

“HIDDEN CHANGES” IN THE 2011-12 NCAA FOOTBALL RULES

A review of the 2009-10 NCAA Rulebook versus the 2011-12 Rulebook revealed some changes of varying degrees of significance but which are not listed as “Rule Changes” or “Editorial Changes” in the front of the Rulebook. The list follows:

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Points of Emphasis

Added a section on helmets being properly secured with buckled chinstraps and suggesting that if teams do not do better dealing with the problem of helmets flying off during play, there could be a future rule change requiring a player who experiences a helmet loss during play to sit out for a down.

Appendix C added

An Appendix was added to provide background information regarding concussion identification and management.

Appendix D added

Simply lists the diagrams which were formerly found in Rule 1

Appendix E added

Added an appendix that goes into greater detail regarding illegal equipment and equipment testing

Various penalty statements

Removed the use of Signal 7 (Dead ball) by the R during penalty announcements.

1-2-5-e

Institutional and conference logos are now permitted on goal post pads.

1-2-7-a

The “dicker stick” (an alternate device for measuring the line to gain) is no longer permitted, even if both schools okay.

1-2-7-f

Institutional and conference logos are now permitted on the line to gain and down box indicators.

1-3-1-k

Institutional and conference logos are now permitted on game balls.

1-4-4-d

Pants are now not required to cover the knees, only recommended to cover the knees.

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1-4-9	Coaches are now required to provide WRITTEN certification as to the legality of their player's equipment.
2-8-1-d	Re fair catches. Added a phrase "without waving his hand." Rule now reads: "If the receiver shades his eyes from the sun without waving his hand(s), the ball is live and may be advanced."
2-12-2	Added a sentence re the goal line extended. "This plane extends between and includes the pylons."
2-12-9	Added a section on the "North-South Line". "A north-south line is any imaginary line that is parallel to the sidelines and extends from end line to end line."
2-27-4-d-1	Backs used to be required NOT to have their head or body not breaking the "rear most part" of the nearest Team A lineman in order to legally be a back. Now they just can't have head or body break the plane of the line drawn through the waistline of the nearest Team A lineman.
2-27-4-d-2	Clarified that a player in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap is a back
3-2-3-a-1	Clarified that periods are NOT extended for accepted penalties AGAINST THE TEAM IN POSSESSION if penalty statement includes "loss of down."
3-3-5-a-3	Directs special attention be given to a player who exhibits signs of a concussion and refers to the new Appendix C.
4-2-4-d (Exception)	Does not matter is the ball carrier was contacted and caused to go airborne or he went airborne on his own when determining forward progress in relation to a sideline.
7-1-3-b	Team A not complying with 9-yard mark requirements is now a dead ball foul.
7-3-2-h (Exception)	The rule permitting a passer to throw the ball away as long as he is or has been outside the tackle box only applies to the player who initially received the snap.

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8-2-1-a

Added language that was explained in a preseason memo from Dr. Redding regarding the goal line plane extension and pylons.

9-1-16-a-5

Now it does not matter if a defender was legally OR illegally blocked, if he runs into or roughs a kicker, and you judge he did so because of the block, he has NOT fouled.

9-2

Penalty for Team B Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls will now include an auto 1<sup>st</sup> down.

9-2-4

It used to be illegal to “physically” contact an official. It is now illegal to “forcibly” contact an official.

9-3-4-b

Defenders can hold and otherwise illegally obstruct the “runner”. It used to say “ball carrier”, not “runner”.

Rule 10

There were several changes required in Rule 10 to deal with the new reality of live ball unsportsmanlike conduct fouls being penalized as live ball fouls, not dead ball fouls.

10-2-5-a-1

Live ball unsportsmanlike conduct fouls on TD plays by non-scoring team can now be penalized on the try or succeeding kickoff.