

# Memorandum

To: MIAA Football Officials  
From: Dennis Donovan, Football Officials Representative  
Re: 2014 NCAA Changes & Modifications  
Date: May 25, 2014

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All changes were adopted, but note that #1 and #2 do not apply to MIAA games so there is no change in MIAA rules as a result.

**Rules Changes:** (In rule book order)

**1. Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-4, Targeting Fouls (FR-87)**

Removal of the yardage penalty upon overturn of the player disqualification

The following is added to the penalty statements of Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-4 (FR-87):

“When the Instant Replay Official reverses the disqualification:  
If the targeting foul is not accompanied by another personal foul, the 15-yard penalty for targeting is not enforced. If another personal foul is committed in conjunction with the targeting foul, the 15-yard penalty for that personal foul is enforced according to rule.”

COMMENT: Does not apply to MIAA under Rule 69.1.18. No action required.

**2. Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-4, Targeting Fouls (FR-87)**

Games without Instant Replay: halftime video review Add to the Penalty statement of 9-1-3 and 9-1-4 (FR-87):

“If a player is disqualified in the first half, at the option of the conference or by pre- game mutual agreement of the teams in inter-conference games, during the intermission between halves the referee will be provided a video of the play in question for his review in the officials’ private secure location. The referee will review the video to determine whether the disqualification is reversed. The decision of the referee is final.

*Note:* The video source and the location of the review will be determined prior to the game through mutual agreement of the teams and the referee.”

COMMENT: Does not apply to MIAA under Rule 69.1.18. No action required.

**3. Rule 9-1-9, Roughing the Passer (FR-90)**

Low hits on passers

**Add new paragraph b.** (The current article becomes paragraph a.)

“When an offensive player is in a passing posture with one or both feet on the ground, no defensive player rushing unabated shall hit him forcibly at the knee area or below. The defensive player also may not initiate a roll or lunge and forcibly hit this opponent in the knee area or below. [*Exceptions.* (1) It is not a foul if the offensive player is a runner not in a passing posture, either inside or outside the tackle box. (2) It is not a foul if the defender grabs or wraps this opponent in an attempt to make a conventional tackle. (3) It is not a foul if the defender is not rushing unabated or is blocked or fouled into this opponent.]”

COMMENT: This is to protect a passer in the act of passing who cannot defend himself from a low hit. It does not apply to a quarterback who is moving as a runner.

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For Information: Notable Editorial Changes

1. Defenseless Player: A **player in position to receive a backward pass** has been added as a Defenseless Player
2. Clarification of Inbounds and Out-of-Bounds Player:
  - A Player becomes out of bounds when any part of his body touches anything other than another player or a game official on or outside a boundary line, he remains an out of bounds player until he touches the ground in bounds without simultaneously being out of bounds
  - An out of bounds player who becomes airborne, remains an out of bounds player until he establishes himself as an inbounds player as described above. **Effect: If a player goes out of bounds, leaps and touches a forward pass in flight, the pass is incomplete.**
  - An inbounds player who becomes airborne remains an inbounds player until he becomes out of bounds as described above.
3. More than eleven players on defense—live-ball foul

Clarification of Rule 3-5-3-c (FR-56):

“If officials do not detect the excessive number of players until during the down or after the ball is dead, **or if Team B players have entered the field just before the snap but have not been in the formation**, the infraction is treated as a live-ball foul. (A.R. 3-5-3- V)”

4. Personal Fouls by Team B on Pass Plays--Clarification of Enforcement

For Team B personal fouls during a legal forward pass play (Rule 7-3-12): **Enforcement is at the end of the last run when it ends beyond the neutral zone and there is no change of possession during the down.** Enforcement is at the previous spot for personal fouls during all other pass plays.

This means that personal foul penalties against the defense that occur during a pass play will be enforced like roughing the passer ... they will be tacked on to the end of the run.