



MEMORANDUM

September 14, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Head Football Coaches.

FROM: Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Football Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Football Rules Bulletin No. 1.

Enclosed with this memorandum are several play situations for the 2016 season. The committee hopes this information assists with the understanding of NCAA football rules. This information has been provided to game officials through the NCAA's officiating educational partner, ArbiterSports, on the College Football Officiating, LLC website (<https://cfo.arbitersports.com>).

If you have any questions, please contact Rogers Redding, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA Football Rules Committee, via email at [redding.cfo@hotmail.com](mailto:redding.cfo@hotmail.com).

RR:mm

Enclosure

cc: NCAA Football Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members

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**2016 NCAA FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS**  
**BULLETIN NO. 1**

**Sliding Ball Carrier**

1. Third and 10 at the A-35. Quarterback A11 sweeps to his right and goes into a feet-first slide to give himself up. When he starts his slide, the forward-most point of the ball is at the A-44, and when he comes to a stop the forward-most point of the ball is at the A-46.

**RULING:** Fourth and one at the A-44. The ball is dead at its forward-most point when he starts his slide. (4-1-3)

**Ineligible Receiver Downfield**

2. The ball is snapped at the A-35. As quarterback A11 rolls out to pass, tackle A77 begins to drift downfield. When A11 releases a pass that goes beyond the neutral zone, A77's hand is beyond the A-38, while the rest of his body is behind the A-38.

**RULING:** Foul, ineligible receiver downfield. It is illegal for the ineligible receiver to have any body part more than three yards downfield when the passer releases the ball. (7-3-10)

**Legally Grounding the Ball**

3. Quarterback A11 drops back to pass and scrambles outside the tackle box. He fumbles the ball, which bounces back up into his hands. He then passes the ball forward, and it lands beyond the neutral zone in an open area where there are no eligible receivers with an opportunity to make a catch.

**RULING:** Legal play, since A11 did not relinquish possession to another player. This is the spirit and intent of the rule change. (7-3-2-h-Exc.)

**Clock Near the End of a Half**

4. The score is tied late in the fourth quarter. B77 is lined up in the neutral zone at the snap (no contact). A11 completes a pass to A88 who is tackled inbounds with the game clock showing 1:30.

**RULING:** The game clock will start on the ready or the snap, at the option of Team A. For purposes of this rule in a tie game, the team committing the foul is taken to be the team ahead in the score. (3-4-3)

**Unsuccessful Field Goal Attempt**

5. Fourth and goal at the B-10. The field goal attempt is blocked and hits the ground at the B-7. It then rebounds to the B-13 where B44 muffs it. A44 recovers at the B-11.

**RULING:** First and 10 for Team A at the B-11. Team B has touched a scrimmage kick that has crossed the neutral zone. (6-3-3, 8-4-2)

**Sideline Interference**

6. During a long kickoff return, the Side Judge has to stop and run around the head coach who is out of the coaching box in the restricted area or on the field of play near the sideline.

**RULING:** Team foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. Administer as a dead-ball foul. Penalize 15 yards at the succeeding spot. This is a team foul, and is not charged as an unsportsmanlike conduct foul against the head coach. (9-2-5-b)

### **Game Administration**

7. During a long kickoff return, the head coach and/or other coaches are outside the coaching box and are in the restricted area or on the field of play near the sideline. No physical interference is made with an official during the play.

**RULING:** Administer as a dead-ball foul. First infraction: Warning for sideline interference. No yardage penalty.

Second and third infractions: Delay of game for sideline interference, five yards from the succeeding spot.

Fourth and subsequent infractions: Team unsportsmanlike conduct foul for sideline interference. Penalize 15 yards at the succeeding spot. This is a team foul, and is not charged as an unsportsmanlike conduct foul against any coach. (9-2-5-a)

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct by a Coach**

8. During a long kickoff return, the head coach of the kicking team comes onto the field of play, vigorously and angrily protesting that there should have been a flag for holding by the receiving team during the return.

**RULING:** Unsportsmanlike conduct foul against the head coach. Administer as a dead-ball foul. Penalize 15 yards at the succeeding spot. This counts as one of the unsportsmanlike conduct fouls against the head coach. If this were his second foul for unsportsmanlike conduct, the head coach would be disqualified from the game. (9-2-6-a, d)

### **Blocking Below the Waist**

9. First and 10 at the A-45. Guard A66 is the next to the snapper. Immediately after the snap, A66 blocks nose guard B55 at the A-46. The block is below the waist at the side of B55.

**RULING:** Legal block. Technically A66 has left the tackle box, which ends at the neutral zone, to execute this side block below the waist. However, the spirit and intent of the rule is that this block is allowed. (9-1-6)

### **Blocking Below the Waist**

10. First and 10 at the A-45. Guard A66 is the next to the snapper. After the ball is snapped, A66 blocks linebacker B33 at the A-47. The block is below the waist at the side of B33.

**RULING:** Foul, illegal block below the waist. Unlike in #9, A66 has left the tackle box and gone to the second level to make the block. To be legal, this block must be directly from the front in the 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock region. (9-1-6)

### **Exposed T-Shirt Under the Jersey**

11. A player is wearing a T-shirt under his jersey. The sleeves of the jersey are three-quarter length and the sleeves of the T-shirt are exposed beyond the jersey sleeves, extending to the wrists. Along the forearm of the T-shirt sleeves, the phrase "Go State!" is visible.

**RULING:** Illegal uniform. The exposed T-shirt must comply with the rules that address words and phrases allowed on the jersey. (1-4-5)

**Fouls By Kicking Team**

12. Fourth and 15 at the A-5. Punter A88 is in his end zone when kicks the ball. Tackle A77 is flagged for holding in the end zone. Team B returns the ball to the B-45.

**RULING:** Team B has the option of having possession after the penalty is enforced at the B-45 or accepting the penalty for a safety. (6-3-13, 10-2-4)

**Player Disqualification for Targeting**

13. A player is disqualified for a targeting foul in the second half.

**RULING:** The player is not allowed to play in the first half of his team's next game. However, he is allowed to participate in pregame warmups with his team. Before the opening kickoff, he must be out of view of the field of play and must remain there under team supervision for the first half. (2-27-12, 9-1-3 and -4)

**Player Disqualification for Targeting—Final Game of Season**

14. A player is disqualified for a targeting foul in the second half of his team's last game of the football season.

**RULING:** He is not allowed to play in the first half of his team's next game---whenever that is. If the game is the final one of the regular season, he must not play the first half of any postseason game. If his team does not play a postseason game, he may not play in the first half of the first game of the following season (assuming he has eligibility remaining). (9-1-3 and -4)