

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES: NCAA v. NFHS (2016)

- Rule 1:**
- NFHS shoes required; NCAA no.
 - NFHS kicking tee allowed; NCAA no.
 - NCAA 15-yd penalty for jersey violation; NFHS no
 - Towels: NFHS: Any solid color; NCAA: White only
- Rule 3:**
- NCAA 15 min period; NFHS 12 min.
 - NCAA player must leave game for equipment repair unless TO is taken
 - NCAA 40 sec play clock
 - NCAA clock starts on R signal for ball OOB except last 2 min
 - NCAA: option for 30-second timeout
 - 12 Players on field: NFHS- 15 yds, Ill Participation, NCAA: 5 yds, Ill Sub
 - Overtime - NCAA 25 yd line, 3d OT – no kick try; NFHS 10 yd line.
- Rule 4:**
- NCAA fumble OOB in advance of spot of fumble is returned to spot of fumble; NFHS at OOB spot.
- Rule 6:**
- NCAA FK from 35; NFHS 40.
 - NCAA all kicks stay alive in EZ if touched by R before touching ground in EZ.
 - NCAA FK encroachment – option to enforce from end of run
 - Free kick OOB: Penalty if untouched by R (NFHS: 25 yd option; NCAA: 30 yd option).
 - NCAA Defensive formation on place kicks- Illegal for three players to line up shoulder-to-shoulder and move forward with primary contact against a single player.
 - NCAA no penalty for invalid or illegal FC signal; NFHS 5 yds.*
 - NFHS option to FK after FC; NCAA no.
 - Kick catching interference
 - NFHS – Option to enforce 15 yd penalty from PS
 - NCAA – One yd box in front of receiver
 - NCAA – Protection applies on kicks into turf
 - NFHS - FK - K can't touch before ball touches ground.
 - SK - R must be in position to catch
 - NCAA - DEF may not attempt to block a punt by jumping over a Team A player behind the neutral zone inside the tackle box.
 - NCAA – Touchback on FK puts ball on 25
- Rule 7:**
- NFHS: Only guards & snapper may lock legs; NCAA: no restriction
 - NCAA offside by DEF is live ball foul unless it causes false start.
 - NCAA shift involves two players.*
 - NCAA on fwd pass ball can't cross NZ prior to pass*
 - NCAA PI must be on catchable ball.
 - NCAA face guarding not PI, must be contact.
 - Pass crossing NZ (impacts PI & ineligible receivers).
 - NCAA where touched first; NFHS where it ends up.
 - Passer beyond NZ
 - NCAA must be completely beyond; NFHS if foot is beyond
 - NCAA may not throw BP intentionally OOB.
 - NCAA 4th down fumble, only fumbler can advance for A.
 - Illegal touching NFHS – LOD; NCAA no LOD
 - NCAA int grounding – spot foul + exception for passer outside tackle

* Definitional difference

- Rule 7:**
- NFHS full numbering exception only on 4th down
 - NFHS 7 on line required; NCAA no more than 4 in backfield
 - If entire team does not set: NFHS- illegal shift; NCAA- false start
 - NCAA: Spiking ball w/ < 3 secs in half is last play if clock is stopped
- Rule 8:**
- NCAA ball not dead on failed kick try.
 - NCAA DEF can score on try.
 - NCAA 4th down fumble rule applies on try.
 - NCAA after failed FG outside 20, ball spotted on PS.
- Rule 9:**
- NCAA blocking below waist
 - Players in motion, backs outside tackle box or >7 yds from snap can't BBW from side.
 - No BBW: during kick downs or after a change of possession.
 - Defense can only BBW within 5 yds of NZ.
 - NFHS: all clipping is illegal; NCAA legal clipping zone (6 x 10)
 - Only offensive linemen.
 - May not leave zone and return.
 - Exists until ball is touched outside zone or fumble/muff leaves zone.
 - Chop Block: any combo block, low-high or high-low
 - NFHS at knee or below
 - NCAA at thigh or below
 - NCAA contact foul on elig rec when pass crosses NZ is automatic first down
 - Facemask foul- NCAA no 5 yd foul
 - NCAA: Horse collar tackle must be immediate, allowed in tackle box; NFHS no exceptions
 - NCAA: No blocking OOB
 - Protection for snapper: NFHS-looks up; NCAA-one second
 - NCAA no warning for sideline interference
 - Players OOB:
 - NFHS A or K can't return during down.
 - NCAA K can't return, but A can except to catch a pass.
 - NCAA: Targeting is automatic DQ; NFHS: Only if flagrant (against defenseless player)
 - NCAA: Non-football late hits are USC fouls
 - NCAA: all tripping is illegal; NFHS: allowed against runner
 - NCAA: RTP – all hits at or below knee are illegal to include wrap-up tackle
- Rule 10:**
- Automatic first down: NCAA: All personal fouls; NFHS: Only roughing fouls.
 - NCAA no RTK if kicker is outside tackle box
 - NCAA: USC by player enforced as live-ball foul
 - NCAA: 10-sec runoff in last min of each half for certain fouls, helmet off and injuries.
 - Roughing the passer: NFHS: Dead-ball spot; NCAA: End of last run; includes low hits
 - PSK: Foul in NCAA need not be > 3 yds from line
 - Basic spot for run ending behind NZ: NCAA - previous spot; NFHS - end of run
 - NCAA contact fouls enforced from PS if foul is behind NZ
 - NCAA dead-ball fouls may cancel; NFHS: only equal # of 15-yd penalties cancel
 - NCAA – kick plays except FG, penalty may be enforced from succeeding spot
 - Fouls by opponents on scoring play:
 - NFHS - all may carry over if after any COP.
 - NCAA – PF's carry over on TD play only
 - Fouls by opponents on try
 - NFHS – can carry over on all tries; NCAA – PF may carry over