

1. What is your position:

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Coach		365	14%
Conference Commissioner		53	2%
Conference Coordinator of Officials		44	2%
Game Official		2,212	83%
Total		2,674	

2. Please choose the division that you are most closely affiliated.

Answer	Bar	Response	%
FBS		773	29%
FCS		514	19%
Division II		657	25%
Division III		709	27%
Total		2,653	

3. Ineligible Receiver Downfield Under current rules, it is illegal for an ineligible receiver to be more than three yards beyond the neutral zone before the passer releases a forward pass that crosses the neutral zone. (Rule 7-3-10, FR-79). Do you believe this rule should remain the same but be stringently enforced?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,591	60%
No		913	34%
No opinion		165	6%
Total		2,669	

4. Under current rules, it is illegal for an ineligible receiver to be more than three yards beyond the neutral zone before the passer releases a forward pass that crosses the neutral zone. (Rule 7-3-10, FR-79). Do you favor a rules change that would make this one yard rather than three yards?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,025	38%
No		1,540	58%
No opinion		106	4%
Total		2,671	

5. Blocking downfield on passes Should additional rules be added to manage this trend in offenses?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		638	24%
No		1,749	66%
No opinion		280	10%
Total		2,667	

6. What additional rules would you suggest?

Text Response

I am not so sure new rules are needed, but calling it when it happens on a more consistent basis would help.

Referees need to be more aware that this is an increasing trend and be trained when to properly spot it. It should be a OPI foul when it is caught beyond the LOS. Coaches blatantly teach it. Blocking below the waist needs to be addressed.

Go to NFL rule. Can't go downfield on any pass regardless of whether downfield or not

Our defensive coaches are having a difficult time with the way offenses are stretching the rule. It seems to me that the head linesmen or the line judge would have to be a part of the enforcement of the rule.

Not sure

Have the eighth official look just for this infraction

Blocking on one side of the play and running a route on the other side of the play is deceptive by nature... You should not be able to block downfield until a pass is caught. If blocking anywhere downfield, a beyond the line of scrimmage throw should be illegal. I was told by an official that they will never call offensive holding in this scenario because the forward pass is away from the blocking receiver.

To many blocks happen downfield when passes are thrown downfield

NFL rule

Simply enforce the rules of NOT blocking downfield when ball is in the air on these plays.

More training of officials to recognize and enforce the fact it is the responsibility of the WR to avoid contact.

Contact cannot occur until the WR has made a clear football move after the catch.

Wide receivers cannot block when second receiver is catching a hitch pass beyond the L.O.S.

I don't know if there should be additional rules, but the rules that exist should be enforced.

go back to the one yard rule, when the ball crosses the line of scrimmage.

An official be assigned to strictly enforce. If rule not strictly enforced a real advantage to the offense

The rule of ineligible receiver downfield, should just be that. You should not be allowed 1 yard beyond LOS if the ball is passed beyond the LOS. 3 yards is way too far for a lineman to go and still be a clean play. I think the rule should be as described, "ineligible receiver downfield" why create a grey for the officials and then they miss it more than they penalize it.

The wedge is illegal for kick off return teams which is good. Several teams use a 3 man wedge to protect punters, which is equally as dangerous for the players in the punt teams wedge formations.

There should be no blocking downfield when the ball is in the air on the perimeter even if the pass is behind the line of scrimmage. I can show numerous instances over the years where it is offensive interference or very close. This needs to be defined better and enforced. Also the run pass option plays where an LB comes down hill and then gets blocked as the pass is thrown makes it impossible to defend. That is why the three yards downfield rule needs to be changed to one yard.

Blockers can be no more than 1 yard downfield.

Move the limit to one yard. There are numerous other rules that utilize the expanded neutral zone of one yard and this is a much easier landmark for officials to see and enforce more consistently. In the absence of any changes, making rules related to this area reviewable would be necessary.

Something has to be done about eye black. Players look like WWE wrestlers or Cats performers. Embarrassing

Contact designed to impede the defensive player in any way (Including a rub) is a foul

No blocking until ball is caught even if behind los

Make any blocks below the waist outside of the free blocking zone illegal.

Eliminate blocking below the waist except for lineman blocking at the line of scrimmage.

Blockers can not be more than one yard down field on all forward passes.

No Blocking Downfield on any forward even behind the line

Restrict the blocking to players who were at the line of scrimmage at the snap.

No blocking down field once the ball goes in the air - and outside of the line or tackle box.

Get blocks below the waist out of the game (with exception for lineman in the tackle box).

Needs to be clear as to when and where the block can occur.

I would suggest going to the NFL rule that you have to have six eligible players therefore and eligible WR could not be covered up for any reason. This would allow the officials to try and not guess and also allow the defense to know for sure as it's not up to the officials judgement.

Defensive pass interference to be changed from a 15 yard penalty to a spot penalty in all cases and for fouls that occur in the end zone to the ball to be put in play at the 2 yard line.

Not so much rules but additional training and philosophy talk. To much opi if going on and not called. Possibly because dpi has been such a focus for many years.

No eligible rec may impede or block a defenders path to a ball or potential pass receiver no matter where the completion takes place until the pass has reached completion.

No blocking below the waist anywhere except at the line of scrimmage.

no blocking on passes that cross the neutral zone.

eliminate it being legal when the ball is caught behind the NZ. Basically, you can't block downfield on a legal forward pass play regardless of where the ball is.

Make the illegal contact a 5 yard penalty instead of opi. This would make it more frequently called.

If an ineligible receiver is engaged with a defensive player, it should be legal for the ineligible receiver to stay engaged and continue his block regardless of how far downfield the block takes him.

A rule should expressly prohibit an A receiver from permitting or initiating contact that prevents a B player from moving freely before a legal forward pass is completed.

Reduce ineligible downfield yardage from 3 to 1 yard; Restrict all Team A players from blocking until passed ball is caught.

No leeway on pass being behind the LOS for blocking down field. No block below the waist in these instances.

Restrict receivers from interfering/blocking/positioning with defensive players so another receiver can get open...pick plays.

Use NFL rule that offense can't block downfield regardless if the pass is caught behind the LOS

Moving toward the NFL rule in that after initial contact by the defense if the offense continues to block the defender this would become an offensive foul. Also, do not allow any blocking downfield before a pass is caught whether behind or beyond the neutral zone

Eliminate blocking downfield on passes that cross the NZ

No low blocks on pass plays outside the unrestricted players at the snap

no blocking down field prior to a pass being thrown period (remove any reference to the LOS)

Go Back to the old rule.

No blocking beyond 1 yard beyond the LOS on any play that involves a forward pass until the receiver becomes a runner (pass is completed).

Additional situations of opi. Maybe lesser penalty but Loss of down

I believe the rule should say but not specifically, "any eligible receiver is not allowed to block while a legal forward pass is in the air or until the ball possessed/caught by another eligible receiver. Remove the section stats if the player is a yard beyond or behind the line of scrimmage.

No blocking down field until the pass is caught by the eligible receiver

Fouls by K during outside kicks- R having option to take ball at spot of recovery by K. Extend coaches and team box to the 20- keep them out of the white.

Include loss of yardage + loss of down

I suggest making blocking at one yard and no more

All blocks downfield on pass plays would have to be above the waist. No blocking below the waist downfield.

Alter the philosophy that OPI should only be called when it occurs in the third of the field where the pass is thrown. Defenders read "blocking downfield" as dictating a certain type of play and therefore putting the defense at a potential disadvantage.

Holding enforced only if hands are outside the frame and no nofeasible restriction

Clarify the differences between a receiver initiating a block, and one who is preparing to meet anticipated contact.

The limit for an ineligible downfield should be two yards and that should be allowed only if they are blocking against a B player who was on his LOS at the snap. With these "Read Option" offenses, it is happening more and more that uncovered linemen are going downfield to block a linebacker, which causes the linebacker to read run and step up to take on the block and not get into pass coverage thereby opening up the middle of the defense. The linebacker has to do this because if he doesn't and it's a run, the offense has created movement against the defense without actually blocking anyone. This is an unfair advantage that goes beyond the intent of a play action fake and puts the linebacker and the defense at a disadvantage. The defenders have a very valid complaint that they are at a great disadvantage. The A linemen are quick to say that the play was supposed to be a run. By allowing the two yards beyond, A can still perform more than enough of a play action fake to force the B linemen to respect the run option so that they cannot just play pass, alleviating pressure on the A linemen. If this was an A player as an eligible receiver blocking beyond the LOS, it is a 15 yard foul. It should be the same for the ineligible if he blocks a B player, not originally on his LOS beyond the allowed area on a legal forward pass that crosses the LOS.

No blocking below the waist.

Any block initiated by the offensive player or contact initiated by offensive player beyond 1 yard of LOS would constitute a foul by the Offense

I would favor a modification of no blocking on any forward pass until the pass has been caught, regardless of whether the pass is beyond the line or not

Disallow blocking within one yard of the LOS. If Team A initiates a block beyond the LOS and the pass is thrown more than 1 yard beyond the LOS make it a foul. Black and white. Easier to officiate.

Make it irrelevant if passes crosses line of scrimmage.

Point of emphasis for officials

Blocking should be illegal downfield until the pass contacts a receiver.

Let instant replay rule on ineligible players downfield much the same as a quarterback going beyond the line to complete a forward pass.

Any downfield contact initiated by a receiver on a pass play should be called OPI. Downfield blocking by the offense should be initiated above the waist

no part of the passer could be beyond the LOS for a legal forward pass

Rub routes and pick plays should be strictly enforced. Offensive player, or eligible receiver has an obligation to AVOID contact. Any contact that results that is not in an attempt to avoid contact should be a foul. The balance between good offense and good defense is skewed in favor of the offense at the present time.

No originally eligible receiver could block downfield on any legal forward pass until the ball is thrown.

Make blocking downfield early on any forward pass illegal regardless if pass crosses neutral zone.

Linemen are restricted to the LOS(1 yd grace) and can not leave the LOS until the ball is released. Allowing 5 linemen(300+ LBS) to go down field and block gives a great advantage to the Offense. It also creates a safety situation as the linemen peel back and by rule cant go low so they are now blocking high and above the shoulders to defenseless players making a play on the ball.

I would request that the yardage be changed to 5 yards for offensive players not receiving the ball. Less severe penalty will most likely be called more often for off ball blocking/way out of the way/POI blocking. Keep OPI the same as it is now, just make a difference between the two.

This rule is overly picky. If a lineman is downfield there is a defender running "more" free to the Quarterback. As long as the lineman is not engaged downfield causing an OPI, does the defender really affect the play. This rule is missed a lot. Not that necessary to have in place especially with longer passes.

If the blocking downfield is by an ineligible receiver, he can be flagged for 1) ineligible downfield, or 2) OPI. I would change the rule to say that it should be OPI only. That will clean up the problems we have today.

something similar to the NFL rule

no blocking downfield even if pass is behind los

All fouls should be enforced. This should be one way to stop the players and coaches from committing fouls.

No blocking downfield on any forward pass until after the pass is completed.

Linemen cannot block past the NZ expanded on passes beyond the LOS.

No low block by any receivers should be allowed.

Eliminate all blocking below the waist except initial charge

Make the rule like the NFL. No blocking until a forward ass is caught, whether behind or beyond the LOS.

To include ANY pass, even those behind the LOS.

ineligible players only allowed to be one yard downfield on pass. Also offense should have to be set for one second before snap, already a rule but should be enforced

Contact initiated by all A players downfield should be classified as blocking.

Make this a reviewable play

Teams are beginning to push the envelope on eligible receivers blocking when a pass is caught behind the LOS. The blocks are occurring further downfield while the receiver sets up to catch the ball legally at or just beyond the LOS. However, the trend we are seeing is that once the ball is thrown the pass purposely causes the receiver to fade 2-3 yds beyond the LOS to make the catch which technically is OPI. This is becoming increasingly difficult for the deep wing official to effectively rule. To simplify, I would suggest merely saying that an eligible receiver may not block an opponent prior to a pass being caught. This will bring this unnecessary advantage to an immediate halt and be much simpler to officiate in live action.

Rules to minimize blocking downfield prior to the pass being caught by the receiver.

Adopt the NFL rules that support this.

The multiple receiver sets on one side or the other of the ball. They are very good at disguising illegal blocks/screens/etc to get the other receiver open. I'd like to see a better restriction for them here.

Emphasize that offense must avoid contact with defender

Everything above the waist

No lowcut blocks

This table has more than 100 rows. [Click here to view all responses](#)

7. Instant Replay – More Judgment Applied for Targeting Fouls Under current rules, the Instant Replay Official has a very limited criterion for overturning a targeting foul. Would you favor allowing the Instant Replay Official to apply more judgment in these types of plays?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,757	66%
No		657	25%
No opinion		255	10%
Total		2,669	

8. Instant Replay – Targeting Fouls NOT Called Under current rules, the Instant Replay Official has no authority to review a play where a targeting foul may have occurred but the officials on the field do not make a call for targeting. Do you favor a rule change to allow the Instant Replay Official to review a play and rule that there was a targeting foul?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,370	51%
No		1,120	42%
No opinion		181	7%
Total		2,671	

9. Blocking Below the Waist Under current rules, blocking below the waist is prohibited in some phases of the game and by some players, depending on their initial positions at the snap. (Rule 9-1-6, FR-89). Do you favor a rules change that would make blocking below the waist illegal except by linemen inside the tackle box on their initial charge immediately after the snap?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,980	74%
No		629	24%
No opinion		61	2%
Total		2,670	

10. Length of Team Timeouts Under current rules, charged team timeouts in live televised games are 30 seconds in length (plus the 25-second play-clock interval) unless accompanied by a media timeout. (Rule 7-3-7, FR-52). Do you favor a rules change that would have all charged team timeouts be one minute and 30 seconds, unless the head coach requests a 30-second timeout?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		671	25%
No		1,628	61%
No opinion		374	14%
Total		2,673	

11. Defenseless Player – Sliding Ball Carrier Under current rules, there are several situations where players are classified as “defenseless” for purposes of the targeting rule. The sliding ball carrier is not included. (Rules 2-27-14, FR- 41 and 9-1-4-Note 2, FR-88). Do you favor a rules change to make the sliding ball carrier a defenseless player?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		2,065	77%
No		535	20%
No opinion		74	3%
Total		2,674	

12. Tripping the Runner Under current rules, tripping an opponent is a foul, except that it is legal when the runner is tripped. (Rule 9-1-2, FR-86). Do you favor a rules change that would make it a foul to trip the runner?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		349	13%
No		2,239	84%
No opinion		86	3%
Total		2,674	

13. Use of Tablets/Computers in the Team Area or Press Box. Should these devices be permissible:

Question	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total Responses
For coaching purposes in general.	62%	21%	17%	2,610
For statistical tracking purposes only.	49%	27%	23%	2,570
To view still pictures only.	46%	32%	22%	2,568
To view video footage from previous games only.	24%	52%	24%	2,558
Without restriction.	36%	48%	16%	2,638

14. Technology – Coach to Player Communication. Would you support allowing this type of communication to occur, similar to what is utilized in the NFL?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,640	61%
No		709	27%
No opinion		321	12%
Total		2,670	

15. Length of Game How would you describe the current status of the length of NCAA football games?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Much too long		345	13%
Slightly too long		1,052	39%
Appropriate		1,264	47%
Slightly too short		12	0%
Much too short		2	0%
Total		2,675	

16. Stopping the Game Clock on First Down Under current rules, the game clock stops when the offense makes a first down. (Rule 3-3-2-e, FR-49) Do you favor a rules change to:

Question	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total Responses
Have the clock not stop for a first down.	41%	55%	5%	2,537
Have the clock not stop for a first down except in the last two minutes of the half.	53%	43%	4%	2,632

17. Stopping the Game Clock on Incomplete Pass Under current rules, the game clock stops for an incomplete forward pass. (Rule 3-3-2-d, FR-49) Do you favor a rules change to:

Question	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total Responses
Have the clock not stop for an incomplete forward pass.	19%	77%	3%	2,593
Have the clock not stop for an incomplete forward pass except in the last two minutes of the half.	27%	70%	4%	2,622

18. Starting the Game Clock: Less than Two Minutes Under current rules, the Referee has broad authority to start and stop the play clock and game clock when either team is using tactics patently unfair to consume or conserve playing time. This includes starting the clock on the snap when the team ahead in the score commits a foul. (Rule 3-4-3, FR-54). Do you favor a rule change to mandate that the game clock start on the snap when the team ahead in the score commits a foul in the last two minutes of a half?

Answer	Bar	Response	%
Yes		1,391	52%
No		990	37%
No opinion		290	11%
Total		2,671	

