



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

Nonlegislative items. The Football Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2024 season. The Football Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

a. Coach to Player Communication (Rule 1-4 – 11-b, Exception)

(1) Recommendation. Coach to player communications through the helmet is permissive in 2024 for the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) based on the following guidelines:

- Only one (1) player per team may be on the field at a time with radio receiving capability and the player must be identified by an unbranded green dot on the back midline of the helmet.
- Coach to player communications will be cut off when the play clock reaches 15 seconds or at the snap, whichever comes first. When the play clock is reset to 25/40, the communications will be turned back on.
- If more than one (1) green dot helmet per team is detected on the field by the game officials, the result is a live ball 5-yard equipment violation penalty, and this penalty initiates a conference review.
- A conference may develop a policy to provide guidance in handling situations dealing with communications failure.
- Back Judge mechanics will be developed dealing with an in stadium play clock failure and Rule 3-2-2-f, starting of the play clock when the game clock is less than 40/25 will be modified.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. After experimenting extensively during the 2024 Football Bowl Subdivision postseason, conferences were supportive of allowing the use of this technology for the 2024 football season. The potential benefit is to streamline some communications and development opportunities between players and coaches.

(4) Estimated budget impact. For those conferences/institutions choosing to institute this allowance, there will be a budget impact. The rule is permissible, however, so the impact is not a requirement.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

b. Tablets for In-game Video (Rule 1-4 – 11-a, Exception 3).

(1) Recommendation. Standard Tablets for in-game video only (current game) is permissive in 2024 for all football playing subdivisions and are subject to the following guidelines:

- Tablets shall be restricted to in game video (current game) and may not include analytics, data or data access capability or any other communications access. No other video is allowed (e.g., scouting video, practice video, etc.).
- Tablets may be used in the coach's box, sideline, and locker room and may not be interconnected to other devices to project larger/additional images.
- Video may include coach's sideline, coach's endzone, and a program feed per play from the current game only and may also display game circumstances including: down/distance; time; quarter; play number; and score.
- A team may have up to 18 standard tablets active, and all team personnel may view the tablets.
- If any team personnel that engages an official with a tablet to show or review video, an automatic Unsportsmanlike Conduct foul will result.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Adding the use of tablets during the game for coaching purposes is an extension of what players and coaches are used to during all other times of video study and adjustment. The postseason experiments conducted in the 2023 season were successful and feedback was very positive.

(4) Estimated budget impact. For those conferences/institutions choosing to institute this allowance, there will be a budget impact. The rule is permissible, however, so the impact is not a requirement.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

c. Two-Minute Timeout (Rule 3-3-5).

- (1) Recommendation. When the game clock is running and the ball is not live, the Referee shall stop the clock with exactly two minutes remaining in the second and fourth quarters for a Two-Minute Timeout. If the ball is live when the game clock reaches two minutes in the second and fourth quarters, the play will continue, and the Referee shall stop the clock when the ball is subsequently declared dead for a Two-Minute Timeout.

The radio/TV broadcast partner will hold back at least 1 media timeout to coincide with the Two-Minute Timeout. If there is no media timeout partner in the game, the timeout shall be one minute plus the five-second referee notification and the 25-second play clock interval.

This change will synchronize all in-game timing rule changes to be effective following the Two-Minute Timeout including the first down timing rules, runs, fumbles, and backward passes out of bounds, Rule 3-4-3-b penalty enforcement and all 10-Second Runoff situations.

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. This rules change will do two things: 1) Synchronize all end-of-half/end-of-game timing rules to ensure better adjudication of these important timing rules; and 2) Provide a guaranteed final media timeout in the half and game, which should improve game flow without adding an additional stoppage opportunity.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

d. Uniforms – Mandatory and Illegal Equipment Enforcement (Rule 1-4-8-b).

- (1) Recommendation. In recent years, the committee has expressed concerns about the look of player's uniforms, specifically pants. The committee is proposing a stronger enforcement structure for clear violations of the rule.

If an official discovers illegal equipment, or if a player is not wearing mandatory equipment, the player must leave the game for at least one down and is not allowed to return until the equipment is made legal. On the 1st occurrence, the official will throw the flag and in addition to the player leaving the game, the head coach will receive a warning. On any subsequent uniform violation by a member of that team, the official throws the flag, the player must leave the game, and a timeout is charged to the team. If a team has exhausted their timeouts, a delay of game penalty will be assessed.

The player may be allowed to return without missing a down if the team takes a charged team timeout, but in any event, the player may not play with illegal equipment or without mandatory equipment.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This adjustment is intended to curb the trend of players wearing and participating in illegal equipment that is clearly out of line with the rules.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

e. Collaborative Instant Replay Process:

(1) Recommendation. Conferences are permitted the option of implementing a Collaborative Instant Replay review system. Currently, this is an experimental rule.

A collaborative decision-making model during instant replay reviews that is in full compliance with Rule 12 and follows the Collaborative Replay Officiating Standards is not limited to the press box of a stadium (Part II Officiating Standards, Section 16)

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The experimental use of this type of system of instant replay has been successful and is being used in numerous conferences successfully.

(4) Estimated budget impact. For those conferences/institutions choosing to institute this allowance, there will be a budget impact. The rule is permissible, however, so the impact is not a requirement.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

f. Horse-Collar Tackle (Rule 9-1-15):

(1) Recommendation. Horse-collar tackles that occur within the tackle box will be penalized as a 15-yard personal foul penalty. Currently, a horse-collar tackle within the tackle box is not a foul.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This player safety adjustment eliminates an exception that existed.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None

(5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

g. Instant Replay – Halftime Adjustments (Rule 3-2-1-b):

(1) Recommendation. At the end of the first half, after the teams have left the field and the Referee has cleared the final play with the on-field crew and the instant replay official, and there is no coach challenge, the Referee will declare the half final. After the half is declared final, there can be no additional replay reviews from the previous play (Exception: For games in which Instant Replay is not used, a halftime Targeting video review as outlined in the Penalty section of Rule 9-1-3 & 9-1-4 may be completed).

(2) Effective date. Immediately

(3) Rationale. This further clarifies when the half or game is declared final and therefore when instant replay jurisdiction ends.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

h. Player Numbering (Rule 1-4-2-d):

(1) Recommendation. Currently, if a player enters the game after changing their jersey number during the game, the player must report to the Referee. For clarity, if a player enters the game with a number different than is on the game day roster, that player must report to the Referee. A player who enters the game after changing their number or with a different number than is on the game day roster and does not report commits a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This adds clarity to situations where a player jersey number has been publicized to the opponent/public but is changed.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

i. Prohibited Field Equipment (Rule 1-4-11):

(1) Recommendation. Editorial changes to a broad number of issues were made within Rule 1-4-11. (* indicates experimental rule from the previous season)

- *Only head coaches may be interviewed in the intermission between the first and second periods, during the halftime intermission and during the intermission between the third and fourth periods. The head coach interviews between the first and second periods and the third and fourth periods may not occur during live action and must occur during a regularly scheduled broadcast timeout. The broadcast timeout may not be extended to accommodate the interview. The location of the interview shall be just outside the team area.
- *After a change of possession or timeout, one camera is permitted from the television broadcast onto the playing enclosure for the purpose of capturing team personnel entering the field of play. The broadcast camera is not permitted to enter the team area or team huddle and must exit the field of play when players enter the huddle or line up in a formation. The broadcast camera is restricted to the area outside the hash marks.
- *Following a Touchdown, one camera is permitted from the television broadcast into the end zone for the purpose of capturing team personnel reaction. The camera must immediately exit the end zone and field of play when the ball is ready for play for the Try Down.
 - Institutional videographers may be in the team area as a part of that institution's 50 credentialed individuals. This video may not be used during any live broadcast or digital stream of the game. (Previous rule limited the number of Institutional Videographers to one).
 - Institutional ball personnel are prohibited from wearing smart watches or any communications technology while in the opponent's sideline.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Codifies several experimental allowances and clarifies some key items to assist game administration.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, introductions and establishment of committee leadership.** The NCAA staff liaison welcomed the Football Rules Committee and invited guests and reviewed the schedule for the meetings.
2. **Review committee structure, process and timeline.** The Football Rules Committee reviewed the committee operations manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, as well as guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines. The Football Rules Committee noted that this is a year in which any rules changes may be considered.
3. **Review of injury data.** The Football Rules Committee received a report from Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center, regarding the injury data collected in the most recent cycle. The report noted requested topics.
4. **College Football Officiating, LLC report.** Keith Gill, commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, represented the College Football Officiating, LLC, and provided a report. The CFO's continued emphasis on player safety was noted and the group continues to be supportive of Football Rules Committee efforts to positively impact game flow.
5. **Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee joint session.** The Football Rules Committee met with the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee and discussed the rules proposals. The Football Rules Committee received several important pieces of feedback and will collect additional conference feedback before the proposals move to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel for final approval. One key item deals with rules that limit the number of logos in the field of play. The committee will review feedback received and potentially take action before the 2024 season at a later date.
6. **National Football League joint session.** The Football Rules Committee met with the National Football League's Competition Committee and staff to share ideas and information. The NFL's rules process follows a similar timeline to the NCAA process. The Football Rules Committee supports continued collaboration and encouraged NCAA staff to meet more frequently with the NFL as appropriate.
7. **Future meeting schedule.** The Football Rules Committee plans to review its meeting cadence, given the potential changes in the calendars, particularly in Division I. There is some interest in having any rules adjustments finalized before spring practice sessions; this will be a topic of discussion for the Football Rules Committee to review at a future meeting.

Committee Co-Chairs: Kirby Smart, University of Georgia, and A.J. Edds, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

NCAA Football Rules Committee February 27-March 1, 2024, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Aaron Best, Eastern Washington University.	
Jason Carmichael, University of West Georgia.	
Jon Dratch, Union (New York) College.	
AJ Edds, Big Ten Conference.	
Thomas Hammock, Northern Illinois University.	
Stan Hodgin, Shenandoah University.	
Jason Lener, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).	
Scott Maxfield, Henderson State University.	
Woody McCorvey, Clemson University.	
Steve Shaw, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Kirby Smart, University of Georgia.	
Rich Wanninger, Patriot League.	
John Wristen, Colorado State University, Pueblo.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Dean Blandino, CFO.	
Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center.	
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference, Playing Rules Oversight Panel.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
D.J. Brown, Amanda Conklin, LaGwyn Durden, Chris Johnson and Greg Johnson.	