

2023 FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

(NCAA Approved & UIL Application)

UIL application is noted in red

(1) Drone Policy (Rule 1-4-11-d)

Drones are not allowed over the field or the team area when squad members are present within the playing enclosure. Outside the limit lines, game management (or conference policy **UIL policy**) will govern drone activity. This governance includes all FAA, state, and local laws including campus policy where appropriate. *This NCAA rule will apply to UIL games and scrimmages with the exception that **UIL policy** will govern drone activity outside the limit lines.*

(2) Halftime Intermission (Rule 3-2-1-c & 11-1-3)

Game management will determine the timing of halftime activities. The field will be available to squad members no later than three minutes prior to the second half kickoff. When any Squad Member enters the playing enclosure during the halftime intermission, a staff member from that team must be present on the field.

If kickers or other squad members come onto the playing enclosure before the field is available, their activities must be confined to the team area. All team personnel will be respectful of scheduled halftime activities, and all kicks must be into the practice kicking nets until the field is available.

When the field is available to players as determined by game management during the halftime intermission, the playing field will be divided into an “L-shaped” configuration with the 30 yard-lines forming the “L” (See Appendix D). *This NCAA rule will not apply to UIL games.*

(3) Extension of Periods (Rule 3-2-3-a)

A period shall be extended for an untimed down in the 2nd or 4th quarter only if a penalty is accepted for a live-ball foul, if there are offsetting fouls, or an official sounds their whistle inadvertently or otherwise incorrectly signals the ball dead during a down in which time expires. The 1st and 3rd quarter will not be extended and any penalty enforcement will be carried over to the following quarter. *This NCAA rule will apply to UIL games as written.*

(4) Stopping and Starting the Clock – First Downs (Rule 3-3-2-e-1)

When Team A (offense) gains a first down, the clock will no longer be stopped to award a first down except with less than two minutes remaining in the 2nd and 4th quarters. *This NCAA rule will not apply to UIL games. In UIL games, the clock will continue to be stopped when a first down is awarded to Team A, and will be started on the ready if the only reason the clock was stopped was to award the first down – no change from the 2022 rule.*

(5) Consecutive Charged Team Timeouts (Rule 3-3-4-a)

Consecutive charged team timeouts will no longer be allowed by the same team in any individual dead ball period. Each team is entitled to three charged team timeouts during each half, with no more than one charged team timeout available per team, per individual dead ball period. *This NCAA rule will apply to UIL games as written.*

(6) Instant Replay without an Instant Replay Booth Official (New Rule 12-2-1-c)

The optional use of instant replay in games that do not have an instant replay booth official is now permissible and must be in full compliance with Rule 12 with the following exceptions:

- The Referee will be the sole decision maker on any review and may include one additional crew member to consult on the review.
- The equipment used in the review must be located outside the limit lines on the sideline or end zone and must be completely outside the team area. The referee and additional crew member must be provided a separate, secure location away from fans and sideline personnel, with a tent or similar type shelter structure.
- The Referee will stop the game to review all Targeting Fouls that are called on the field. The only other method to stop a game for a replay review is through a head coach challenge as specified in Rule 12-5-1-b. When the head coach requests a timeout for replay review, the replay challenge flag must be dropped onto the field of play.
- Other than for a Targeting review, the crew on the field may not initiate an instant replay review.
- The head coach may initiate a Targeting review if the team has a timeout available and a coach's challenge remaining. *This NCAA rule will not apply to UIL games (NCAA Rule 12 is not applicable to UIL games).*

NEW RULE CONCERNING FIELD GOALS AND TRIES (Applies to UIL games ONLY)

(7) UIL EXCEPTION 48: Personal Fouls on Field Goals and Try Attempts

If Team A is in a formation to attempt a place kick (field goal or try) it is illegal for a defensive player to immediately run forward at or just after the snap and initiate contact (indicated by forward movement of the defensive player) with an offensive player within 1 second after the snap. It is not a foul if the defensive player is in a three or four point stance, and is aligned in a stationary position within one yard of his line of scrimmage when the ball was snapped. Incidental or slight contact should be ignored.

PENALTY – 15 yards and automatic first down. [S38]