.

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### **3-2-4-c, 3-3-5-f Play clock set to 40 seconds for a Team B injury.**

This codifies a change made via interpretation during the 2008 season. Team B could potentially “game” the clock rules if the play clock is set to 25 seconds for an injury to a Team B player with fewer than 40 seconds left in a half. So when an injury occurs, the play clock will always be set to 40 when a Team B player is injured or to 25 when a Team A player is injured. The referee still has discretion to adjust the play or game clock if he deems a team using any clock rule in an unfair manner.

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### **7-1-3-b-1 Offensive Team Formation**

This rule eliminates penalizing Team A for only 10 players: six on the line and four in the backfield. The rule now requires there be no more than four players in the backfield, and you still have to have five players numbered 50-79 on the line of scrimmage. For all practical purposes, the rule is the same on any team playing with 11 players. It’s just when you have 10 because of a missing receiver you will not be penalized as long as there are still just four in the backfield.

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### **7-3-10 Ineligible Receiver Downfield**

This rule simplifies the current three-yard expansion of the neutral zone and is consistent with the national philosophy of how it is officiated. Offensive linemen are not considered downfield unless they are more than three yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

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### **9-1-4-a-5 Roughing the Kicker**

This rule change addresses the issue of the rugby-style kicker who runs for many steps before kicking the ball. Under this change, he would not receive roughing-the-kicker protection if he is outside the tackle box when he kicks, so defenders are free to pursue and contact him like any runner. When it is obvious he has kicked the ball and is not pursuing the play, he still cannot be fouled unnecessarily like the current rule on hitting any player obviously out of the play.

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### **9-6 Flagrant Personal Fouls**

The rule on targeting defenseless players above the shoulders has not changed but emphasis has been added by the Rules Committee that allows conferences to impose further penalties should a foul not be called on any action deemed in video review by the



conference office to be illegal, and to impose further action including suspending a player for subsequent games or periods if any action deemed to be flagrant was either not penalized by officials with an ejection on the field or actions by a player warrant further action from the conference office. In addition, officials have been instructed to scrutinize this area much more closely and when in question will throw a flag for action they deem is targeting defenseless opponents above the shoulders, and officials are encouraged to eject players they deem commit this act in an intentional or flagrant manner. We will again produce a training tape to illustrate examples of legal and illegal hits, but players should be warned now that this area is a growing concern by the Committee and officials and conference offices are being asked to tighten up on its enforcement.

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### **9-6 Instant Replay**

There are two additional types of plays that are now reviewable:

1. If the rules that a passer makes a forward pass when in fact it is a fumble, replay can correct this provided the recovery by the defense is immediate and there is clear and visible evidence of who recovers the ball.
2. If officials rule a pass is forward and incomplete when in fact it is backward, replay can correct this provided the recovery by the defense is immediate and there is clear and visible evidence of who recovers the ball.