



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

TARGETING AND CROWN-OF-HELMET OFFICIATING GUIDELINES

RULES

Targeting/Initiating Contact With the Crown of the Helmet (Rule 9-1-3)

No player shall target and initiate contact against an opponent with the crown (top) of his helmet. When in question, it is a foul. (Rule 9-6.)

Defenseless Player: Contact to Head or Neck Area (Rule 9-1-4)

No player shall target and initiate contact to the head or neck area of a defenseless opponent with the helmet, forearm, elbow or shoulder. When in question, it is a foul (Rules 2-27-14 and 9-6).

KEY ELEMENTS

Targeting—taking aim at an opponent with an apparent intent that goes beyond making a good football play.

Crown of the Helmet—the top portion of the helmet.

Contact to the head or neck area—even if not with the helmet, it still could be a foul.

Defenseless player—a player not in position to defend himself.

Examples (Rule 2-27-14):

- Pass receiver or kick receiver concentrating on the ball before or just as it arrives.
- Pass receiver or kick receiver who has just caught the ball and has not had time to do something common to the game.
- Quarterback in the act of passing.
- Any player who is blind-sided.
- A player obviously out of the play.

KEY INDICATORS

Risk of a foul is high with one or more of these:

- **Launch**—a player leaves his feet to contact an opponent by an upward and forward thrust of the body, making contact in the head/neck area

- Leading with forearm, fist, hand or elbow to the head/neck area
- Lowering the head before initiating contact to the head/neck area of a defenseless player

These indicate less risk of a foul:

- Heads-up tackle
- Wrap-up tackle

HINTS FOR PLAYERS

- Don't lead with your head
- Don't go for the head/neck area