



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

### 2021 NCAA FOOTBALL PLAY INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN NO. 1

#### Equipment: Additional Details – Appendix E – A-11

**Play #1:** A player writes or paints advertisements / messaging / inscriptions on their shoes and plans to wear them during the game.

**RULING:** Not allowed by rule. Rule 1-4-5-a-2 identifies what items the jersey may contain. Appendix E, A-11 allows for uniforms and all other items of apparel to bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark not to exceed 2.25 square inches in area. To allow the student athlete's voice to be heard, the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) has expanded the size of the insignia patch to 16 square inches to allow players to celebrate or memorialize persons, events or social justice causes (Rule 1-4-6-d). Additionally, the student athlete as authorized by the institution or conference, is allowed other names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back of the jersey/uniform where the player's name is traditionally located. The names/words may vary by team member.

**Play #2:** A player enters the field during pre-game warmups after the officials' jurisdiction begins wearing a tee shirt with (a) an advertisement with the shirt including a number that is readily visible; (b) a social justice message with the shirt including a number that is readily visible; (c) no number readily visible.

**Ruling:** The tee shirt in (a) is not allowed by rule as advertisements are not allowed on the uniform or any items of apparel (Exception – Post-season game as outlined in Rule 1-4-5); (b) legal; (c) not allowed as per Rule 3-1-1-c. There is no yardage penalty for (a) and (c) but the player must leave the playing enclosure. Officials are encouraged to seek out the Head Coach, Equipment Manager or Game Management to take the appropriate action.

### **Clock Status on Free Kicks**

**Play #3:** Free Kick @ A-35. Team A executes an on-side kick. After the ball has traveled 10 yards, (a) B21 gives a valid fair catch signal and makes a clean catch; (b) A80 is first to touch the ball and makes a clean legal catch or recovery; (c) B21 catches or recovers the ball and immediately goes to the ground; (d) B21 makes a clean recovery with their knees on the ground.

**RULING:** The ball is declared dead and, (a) No time will run off the clock; (b) No time will run off the clock; (c) the clock operator shall start the clock when the ball is legally touched and will stop the clock when the ball is declared dead (Rule 3-3-2-a); (d) No time will run off the clock.

### **Illegal Forward Pass**

**Play #4:** Try @ B-3. QB A12 lines up in shotgun formation with a no back set. All receivers release downfield, and as A12 stands in the pocket, left tackle A77 retreats back out into the flat to potentially receive a backward pass. A12 throws a pass to A77 who is all alone on the left side of the formation and A77 catches the ball and runs into the endzone. It is determined by the Line Judge that the pass was forward.

**RULING:** Foul for an Illegal Forward Pass. The penalty includes loss of down so the try is over. A77 is guilty of Illegal Touching and whether or not A12 threw the ball to conserve loss of yardage it is within the spirit of the rule that this is an illegal forward pass. The illegal touching does not carry a loss of down and if that were the only foul then Team A could repeat the try. This play does not meet the intent for a legal forward pass and therefore Team A should not be afforded the opportunity to repeat the try.

*Steve Shaw  
CFO National Coordinator of Football Officials  
Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Football Rules Committee  
August 2021*