

# 2009 NCAA Changes & Modifications to the MIAA Sport Rules

Enclosed is a re-write of Rule 69 Sections 1 & 3 of the MIAA Handbook – Football Rules. These re-written sections include any exceptions voted by the football committee for the 2009 rules changes to the NCAA rules, the incorporation of NCAA rule references for the officials, and deletions voted on by the football committee at their May 11, 2009, meeting. The new text for sections 1 and 3 have been included in its entirety.

The rationale behind NCAA rule references inserted into rule 69 is that officials use their rule book to learn the rules and with the rule references in the MIAA Handbook the officials can determine exactly what rules are affected by differences between the NCAA and MIAA football rules.

Noted deletions: (The sections referred to are from the current MIAA Handbook (07-09), as a result of these changes and other additions, the sections in this memorandum have been re-numbered as necessary.)

Section 69.1.2 – Because of rule changes over the years, this section is unnecessary.

Section 69.1.12 – Because of rule changes over the years, this section is unnecessary.

Section 69.1.13 – The football committee reconsidered its vote from 2008 and voted to adopt the 2008 Rule change to NCAA Section 9-1-6 regarding sideline infractions, therefore there is no need for this exception.

Section 69.3.2 – The committee voted to eliminate the One overtime period option for a tie-breaker. Leagues may elect to play a tie breaker, but if elected, it will be played until there is a winner.

## Noted Additions:

The committee voted:

- Teams are not required to have socks that are identical and the same length
- Teams may play with leather or composite leather footballs that meet NFHS specifications
- Players wearing gloves are not required to wear gray gloves.
- Leagues may not impose additional sanctions for players who commit flagrant personal fouls. The committee felt the MIAA has penalties in place for these fouls and that governance would be difficult.
- Because of changes in timing rules for NCAA games that were not adopted by the MIAA, the committee voted to insert the timing rule sections from the 2007 NCAA rules into rule 69 so that officials and coaches would have guidance as to the timing rules used under MIAA football games.

## 2009 NCAA Football Rule Changes

### **The MIAA Football Committee voted to adopt the following changes:**

1. 1-4-3-a Jersey Colors (If agreed upon by both teams, allow teams to both wear colored jerseys if they are clearly contrasting in color)
2. 3-2-3 Extension of Periods (The period is not extended if the penalty that occurs as time expires in the period calls for a loss of down)
3. 3-3-3 Suspension of Play (Allows an additional status of a suspended game. "No Contest")
4. 7-1-3-b-1 & 1-1-1-b-2 Offensive Team Formation (The offensive formation is required to have at most 4 players in the backfield)
5. 7-3-10 Ineligible Receiver Downfield (No originally ineligible player may be or have been more than 3 yards down field during a forward pass play, until the pass is thrown, unless the pass does not cross the neutral zone.)
6. 8-2 Definition of Touchdown (A touchdown is scored if a player catches a forward pass in the opponent's end zone)
7. 9-1-2-q Face Mask foul (Chin strap added as a safety measure.)
8. 9-1-4 Roughing the Kicker (Protection ends for a kicker if the kicker carries the ball outside the tackle box prior to kicking)

### **The MIAA Football Committee voted not to adopt the following changes:**

1. Rule 9-6 Flagrant Personal Fouls (Additional sanctions for flagrant personal fouls.)
2. 3-2-4-c, 3-3-5-f Injury Timeout (Play clock set to 40 seconds for a Team B injury.)

## **Modifications to MIAA Handbook Rule 69: Football Sport Rules sections 1 & 3**

- 69.1 Massachusetts high school football shall be played under NCAA Football Rules, with the following modifications:
- 69.1.1 Goal Post uprights shall be a maximum of 23 feet, 4 inches inside to inside.  
NCAA Rules: Section 1-2-5-b -- Replace "18 feet, 6 inches" with "a maximum of 23 feet, 4 inches"
- 69.1.2 Teams may play with leather or composite leather footballs meeting NFHS specifications.  
NCAA Rules: Section 1-3-1-b -- Add "Composite leather balls meeting NFHS specifications are legal."
- 69.1.3 Players wearing gloves are not required to wear gray gloves.  
NCAA Rules: Delete Sections 1-4-3-d, 1-4-5-m
- 69.1.4 Football helmets of the same color are not required.  
NCAA Rules: Section 1-4-4-b -- Delete the sentence: "Players of a team shall wear helmets of the same color and design, and facemasks of the same color."
- 69.1.5 It is not required that football jerseys be long enough to reach the top of the pants and be tucked in.  
NCAA Rules: Section 1-4-4-e -- Delete the sentence: "The jersey must be full-length and tucked into the pants."
- 69.1.6 Teams are not required to have socks that are identical and the same length.  
NCAA Rules: Section 1-4-4-h -- Delete the phrase "that are identical in color, design and length"
- 69.1.7 Use of kicking tee will be permitted for extra point and field goal attempts.  
NCAA Rules: Section 2-15-4-a -- Replace "on the ground" with "on a tee or on the ground"; Section 6-3-10-d and Penalty -- Delete this section & penalty.
- 69.1.8 A tee may elevate the ball no more than two inches above the ground.  
NCAA Rules: Section 2-15-4-c -- Replace "one inch" with "two inches"

69.1.9 The play clock will always be 25 seconds.

NCAA Rules: Delete Section 2-2-4-a

Delete Section 2-29-2 and replace with NCAA 2007 Section 2-29-2:

"The 25-second clock is any device under the direction of the appropriate official used to time the 25 seconds between the ready-for-play signal and the ball being put in play. The type of device is determined by the game management. Fields are not required to be equipped with visual 25 second clocks."

Delete Sections 3-2-4-b, c & d and replace them with NCAA Rules 2007 Sections 3-2-4-b & c:

"b. The 25 seconds between the ready-for-play signal and the ball being put in play shall be timed with a watch operated by the appropriate official or with 25-second clocks at each end of the playing enclosure operated by an assistant under the direction of the appropriate official. Visual 25-second clocks are optional.

c. If a visual 25-second timing device becomes inoperative, both coaches shall be notified by the referee immediately and both clocks shall be turned off."

Section 3-3-5-f – Change "40" to "25"

Section 3-4-2-a – Delete the phrase "40 seconds or".

Throughout the rules any reference to the 40/25-second play clock shall be referred as only the 25-second play clock.

69.1.10 Clock stops when a ball carrier, fumble or backward pass is ruled out of bounds. The game clock will next start on the snap, except for a forward fumble out of bounds by team A.

NCAA Rules: Section 3-3-2-d-2 – Delete the phrase "With fewer than two minutes remaining in a half"

Delete Section 3-3-2-e-3.

69.1.11 Each team is entitled to five time-outs per half, three of which are a full 90 seconds and two of which will be 30 seconds. Teams may not go to the sideline during a 30 second time-out.

NCAA Rules: Section 3-3-4-a -- Replace with: "Each team is entitled to five charged team timeouts during each half. Three of the team timeouts are a full 90 seconds and two of the team timeouts are 30 seconds. Teams may not go to the sideline during a 30-second timeout."

69.1.12 The 40 yard line shall be the initial kick-off point.

NCAA Rules: Section 6-1-1 -- Replace "30-yard line" with "40-yard line"

69.1.13 Conferences/Leagues are not mandated to review flagrant personal fouls.

NCAA Rules: Delete Section 9-6.

69.1.14 There will be no instant replay in MIAA contests.

NCAA Rules: Rule 12 – Instant Replay will not apply to MIAA contests.

## Overtime rules:

69.3 Tie-Breaker Option (Kindly Note: during the regular season leagues and schools also may opt to play no overtime).

69.3.1 To eliminate confusion and misunderstanding, coaches must give a written notice to the referee prior to the kick-off stating whether or not a tie-breaker will be used if the game ends in a tie. It also is important that the news media and the public address announcer be notified before kick-off if a tie-breaker rule is to be used.

69.3.2 The NCAA Football Tie-Breaker Rule, Multiple overtime periods. As modified by the MIAA, conferences or schools may optionally adopt this tie-breaker rule for high school varsity teams. This option will ensure that the game will not end in a tie.

- 69.3.2.1 During MIAA tournament play additional overtime periods will be used if teams are tied at the end of regulation or succeeding overtime periods.
- 69.3.2.2 Each series shall begin at the ten-yard line unless a penalty overrides. First down chains will not be used. It is always goal-to-go. If penalty enforcement calls for an automatic first down, it will be first and goal.
- 69.3.2.3 For the first and subsequent tie breaking periods, any team that scores a touchdown must attempt a two point conversion by run or pass from scrimmage.
- 69.3.2.4 If there is a change of team possession during the last play of an overtime period (second series), live ball fouls by opponents of the team last gaining possession, that occur after the change of possession, gives the team in possession the option of putting the ball in play, where the penalty leaves the ball, for one down free of penalty or penalize as a dead ball foul at the succeeding spot in the subsequent overtime period. This option is exercised only if the team last gaining possession is free of foul during the down.

Example: Second Series - Team B intercepts Team A's pass and, during Team B's run back, Team A commits a personal foul.

Ruling: Team B has the option of extending the overtime period for one down free of penalty, with Team B putting the ball in play where the penalty leaves the ball, provided Team B has not fouled during the down. Or Team B may choose to penalize as a dead ball foul at the succeeding spot in the subsequent overtime period.

NCAA Rules: This is the NCAA tiebreaker with the following modifications:

Section 3-1-3-d – Replace “25” with “10” in each instance in the section.

Section 3-1-3-e – Replace the phrase “or fails to make a first down.” with “or fails to score.”

Note: chains are not used, it is always goal to go.

Section 3-1-3-f – Replace the phrase “Beginning with the third extra period,” with “Beginning with the first extra period,”

Section 3-1-3-g-1 Exception – Add to the Exception section “If there is a change of team possession during the last play of an overtime period (second series), live

ball fouls by opponents of the team last gaining possession, that occur after the change of possession, gives the team in possession the option of putting the ball in play, where the penalty leaves the ball, for one down free of penalty or penalize as a dead ball foul at the succeeding spot in the subsequent overtime period. This option is exercised only if the team last gaining possession is free of foul during the down.

Example: Second Series - Team B intercepts Team A's pass and, during Team B's run back, Team A commits a personal foul. RULING: Team B has the option of extending the overtime period for one down free of penalty, with Team B putting the ball in play where the penalty leaves the ball, provided Team B has not fouled during the down. Or Team B may choose to penalize as a dead ball foul at the succeeding spot in the subsequent overtime period."