



MEMORANDUM

October 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Football Conference Commissioners.

FROM: David Shaw, chair  
NCAA Football Rules Committee

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

SUBJECT: Remote Coaching Interpretation.

This communication is a follow-up to a September interpretation (see below) regarding the playing rules concerning the use of technology during competition by coaching staffs. The interpretation is below and was reviewed today by representatives of the NCAA Football Rules Committee and Division I Football Competition Committee.

The group confirmed the interpretation and it remains in effect for the 2020-21 season. Institutions are reminded that the playing rules take effect 90 minutes before kickoff. Finally, the rules committee plans to review all aspects of technology in the game after the season, as it does annually.

**Prohibited Field Equipment – Rule 1-4-11 (September 2020)**

**Play:** The Head Coach of the home team is in quarantine and wants to monitor the TV broadcast and (a) call in plays via cell phone to the offensive coordinator (b) use a virtual application (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) to communicate with the team in the locker room.

**RULING:** Rule 1-4-11-b is very specific and allows only voice communications between the press box and the team area, therefore in (a) the coach could not call into the press box or the sideline for anything related to coaching purposes.

Rule 1-4-11-a prohibits the use of technology, including computers, to be used for coaching purposes and this would include all virtual types of communication to a team during the game. Consequently, in (b) any virtual session with the team would not be allowed. This prohibition would begin at 90 minutes before the scheduled kickoff when the officiating crew assumes jurisdiction of the game and would include the time between periods until the end of the game when the referee declares the score final.

DS/SS:bh

cc: NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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