

New Rules 2021

i.e. The stuff in blue

Points of Emphasis

- Targeting – This is not really new and seems to be a POE every year so it must be super important. But they put some of it in blue so we'll talk about it.
 - Understand defenseless player fouls
 - What are definitions of defenseless? Rule 2-27-14
 - Learn to see when they are coming or when it's likely. (who has the brick)
 - Understand crown of helmet fouls
 - Defenseless not require
 - Where is the crown?

Points of Emphasis

- Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Taunting - this is different than just celebration
 - “in your face”; standing or bending over an opponent
 - Racist/ethnic/demeaning opponent
 - Gestures toward an opponent or the opponent’s sideline
 - Know your automatics from Rule 9-2 pages FR 98 & 99
 - Throat slash
 - Six guns or machine gun
 - Removing helmet to celebrate or protest
 - Changing stride
 - Standing over opponent and making gestures/poses/etc
- Basically they are drawing our attention to things that make the game look bad. Don’t allow it but don’t over officiate either. Maintain our good judgement on appropriate celebration. Use prevention to maintain the game control. Use our voice and presence to stop the taunting or other UNS actions before it starts.

Points of Emphasis

- SIDELINE CONTROL as it pertains to UNS
 - Coaches can't charge on the field to argue calls. That's an Unsportsmanlike act.
 - We never WANT to flag coaches and we must manage our relationship with them to avoid this situation.
 - But if they want the foul or deserve the foul then we can't be afraid to throw the flag.
 - Respect, communication and attention to the coaches/sideline activities will help us manage this.
- SIDELINE CONTROL as it pertains to safety.
 - We need the white to officiate safely.
 - If we are worried about running into someone then we can't possibly be putting all our attention on the field.
- The POE instructs us to be diligent and flag violations. But again don't over use the flag. It's there if we need it but it's our responsibility to manage our sideline so give this aspect of your game the focus it deserves.

Points of Emphasis

- Uniform and Equipment Compliance
- Intent of this POE is not to make us overly involved with equipment monitoring (ie **not** the uniform police). But we **MUST** deal with situations where the rules are blatantly not being followed.
 - CAN'T ALLOW THIS →



“Major” rule changes for 2021

- 1-2-4a – Team area/coaching box extended to 20 yd line
- 3-1-3f – In 2nd extra period teams must go for 2 pt try
- 3-1-3e – in 3rd extra period we go to 1 play for 2 pts
- 3-3-5b – feigning injuries has review process that doesn't involve us at all. - We **DO NOT** judge whether a player is feigning injury. Just call timeout and let the conferences or others deal with it after the game.

Editorial changes for 2021

This year this section is actually more significant.

1-1-6b &
9-2-1b5 & 9-2-3c

- Added “lighting system operators” to persons subject to rules
- How does this affect us?
 - If the teams use scoreboards, lights, etc to mess with opponent then we can make fair judgement as to what should happen.
 - There was a question like this on CFO test.
- Impact in our games – probably minimal impact

1-2-4b

- Medical staff exempt from 50 team area cred restriction
- How does this affect us?
 - It doesn't. We don't check creds and we don't count them.
- Impact in our games – None. Game administration needs to manage this.

1-3-2a

- Number of game ball offered for play in game with no weather considerations = 10
- How does this affect us?
 - We know how many balls we have to check so no more question.
- Impact in our games - minimal

1-4-5a

- Undershirt can't extend below waistline
- How does this affect us?
 - With point of emphasis mentioned earlier about uniform compliance, we should make sure to deal with these situations during pre-game warmups
- Impact to our games – minimal if we do our job during pre-game.

1-4-11d &
1-4-13b &
12-4-2C

- Clarified and defined head coach microphones and the O2O systems
- How does this affect us?
 - It doesn't. We already use the proper O2O and we aren't checking coaches microphones.
- Impact to our games - None

2-16-4b

- Clarified use of tee on free kick
 - We all knew that you could put the ball on the ground, against a tee on the ground and on the tee. But the clarification needed was whether a tee could be on the ground and the ball not touching it.
 - It can not. If there is a tee the ball must be touching it in some way. The ball doesn't need to be on the tee, just touching it.
- Impact to our games – minimal. Only an issue during onside kicks and I've never seen the tee on the field and then not used. I've seen no tee on the field and the ball just kicked from the ground but that was never in doubt.

3-2-3a1

- Offended team option added when period not extended.
- How does this affect us?
 - Before a loss of down foul meant the period couldn't be extended so a team could foul with an illegal kick or illegal forward pass and then the period would end anyhow.
 - Central Michigan @ Oklahoma St
 - This was wrong in the game but now we know it was just a few years too early. This can happen now.
- Impact to our games – This one will be quite significant if the situation arises. Remember it matters for all periods not just end of game.

5-1-3a

- Clarification of forward progress spot of catch
- How does this affect us? The clarification is pretty slight. Old wording said “forward progress is where the player received the ball” and now it says “gained AND maintained firm control of the ball.”
- Basically if the receiver catches the ball airborne, is hit airborne and is driven back, bobbles the ball while being driven back and then controls and taken to ground....we will give progress when the receiver finally “maintained firm control of the ball”.
- Impact on our games – Minimal. I think we all kind of had this idea when we read “received the ball” in the old wording. But now it’s explicit.

7-1-6a

- Forward handing clarification
 - You can hand the ball forward if both player behind LOS and the player handing the ball forward had not been beyond the LOS
 - Just like you can't cross the LOS, come back and then throw a forward pass...you can't cross the LOS, come back and hand the ball forward
- Impact to our games – minimal. Will probably only see this on plays that break down at end of game.

9-1-11d

- Added 'apparent kick' to the leverage part of the leverage and leaping rule.
- Made the section on leverage match leaping
 - My guess is that prior to this change, you could technically stand on a teammate to block a kick and if the other team looked at that and decided not to kick then it wasn't a foul??? Not really sure. Mainly think it just needed to match the leaping section.
- Impact to our games – minimal.

REPLAY RULE CHANGES

- 1) 12-3-2e1 – if onfield officials can confirm recovery during immediate continuing action then that information can be given to replay to award ball to proper team.
 - i.e. runner ruled down but there is a potential fumble. An official sees the defense recover the potential fumble just prior to a pile forming on the ball. Replay wants to overturn runner down ruling to fumble but they have no angle to determine recovery in immediate continuing action. We can give them information as to who recovered and they put that together with the fumble ruling and we get it right in the end.
- 2) 12-3-3d1 – adds ball going out of bounds as a criteria to allow replay to overturn dead ball to live ball
 - Example. Runner ruled down but there is a potential fumble. The ball then goes backwards 3 yards and out of bounds. Replay can overturn to fumble and because it went out of bounds place the ball back 3 yards.
- 3) 12-3-4g – receiving team advancing after fair catch.
- 4) 12-3-8a – added player “had been” beyond NZ
- 5) 12-3-8e – added touching of forward pass by originally ineligible player
 - I always thought number 3-5 were already reviewable but now they are codified as reviewable.

REPLAY RULE CHANGE

(this one will be seen a fair bit
this season)

- Replay clock adjustments - RULE 12-3-6 b & d
 - Over 2 minutes in first half and over 5 minutes in second half, we won't be making clock adjustments when a ruling is reviewed.
 - There was this question on CFO test to illustrate.
- 3/10 @ B30. A88 catches pass at the B21. Video shows that the ball skipped off the ground before firm control was established. The pass hit the ground with 3:23 remaining in 3rd quarter, and replay stopped game to review the play at 3:08.
 - Overturn to Incomplete pass - 4/10 @ B30 clock remains at 3:08.