



2018 NCAA Football Rules Changes



RULE CHANGE PROCESS

- **Two-Year Rules Change Cycle**
- **2018 Is an ON Year – Player Health and Safety and overall playing rules relating to football strategy are considered.**
- **Commissioner, Coordinator, AFCA, and Competition Committee Input.**
- **Rules Committee action on March 2nd, with PROP approval completed on April 13th.**

Knee Pads and Pants
(Rule 1-4-4-d)

2017 Change to take effect in 2018

- Knee pads must be covered by pants.
- Furthermore, the pants and knee pads must completely cover the knees.
- Coaches' Certification
- 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.
- The player may return without missing a down if the team takes a charged team timeout and the equipment is made legal.

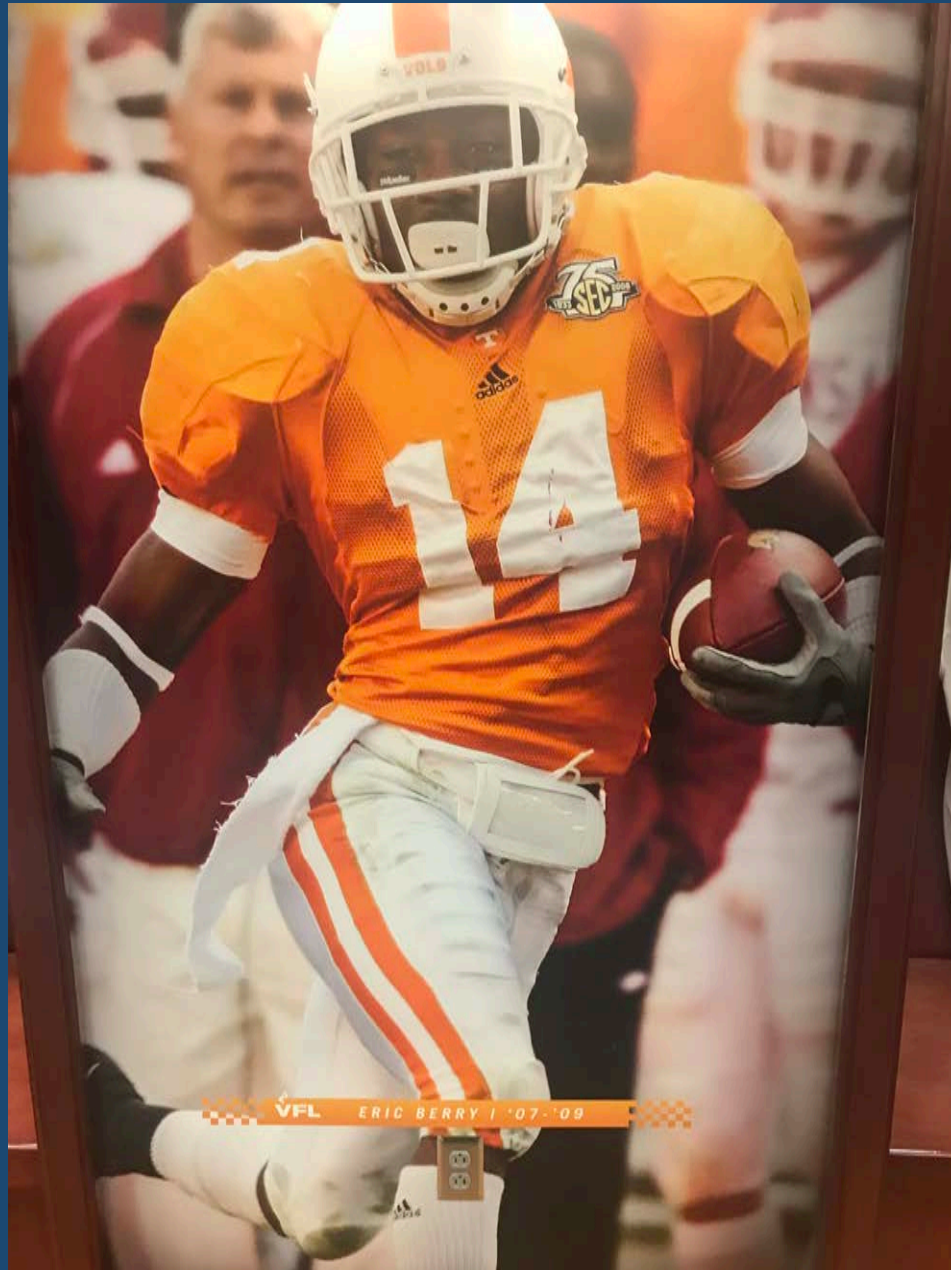
Knee Pads and Pants

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Knee Pads and Pants



The Field – Decorative Markings /
Advertising

(Rule 1-2-1-f, 1-2-1-h)

- **A single decorative marking centered on the 50 yard line, and a maximum of 4 smaller flanking decorative markings are allowed.**
- **If a commercial entity or individual has purchased naming rights to the facility, that entity's name/company-specific font or logo may be painted on the field in no more than 2 of the flanking locations.**

Jersey Design, Color and Numerals
(Rule 1-4-5-a-2)

- **Allows the jersey to contain a graduate or academic recognition as part of the institutional or conference logo.**
- **Allows the jersey to contain the letter “C” to identify a team captain.**
- **Permissive for the 2019 season only – allows the College Football 150th Anniversary Mark.**
- **Competition Committee created a new Uniform Review Process for all Division I schools.**

Prohibited Field Equipment
(Rule 1-4-11-c)

- **The exception Concerning Officials is expanded.**
- **A camera, with no audio component, may be attached to the cap of *any official* with prior approval of the conference and the participating institutions.**

Play Clock after Touchdowns / Kickoffs
(Rule 3-2-4-c)

- **Continuing the effort to keep the game moving, the committee approved two changes concerning pace of play.**
- **After a Touchdown, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds in order to expedite the try.**
- **Following a kickoff, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds in order to restart play more quickly.**

Kickoff – Fair Catch

(Rule 6-5-1)

- If a Team B player makes a fair catch, the ball becomes dead where caught and belongs to Team B at that spot.
- Exception: If a Free kick is caught behind Team B's 25 yard line, the ball belongs to Team B at its own 25 yard line.
- The ball will be put in play midway between the hash marks unless relocated before the play clock is at 25 seconds.
- After the play clock is at 25 seconds or before any subsequent ready for play signal, the ball may be relocated only after a charged team timeout, unless preceded by a Team A foul or offsetting fouls.

Try Down / Opportunity to Score
(Rule 8-3-2-a)

- If a Touchdown is scored during a down in which time in the 4th period expires, the try shall not be attempted unless the point(s) would affect the outcome of the game.
- Exception: If the scoring team is ahead by one or two points, they have the option to forego the try.

Blocking Below the Waist (Rule 9-1-6)

- **No change to linemen with initial position completely inside the tackle box.**
- **All other Team A players are allowed to block below the waist only if the force of the initial contact is from the front. Note: 10 – 2 is redefined as forward of the “area of concentration” of the player being blocked.**
- **(Three exceptions)**
- **Players may not block below the waist when the block occurs 5 yards or more beyond the neutral zone.**
- **Players outside the tackle box at any time after the snap or in motion at the snap may not block below the waist toward the initial position of the ball at the snap.**
- **Once the ball has left the tackle box a player may not block below the waist toward his own end line.**

Leaping

(Rule 9-1-11-b, 9-1-11-c)

- It is a foul if a defensive player moves forward and tries to block a field goal or a try by leaving his feet and leaping into the plane directly above the frame of the body of an opponent.
- It is not a foul if the player was aligned in a stationary position within one yard of the line of scrimmage when the ball was snapped.
- It is a foul if a defensive player who is inside the tackle box tries to block a punt by leaving his feet and leaping into the plane directly above the frame of the body of an opponent.

Field Goal Penalty Enforcement

(Rule 10-2-5-d)

- **Rule change that brings together the penalty enforcement on successful Extra Points and Field Goals.**
- **When a field goal is successful, Team A shall have the option of canceling the score and have the penalty enforced from the previous spot or declining the penalty and accepting the score.**
- **Team A may accept the score with penalties for Personal Fouls and Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls enforced on the succeeding kickoff or from the succeeding spot in extra periods.**