



## MEMORANDUM

July 19, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Conference Football Administrators and Compliance Contacts.

FROM: Steve Shaw, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Headset Rule Reminder.

After receiving several questions from the membership regarding the headset rule (NCAA Football Rule 1-4-12), this communication confirms that the rules have not changed for the 2019-20 season. As you likely recall, the rules developed before the 2018-19 season were adjusted several times during the summer. As part of the NCAA's two-year process for playing rules, no adjustments were made to the rules (except health and safety/image of the game concerns) for this season.

Below, for your reference, are the rules. The bold highlights were the final changes made before the 2018-19 season. Please distribute as appropriate.

### **NCAA Football Playing Rules 1-4-12 (coaches' phones/headsets/communication devices)**

ARTICLE 12. Coaches' phones, headsets and communication devices are not subject to playing rules penalties before or during the game.

- a. A conference may develop a policy to provide guidance in handling situations dealing with failure of coaches' headsets.
- b. For Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) football, within game management responsibility, each team may use a maximum of 23 headsets with guidelines as follows:
  1. Fifteen (15) of the headsets may be used by countable coaches and graduate assistants for coaching purposes.
  2. **Three (3) "listen only" headsets may be used in the Coaches Booth by individuals who are full time undergraduate students or are within 10 years of exhaustion of eligibility or, if earlier, college graduation. Only countable coaches, graduate assistants and the three individuals using the "listen only" devices may be in the coaches' booth. (Exception: One communication technician.)**
  3. Four (4) of the headsets may only be used by Squad Members or up to four designated full-time undergraduate students.

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4. The one remaining headset may be used on the field for non-coaching activity.
  5. Headsets that are used for medical, game operations, security, etc. staffs are exempt from these limitations, provided the communication is separate from coaching communication devices.
  6. One communication technician in the team area and one communication technician in the coaches' booth may be on the coaching headsets to monitor and handle any technical issues with the headsets outside of the allowable 23 devices.
- c. **For all other NCAA football programs, each team may use a maximum of 23 headsets with category limits managed at each conference's direction.**

Thank you for your attention to this information and good luck as you prepare for the season.

SS:tm

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee  
NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee