

# 2005 NCAA Football Rule CHANGES

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# LEAPING (9-1-2q)

- Personal Foul Penalty
- While trying to block a **scoring kick**, Team B players positioned more than one yard beyond the neutral zone run and jump from beyond the neutral zone and land on a **teammate or an opponent**.
- It is **NOT** a foul for players lined up on or within one yard of the neutral zone when the ball is snapped.
- There is no foul if a Team A player initiates contact against a leaping player.

# LEAPING (9-1-2q) Continued

- The penalty includes an automatic first down.
- If the foul occurs on a successful kick try and the Team A player fouled is the snapper, Team A may choose to retry the down after the enforcement but may NOT have the penalty enforced from the succeeding spot.

## Clipping (9-1-2-d Exception 1a)

- Past years – offensive linemen could legally clip a defender in the “legal clipping zone.”
- Definition of clipping (2-4-1-a) – A block against an opponent when the initial force is from behind and at or below the waist.
- This year – legality of this type of block is more restrictive.
- Team A linemen in the zone must limit their blocks from behind **to at or above** the knee.

## Clipping (9-1-2-d Exception 1a)

- Make obsolete the term - **legal clipping zone**.
- Now called – **rectangular area**.
- The area did **NOT CHANGE**. The restriction on what is a legal block from behind did!
- **ONLY** time it is legal to block from behind at or below the knees is against a runner.

## Clipping (9-1-2-d Exception 1a)

- **Note:** The rules only apply to linemen.
- If the illegal block occurs behind the LOS, previous spot enforcement rules apply if the penalty is accepted.

## Fouls after Team B possession in EXTRA PERIODS (3-1-3-g-2)

- A score by a team committing a foul during the down is **cancelled**.
- Play: A's ball – 1/10 @ B25 – Overtime  
B25 intercepts a pass and returns the ball for an apparent TD. During the return he make an obscene gesture.

**RULING:** Cancel the score – Enforce the penalty from the succeeding spot.

# Spearing/Other Helmet Fouls (2-24-1; 9-1-2-1, n)

- In regard to helmet-related fouls such as spearing, the word “intentional” has been replaced with “in an attempt to punish.”
- Severity of act dictates that it needs to be punished.

# Intentional Grounding (7-3-2-f, Exceptions 1 and 2)

- References to yardage in relation to the sideline and the spot of the snap have been replaced by a fixed point of reference.
- A passer must be outside the **NORMAL** position of the tackle in order to legally ground a forward pass.

# Kick-catch interference (6-4-1-a)

- Protection for kick receiver ends when the ball is **MUFFED** rather than **TOUCHED**.
- The receiver is given more of an unimpeded opportunity to catch the kick.
- Officials – Muffing the ball does not cause the loss of kick-catch interference protection in all circumstances.

# Kick-catch interference (6-4-1-a)

- Once a Team B player gives a valid fair-catch signal and subsequently muffs the ball, protection remains in effect until he no longer has an opportunity to **COMPLETE THE CATCH.**

# Eye Shields (1-4-5-s)

- Legality burden now lies with the training/medical staff.
- The word “**clear**” has been replaced with the word “**transparent**” when it comes to describing eye shields which are legal void of any documentation.

# Pass Eligibility (7-3-4)

- Eligible offensive **receiver** (as opposed to an offensive player) loses eligibility when he goes out of bounds.

# Unsportsmanlike Acts (9-2-1-a-1)

- Fire a weapon (simulated)
- Punching one's own chest excessively
- Crossing one's arms in front of chest
- Placing hand to one's ear to elicit applause
- Diving into the end zone unchallenged
- Entering the end zone using an unnatural stride
- Going significantly beyond the endline to interact with spectators
- Standing over a player in a taunting manner
- Attempting to make the ball spin as it were a top
- Performing a choreographed act
- **Language was added to encourage celebrating among teammates provided it is spontaneous and not premeditated, prolonged, or demeaning**