



MEMORANDUM

August 2, 2017

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Football Conference Administrators and Coordinators of Officials.

FROM: Bob Nielson
Chair, NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Technology Reminders and Media Requests.

This update is being provided on behalf of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, which recently reviewed several items relating to allowable technology and requests to waive some rules on behalf of some media partners. A summary of the discussions and actions are detailed below.

1. **Technology/video in coaching booths and locker rooms.** As a general reminder, the committee voted in October 2016 to rescind a proposal that would have allowed the use of technology/video for coaching purposes in the coaching booths and locker rooms. Therefore, the rules remain in place and in full effect (see NCAA Football Rule 1-4.11.a.). To be very clear, the rules prohibit the use of computers, video, etc. for coaching purposes anytime during the game, other than those allowed by rule specifically (e.g., television monitor with the live broadcast in the coaching box).
2. **Digital Down/Distance Marker.** In a few cases, an interpretation was requested regarding the down and distance markers that include a digital display where the traditional down number is positioned. There are no specific rules against this and therefore this style of down and distance marker is legal for the 2017 season. The committee will review any issues relating to this, as several schools plan to utilize this style of marker.
3. **Microphone on Umpire.** The committee received a request to allow a media network to place a microphone on the umpire for game broadcast use. The committee denied this request, as the rules clearly prohibit this use. It should be noted that the committee will review this and other media requests of this type in the next rule cycle, along with the Division I Football Competition Committee.
4. **Microphone on Head Coach.** This is a simple reminder that the use of a microphone on the head coach is not allowed for live broadcast use. It is permitted, however, to record audio for use in a separate media production (e.g., coaches' television show, documentary, etc.) with approval of the institution/conference and head coach.
5. **Team Videographer – Use of Live Video.** The committee reviewed a general request on behalf of several media entities to allow the use of the live video feed from the team

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videographer. This request was denied, as the allowance for the team videographer is made only for producing team-related video (e.g., recruiting, coaches' shows, post-game highlights, end of season video). Approving this request would essentially add a media videographer to the team area, which is intentionally prohibited. Consideration of this request for future seasons will occur in the normal timeline and will be on the agenda for the annual meeting in late February 2018.

Thank you for your attention to this information. If you have any questions, please contact NCAA liaison Ty Halpin (thalpin@ncaa.org).

BN:as

cc: Football Rules Committee
Division I Football Competition Committee
Selected NCAA Staff