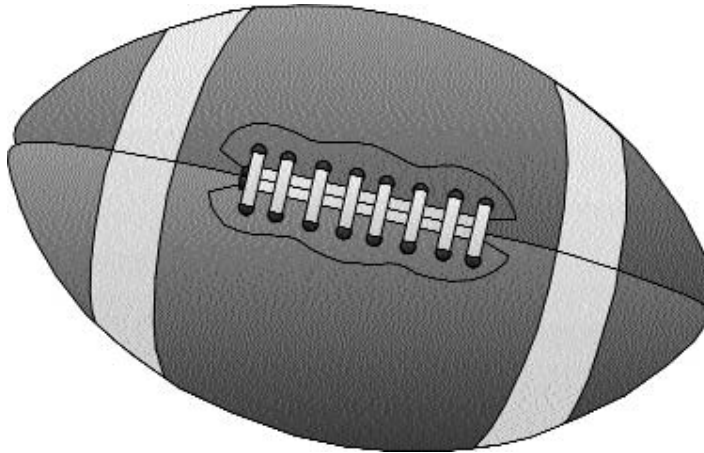


2003 MAJOR FOOTBALL RULES DIFFERENCES



AUTHORITY OF OFFICIALS

30 minutes before scheduled kickoff.

60 minutes before scheduled kickoff.

BALL

No panel restrictions.

Must have four panels.

BLOCK ON ELIGIBLE RECEIVER

May not be below the waist.

Below the waist legal, if in/behind neutral zone.

BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST

None allowed outside the 6x8 yard zone.

Offensive linemen at the snap positioned more than seven yards from the middle lineman of the offensive formation are prohibited from blocking below the waist toward the original position of the ball in or behind the neutral zone and within 10 yards beyond the neutral zone.

Backs at the snap positioned outside the normal tackle position in either direction or in motion at the snap, are prohibited from blocking below the waist toward the original position of the ball in or behind the neutral zone and within 10 yards beyond the neutral zone.

BUTT BLOCKING - FACE TACKLING

Illegal and defined

No definition. Butting and ramming are prohibited.

CHOP BLOCK

At knees or below.

At thigh or below.

COACHING BOX

Three coaches in the 2-yard belt between belt between team box and sideline.

Defined and provided. Team Box from 25-yard lines and 6 to 12 feet from sideline.

DEFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE

Contact while pass is in flight.

Contact on a catchable pass only.

DISTANCE BETWEEN GOAL UPRIGHTS

23 feet 4 inches

18 feet 6 inches

FIGHT

Disqualified for the game.

Disqualified. First-half fight - for game. Second-half fight - for second half and first half of next game. Second fight --players/substitutes/coaches for season.

FORWARD PASS

Initial direction must be forward.

Point of first touching must be forward.

FORWARD PASS - SPIKE TO CONSERVE TIME

Only from hand-to-hand snap immediately.

Hand-to-hand snap not required.

FRAME OF BLOCKER'S BODY

Defined - part of blocking rule.

Not defined - not part of blocking rules.

FREE-KICK LINE INFRACTIONS

Encroachment - dead ball.

Encroachment - kickers - live-ball fouls.
Offsides - receivers - live-ball fouls.

FREE-KICK OUT-OF-BOUNDS

Place ball 25 yards from previous spot or 5 yard penalty and re-kick.

Place ball 30 yards from previous spot or 5 yard penalty and re-kick.

FREE-KICK POSITIONS

Kick from 40-yard line.

Minimum four Team A players on each side of kicker.
Kick from 35-yard line.

FREE-BLOCKING ZONE

The zone is 3 yards on each side of the ball and 4 yards wide on each side of the line. Only offensive players who are on the line and in the zone may block below the waist or clip. The player being blocked must be in the zone and on the line of scrimmage at the snap. The zone exists only while ball is in the zone.

Only offensive player on the line of scrimmage within a rectangular area centered on the middle lineman of the offensive formation and extending 5 yards laterally on each direction and 3 yards both sides of the neutral zone, may legally clip in the rectangular area. A player on the line of scrimmage within the legal clipping zone may not leave the zone and return and clip. Blocking in the back legal under the same conditions. The legal clipping zone exists until the ball is in player possession outside the zone or is muffed, muffed or fumbled outside the zone.

FUMBLE

Spotted where it becomes dead.
May be advanced by any player.

Difference between forward, backward.
Defense may advance fourth-down fumble restricted for offense.

FUMBLE - OUT OF BOUNDS

Clock starts on snap.

If forward - clock starts on ready.

INBOUNDS LINES

Divide field in thirds.

60 feet from each sideline.

INJURED PLAYER

Must leave game for one down.

Time-out charged - only if player remains.

INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

Loss of down and 5-yard penalty.

Loss of down at the spot of pass, no yardage assessed. Passer may avoid grounding when 5-yards from snap by throwing the ball beyond neutral zone.

KICK INTO RECEIVER'S END ZONE

Touchback when nonscoring breaks plane of R's goal line or when scoring attempt is not good.

Remains alive unless ball first touches the ground in the end zone before it touches a Team B player

KICKOFF

From 40-yard line.

From 35-yard line.

LENGTH OF GAME

12-minute quarters.

15-minute quarters.

NEUTRAL-ZONE FOUL

Encroachment - dead ball

Offensive false start and encroachment - dead ball.
Defensive offside - dead ball or live ball.
Defensive lineman quick/abrupt - dead ball.

NUMBER OF FORWARD PASSES

Any number during a down.

One per down.

PLACE-KICK HOLDER WITH KNEE ON GROUND

Must rise to keep ball alive.

Need not rise to keep ball alive.

PLANNED LOOSE BALL

Must be reported.

Illegal play.

PLAYER VOLUNTARILY OUT OF BOUNDS ON PASS PLAY

Player of A and K foul on return

May touch the ball after it is touched by opponent.

PUTTING BALL IN PLAY AFTER FAIR CATCH/AWARDED FAIR CATCH

Free kick or snap.

Snap only.

RETURN KICK

Illegal - ball is alive.

Illegal - ball is dead.

ROUGHING KICKER/HOLDER

No foul if blocked into kicker/holder.

Roughing/running into even if legally blocked into him.

SHIFT

Movement of one or more players.

Movement of two or more players.

SIDELINE CATCH, INTERCEPTION/RECOVERY

Valid, if receiver is forced/carried out.

Valid if carried out. No force outs.

SUBSTITUTION

No Rule

While in the process of substitution, Team A is prohibited from rushing quickly to the line of scrimmage and snap to create a defensive disadvantage.

SUBSTITUTE ENTERS DURING FIGHT

Disqualified.

Disqualified for that game and next game.

TIME-OUT

Coach may go to huddle.

Coach may not enter field.

TRY FOR POINT

Ball remains alive on fumble if Team A recovers. Not attempted following last timed down touchdown if game decided and playoff qualification is not a factor. Ball dead when kick fails or when B secures possession.

Prior to change of possession, the try ends if A1 fumbles and a teammate recovers. Mandatory unless team behind in score leaves the field. Defense may score two points.

APPARENTLY UNCONSCIOUS PLAYER

Physician must authorize return in writing.

No coverage

UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

Bandannas

No coverage

If visible, illegal

Chin Strap

Either two- or four-point allowed.

Four-point required

Gloves/hand pads

Requires NF/NCAA label.

Same label and gray in 2000

Helmets

Similar team color not required. No rule on taking it off.

Team color and design must be same. Facemasks same color. Cannot remove unless in team box except for time-outs, etc.

Illegal/Mandatory Equipment

15-yard penalty charged to coach.

Charged time-out until exhausted, then penalty.

Jersey

All must be long enough to reach the top of the pants, and shall be tucked in if longer. Home/dark - visitor/light

Full length and tucked in. Visitor/white unless preseason agreement.

Mouth Protectors

No color requirement.

May not be clear or white.

Pants

Cover knee and have knee pads.

All players same color/design.

Shoes

Required

Not required. Disqualified if cleats are longer than ½ inch.

Socks

No rule

All players same color, design and length.

Towels on players

One (4"x12" min./18"x36" max.) white and unadorned per player.

White on one interior offensive lineman only
Plus (4"x12") on one back. Two defensive players may wear one (4"x12") solid white towel.

UNSUCCESSFUL FIELD GOAL FROM OUTSIDE THE 20

Touchback if crosses goal line.

Return to previous spot if untouched by B beyond the neutral zone.

BASIC ENFORCEMENT CODE

NFHS:

The all-but-one principle applies. All fouls are penalized from the basic spot, except a foul by the offense behind the spot. Loose-ball plays include the snap, kicks, legal passes or fumbles in or behind the neutral zone and includes the run(s) which precede such legal or illegal kick, legal forward pass, backward pass or fumble. The basic spot for loose-ball plays is the previous spot. The basic spot for running plays is the end of the run.

NCAA:

The all-but-one principle applies during running plays beyond the line or when there is no scrimmage line. The basic spot for fouls during a pass play (other than a defensive interference less than 15 yards beyond neutral zone) is the previous spot. EXCEPTION: Holding, personal fouls, illegal facemask fouls and illegal use of hands behind the neutral zone or when a legal forward pass is thrown are enforced from the previous spot. Roughing the passer is penalized from the end of the last run. Team B fouls on kicks before possession change is from the previous spot, except for fouls 3 or more yards beyond the neutral zone which are penalized from where the kick ends. Other specific penalty spots exist for kicking fouls. Numerous fouls carry a specific enforcement spot. Carry-over penalties only on dead-ball fouls after a try and personal fouls against snapper, holder, kicker and passer on a successful try.

When unsportsmanlike or dead-ball personal fouls by both teams are reported to the referee and before any of the penalties have been completed or the order of occurrence cannot be determined, the fouls cancel.

When a foul(s) occurs after a touchdown and before the ball is ready for play on the try or there was a live-ball foul penalized as a dead-ball foul on the touchdown play, enforcement is on the try or the succeeding kickoff. The captain of the offended team has the choice (A.R. 3-2-3-VI).