



2016 NCAA Men's Football Rules Survey: Executive Summary

PURPOSE

Per the request of the NCAA Men's Football Rules Committee, a survey was developed to obtain feedback from head men's football coaches from all NCAA member institutions, as well as conference commissioners, officials and coordinators of officials, in regards possible rule changes. The results from this survey seek to provide the committee with detailed information on the respondents' opinions regarding current and potential women's basketball rules.

RESPONSE CHARACTERISTICS

The following represents response rates both by position and division:

	n	%
Coaches	365	14.0%
Coordinators	44	2.0%
Officials	2,212	83.0%
Commissioners	53	2.0%
Total	2,674	58.9%

	FBS	FCS	Division II	Division III
Coaches	26.0%	15.0%	18.0%	40.0%
Coordinators	21.0%	26.0%	12.0%	42.0%
Officials	30.0%	20.0%	26.0%	24.0%
Commissioners	13.0%	25.0%	21.0%	40.0%
Total	773	514	656	709

Coach response rate by division

	n	N	Percent Completed
FBS	96	122	78.7%
FCS	54	124	43.5%
Division II	67	174	38.5%
Division III	147	244	60.2%

MAJOR FINDINGS

New Rules Change Proposals

When asked whether they are in favor of the following rule changes, the following responses were submitted:

*Note: The following table shows responses of 50% or more. Those selecting "No Opinion" are not shown here.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	CURRENT RULE	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Ineligible Receiver Downfield				
This rule should remain the same but be stringently enforced?	<i>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).</i>	Coach 70.0% Official 58.0% Commissioner 51.0%	Coordinator 51.0%	In Favor (99.0%)
Make this one yard rather than three yards?	<i>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).</i>	Coordinator 59.0%	Coach 60.0% Official 58.0% Commissioner 58.0%	Not in Favor (99.0%)
Instant Replay – More Judgment Applied for Targeting Fouls				
Allowing the Instant Replay Official to apply more judgment in these types of plays?	<i>Under current rules, the Instant Replay Official has a very limited criterion for overturning a targeting foul.</i>	Coach 74.0% Official 65.0% Commissioner 67.0% Coordinator 58.0%		In Favor (66.0%)
Instant Replay – Targeting Fouls NOT Called				
Allow the Instant Replay Official to review a play and rule that there was a targeting foul?	<i>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.</i>	Official 54.0% Commissioner 58.0% Coordinator 53.0%	Coach 52.0%	In Favor (91.0%)

2016 NCAA Men's Football Rules Survey:
Executive Summary

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	CURRENT RULE	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Blocking Below the Waist				
Make blocking below the waist illegal except by linemen inside the tackle box on their initial charge immediately after the snap?	<i>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).</i>	Official 80.0% Commissioner 69.0% Coordinator 79.0%	Coach 62.0%	In Favor (93.0%)
Length of Team Timeouts				
Have all charged team timeouts be one minute and 30 seconds, unless the head coach requests a 30-second timeout?	<i>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).</i>		Official 65.0% Commissioner 58.0% Coordinator 64.0%	Not in Favor (92.0%)
Defenseless Player – Sliding Ball Carrier				
Make the sliding ball carrier a defenseless player?	<i>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).</i>	Coach 61.0% Official 79.0% Commissioner 81.0% Coordinator 93.0%		In Favor (77.0%)
Tripping the Runner				
Make it a foul to trip the runner?	<i>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).</i>		Coach 69.0% Official 87.0% Coordinator 61.0%	Not in Favor (83.0%)

2016 NCAA Men's Football Rules Survey:
Executive Summary

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	CURRENT RULE	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Stopping the Game Clock on First Down				
Have the clock not stop for a first down.	<i>Under current rules, the game clock stops when the offense makes a first down. (Rule 3-3-2-e, FR-49)</i>	No Consensus		
Have the clock not stop for a first down except in the last two minutes of the half.	<i>Under current rules, the game clock stops when the offense makes a first down. (Rule 3-3-2-e, FR-49)</i>	<i>Official</i> 58.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 55.0%	<i>Coach</i> 71.0%	In Favor (92.0%)
Stopping the Game Clock on Incomplete Pass				
Have the clock not stop for an incomplete forward pass.	<i>Under current rules, the game clock stops for an incomplete forward pass. (Rule 3-3-2-d, FR-49)</i>		<i>Coach</i> 88.0% <i>Official</i> 75.0% <i>Commissioner</i> 76.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 88.0%	Not in Favor (77.0%)
Have the clock not stop for an incomplete forward pass except in the last two minutes of the half.	<i>Under current rules, the game clock stops for an incomplete forward pass. (Rule 3-3-2-d, FR-49)</i>		<i>Coach</i> 87.0% <i>Official</i> 67.0% <i>Commissioner</i> 70.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 74.0%	Not in Favor (75.0%)
Starting the Game Clock: Less than Two Minutes				
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?	<i>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).</i>	<i>Coach</i> 50.0% <i>Official</i> 53.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 57.0%		In Favor (98.0%)

2016 NCAA Men's Football Rules Survey:
Executive Summary

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Blocking Downfield On Passes			
Should additional rules be added to manage this trend in offenses?	<i>Coordinator</i> 48.0%	<i>Coach</i> 64.0% <i>Official</i> 67.0% <i>Commissioner</i> 54.0%	Not in Favor (99.0%)
Technology – Coach to Player Communication.			
Would you support allowing this type of communication to occur, similar to what is utilized in the NFL?	<i>Coach</i> 57.0% <i>Official</i> 62.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 75.0%		In Favor (99.0%)
Use of Tablets/Computers in the Team Area or Press Box.			
Should these devices be permissible:			
For coaching purposes in general.	<i>Coach</i> 55.0% <i>Official</i> 63.0% <i>Commissioner</i> 71.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 70.0%		In Favor (60.0%)
For statistical tracking purposes only.	<i>Official</i> 51.0% <i>Commissioner</i> 57.0%		In Favor (88.0%)
To view still pictures only.	No Consensus		
To view video footage from previous games only.		<i>Coach</i> 55.0% <i>Official</i> 63.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 70.0%	Not in Favor (99.0%)
Without restriction.	<i>Commissioner</i> 51.0%	<i>Coach</i> 58.0%	No Consensus

QUESTION	OPTIONS	COACHES	OFFICIALS	COORDINATORS	COMMISSIONERS
How would you describe the current status of the length of NCAA football games?	Much too long		No Consensus		
	Slightly too long				
	Appropriate	72.0%			51.0%
	Slightly too short				
	Much too short				