

## 2011 NCAA RULES CHANGES – OVERVIEW

- 1) Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct fouls during live-ball play are now enforced as live-ball fouls using basic spot enforcement instead of as dead-ball fouls using succeeding spot enforcement. In other words, if a player is running uncontested to the goal line and taunts an opponent or does something to draw attention to himself, the touchdown will be nullified and the penalty will be enforced from where the foul occurred.
- 2) Illegal Wedge - There can be no foul for an illegal wedge during a free kick that results in a touchback.
- 3) Defensive Linemen on Place Kicks - If a team is in a formation to attempt a place kick (field goal or try), it is illegal for three defensive players on their line of scrimmage inside the blocking zone to align shoulder-to-shoulder and move forward together after the snap with primary contact against a single opponent.
- 4) Blocking below The Waist - New language has been written regarding the manner in which a low block may legally occur. An offensive player that is (1) on the line of scrimmage more than 7 yards from the middle lineman of the offensive formation or (2) in the backfield outside the tackle box, or (3) in motion in any direction at the snap may block below the waist only along a line parallel to the sideline or toward the sideline to which he was adjacent at the snap. This restriction applies anywhere on the field. This sounds innocent enough, but a wide-out on the hash opposite the press box cannot drag across the field to the press box side and block a corner back below the waist toward the sideline on the press box side.
- 5) Blocking an Out Of Bounds Opponent - It is illegal for a player to initiate a block against an opponent who is out of bounds. The enforcement spot will be where the blocker crosses the sideline in going out of bounds. (This will be enforced as a personal foul).
- 6) Any player may wear a towel.
- 7) The game clock does not stop when the ball carrier's helmet comes off. However, the ball becomes dead.
- 8) The foul for 12-players on the field, whether live-ball or dead-ball now carries only a 5-yard penalty.
- 9) After the ball is ready for play and before the snap, if the offense never has all 11 players set for a full second, it is a dead-ball false start rather than an illegal shift. If they become set and then make an illegal shift without re-setting before the snap, it is a live-ball foul at the snap.
- 10) For Team A to avoid a foul for intentional grounding, it is no longer required that a receiver have a "reasonable opportunity" to catch the pass. The receiver must only be in the area.
- 11) Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct by Team B include an automatic first down.
- 12) 15-yard penalties are reserved for personal fouls, unsportsmanlike conduct fouls and pass interference.
- 13) Offensive linemen are allowed to interlock legs.

**If you have any questions please email me at [kyfref@yahoo.com](mailto:kyfref@yahoo.com) I will answer all questions and if you need my assistance at a practice to explain anything I will do my best to try and work it into my schedule**