



# **2008 NCAA Rules and Editorial Changes**



## **Disclaimer**

- All information presented is PRELIMINARY
- Interpretations are based on NCAA preliminary documents
- The final wording of the printed version of the 2008 NCAA Rule Book and subsequent NCAA bulletins will take precedence.



# Points Of Emphasis

- Sideline Control
- Protection of defenseless players
- Proper wear of the uniform. Especially pads etc. to prevent scrapes and potential transmission of MRSA



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- **Rule 2-3-3:**
- A chop block is a high-low or low-high combination block by any two players against an opponent(not the runner) anywhere on the field, with or without a delay between contacts: the “low” component is at the opponent’s thigh or below.
- Comment: Major rules change. Makes a chop block illegal anywhere on the field.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- 3-2-2-h  
Delete paragraph (15-second clock)

Comment: TV timeouts will revert back to standard 25 seconds.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- Rule 3-2-2-i:
- Delete entire paragraph. We go back to pre-2007 mechanics/rules for inadvertent whistle

Comment: There are no clock adjustments (i.e. no “do over”)



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- Rule 3-2-4 :
- Play clock set to 40/25 seconds depending on circumstances

**Comment: MAJOR RULES/MECHNAICS  
CHANGE**



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- **40 Second Play Clock**

1. **Dead ball in bounds. 40 Second play clock starts as soon as ball is dead.**

Mechanic: Covering official immediately raise hand and blow whistle to signal play is over.

Umpire/Back Judge should echo the raised hand signal. Play clock starts on that signal.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

### ■ 40 Second Play Clock (cont.)

2. Dead ball out of bounds. 40 Second play clock starts as soon as ball is dead.

Mechanic: Covering official immediately give Signal #3 and blow whistle to signal play is over. Appropriate crew members echo Signal #3. R will start game clock after ball is spotted (except final 2 min of half).



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- **40 Second Play Clock (cont.)**

3. **Incomplete Pass.** 40 Second play clock starts as soon as ball is dead.

Mechanic: Covering official gives “Incomplete pass signal” (#10). Game clock stops and play clock operator starts 40 second play clock.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- **25 Second Play Clock**
  1. Penalty administration
  2. Charged Team Timeout
  3. Media Timeout
  4. Injury Timeout
  5. Measurement
  6. Change of Possession
  7. Following a kick down (note: either Team A/B in possession.
  8. Score



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

### ■ 25 Second Play Clock (cont.)

9. Start of each period

10. Start of team series in Extra Period

11. Instant Replay Review

12. Other administrative stoppage

Mechanic: Referee will give ‘reset 25 signal’ (one palm up pumped into air). Play clock will be set to 25 seconds and started on the referees “ready for play” signal



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- 3-2-5-a-12 (add new 12)
- When a ball carrier, a fumble or a backward pass goes out of bounds. (Exception: Within the last two minutes of each half the clock starts on the snap or incidents 8 or 11 occur.)

Comment: **MAJOR CHANGE.** Game clock now starts on the **READY** (R will wind the clock) in the above situations. The 40 second play clock will already be running



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- 6-2-1-Penalty :
- PENALTY—“..... ball in play 30 yards...”.
- Comment: Absent any penalties a free kick out of bounds may be placed at the 40 yard line - one of the options for a Free Kick out of bounds.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

### Rule 9-1-2-p

All players are prohibited from grabbing the inside back collar of the shoulder pads or jersey, or the inside collar of the side of the shoulder pads or jersey, and *immediately pulling the runner down*. **This does not apply to a runner who is inside the tackle box or to a quarterback who is in the pocket.**



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- Rule 9-1-3
  
- Initiating Contact/Targeting an Opponent
  - a. No player shall initiate contact and target an opponent with the crown of his helmet.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- Rule 9-1-3 (cont.)
  - b. No player shall initiate contact and target a defenseless opponent above the shoulders.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- Rule 9-1-6-b
- **ARTICLE 6.** While the ball is in play, coaches, substitutes and authorized attendants may not be in the restricted area between the sideline and the coaching box or on the field of play.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- Rule 9-1-6-b (cont.)
- **PENALTY**—Enforce as a dead-ball foul.  
First and second infractions: Delay of game for sideline interference, Five yards from the succeeding spot. [S21 and S29]  
Third and subsequent infractions:  
Unsportsmanlike conduct for sideline interference, 15 yards from the succeeding spot
- Comment: Immediate penalty. Deletes the formal “sideline warning”.



## 2008 NCAA Rules Changes

- RULE 12 (Replay)
- Review this section as required.



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

- **2-15-10 (FR-49) (NEW)**
- b. If Team A is in a scrimmage kick formation at the snap, any action by Team A during the down is deemed to be from a scrimmage kick formation.

Comment: Removes confusion on **Team A** blocks below the waist on rugby style kicks. However, restrictions on Team B are unclear with this rule. Until further documentation Team B may block below the waist until Team A has kicked the ball.



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

- **2-19-2 (FR-50)**
- b. When a Team A player is holding the ball to pass it toward the neutral zone, any intentional forward movement of his **HAND** or arm starts the forward pass.
- **2-19-3 and 7-3-2-a (FR51/101)**
- B. A PLAYER has crossed the neutral zone if his **ENTIRE BODY** has been beyond the neutral zone



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

- **2-30-4 (FR-59)**
- Definition of Running Play and Run have been changed. Deleted words which said “only one running play behind the neutral zone”.
- COMMENT: If there is more than one run behind the NZ and the ball is then advanced beyond the NZ, the penalty enforcement may be at the previous spot or the end of the run beyond the NZ - depending on the time and spot of the foul.



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

- **2-30-4 (Con't)**
- Example:

Team A 3/8 at the A30. QB takes the snap and immediately pitches the ball backward to A35. He muffs the ball and it is loose for several seconds as players attempt to recover the ball. A35 finally picks up the ball and advances to the 50. During the loose ball B75 held A45 at the A28.

**RULING:** Since the foul occurred during the “first run” Team A would decline the penalty since it would be enforced from the previous spot.



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

### 3-1-3-g-3 (FR-65)

- If both teams foul during the down and Team B had not fouled prior to the change of possession, the fouls offset and the down is not replayed
- COMMENT: Clears up confusion on offsetting fouls during extra periods.

### 3-2-5-a-1 and 3-2-5-e (FR-68/69)

- Wording clears up issue on starting clock when Team A is awarded a first down via penalty. i.e. Team B fumble recovery but Team B fouled.



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

### 6-1-8, 6-3-13 and 10-2-2-e (FR-88/91/137)

- Adds penalty options to this section for fouls by the kicking team. Previous spot or “add-on” (exception KKI)

### Rule 8

- Several editorial changes in this section dealing with offsetting penalties and whether to replay down. Read carefully.



## 2008 NCAA Significant Editorial Changes

**There appears to be a significant attempt to clean up and clarify some of the more confusing sections of the rule book. Read all of the editorial changes carefully**



## 2008 ECAC Mechanics Manuals

1. Major changes to the section on clock mechanics per new rules
2. Free Kick mechanics will change significantly.

We expect the manual to be completed and on the ECAC website by mid August



Have A Great 2008 Season !!!!!!!