

**2021 UIL Exceptions to NCAA Football Rules
2021-22 School Year**

The numbering of the exceptions has been altered as necessary to maintain sequential numbering consistent with the NCAA Football Rule Book. Other changed or altered items are identified by a shaded background.

1. In all instances where “NCAA Sanctions” appears, UIL rules will govern. **The UIL Exceptions to NCAA Football Rules apply to respective and applicable NCAA Approved Rulings and Interpretations.**
2. 1-1-1-a. The game shall be played between two teams of not more than 11 players each, on a rectangular field and with an inflated ball having the shape of a prolate spheroid.

EXCEPTION: 1-1-1-a. Change to read: “The game shall be played between two teams of not more than 11 players each in UIL Eleven Man Games – not more than six players each in UIL Six Man Games – on a rectangular field and with an inflated ball having the shape of a prolate spheroid. (Note – additional UIL EXCEPTIONS to NCAA Football Rules are addressed in the UIL (Texas) Six Man Football Rules Exceptions found in the UIL Football Handbook).

3. 1-1-7-a, b, c
 - a. NCAA member institutions and affiliated officiating organizations shall conduct all contests under the official football-playing rules of the Association.
 - b. NCAA-affiliated officiating organizations shall use the current Football Officials Manual published under the jurisdiction of the College Football Officiating, LLC (CFO).
 - c. NCAA member institutions and affiliated officiating organizations not complying with NCAA football-playing rules are subject to sanctions (See appropriate divisional NCAA Manual).

EXCEPTION: 1-1-7-a, b, c. Does not apply to UIL games.

4. 1-2-1-b. Twenty-four-inch short yard-line extensions, four inches inside the sidelines and at the inbounds lines, are mandatory; and all yard lines shall be four inches from the sidelines (Rule 2-12-6).

EXCEPTION: 1-2-1-b. Change “mandatory” to “recommended.”

5. 1-2-1-c. A solid white area between the sideline and the coaching line is mandatory.

EXCEPTION: 1-2-1-c. Change “mandatory” to “recommended.”

6. 1-2-3-a. Limit lines shall be marked with 12-inch lines and at 24-inch intervals 12 feet outside the sidelines and the end lines, except in stadiums where total field surface does not permit. In these stadiums, the limit lines shall not be less than six feet from the sidelines and end lines. Limit lines shall be 4 inches in width and may be yellow. Limit lines designating team areas shall be solid lines.

EXCEPTION: 1-2-3-a. Change the first sentence to read: “It is recommended that limit lines be marked with 12 inch lines at 24 inch intervals 12 feet outside the side lines and the end lines, except in stadiums where total field surface does not permit.”

7. 1-2-4-b. The team area shall be limited to squad members in full uniform (see Appendix D) and a maximum of 60 other individuals directly involved in the game. All persons in the team area are subject to the rules and are governed by decisions of the officials (Rule 1-1-6). The 60 individuals not in full uniform shall wear special team area credentials numbered 1 through 60. No other credential is valid for the team area.

EXCEPTION: 1-2-4-b. Limit of 60 individuals not in full uniform is waived for UIL games.

8. 1-2-5-a. Each goal shall consist of two white or yellow uprights extending at least 30 feet above the ground with a connecting white or yellow horizontal crossbar, the top of which is 10 feet above the ground. The inside of the uprights and crossbar shall be in the same vertical plane as the inside edge of the end line. Each goal is out of bounds (see Appendix D).

EXCEPTION: 1-2-5-a. Add: “In UIL games 30 foot uprights are recommended, 20 foot uprights are mandatory.”

9. 1-2-5-b. Above the crossbar, the uprights shall be white or yellow and 18 feet, six inches apart inside to inside.

EXCEPTION: 1-2-5-b. Change to read: “Above the crossbar the uprights shall be white or yellow and 23 feet 4 inches apart inside to inside. (EXCEPTION: When UIL schools are playing on collegiate fields with 18 feet 6 inches goal posts, and 23 feet 4 inches goal posts are not available, the collegiate goal posts may be used by mutual agreement of the competing schools.)”

10. 1-2-6. Soft, flexible four-sided pylons 4 inches by 4 inches with an overall height of 18 inches, which may include a 2-inch space between the bottom of the pylon and the ground, are required. They shall be red or orange in color. One manufacturer’s logo or trademark is permitted on each pylon. Institutional logos, conference logos and the name/commercial logo of the sponsor of postseason games are also allowed. Any such marking may not extend more than 3 inches on any side. They are placed at the inside corners of the eight intersections of the sidelines with the goal lines and end lines. The pylons marking the intersections of the end lines and hash marks extended shall be placed three feet off the end lines.

EXCEPTION: 1-2-6 Add: “The use of 12 pylons is recommended, but 8 pylons, placed at the inside corners of the four intersections of the sidelines with the goal lines and end lines of each end zone is mandatory.”

11. 1-3-1-j & k

j. Professional football league logos are prohibited.

k. Advertising is prohibited on the ball [*Exceptions:* (1) Ball manufacturer’s name or logo, (2) institutional logo, (3) conference logo, and (4) AFCA logo].

EXCEPTION: 1-3-1-j & k Do not apply to UIL games.

12. 1-3-2-a. The game officials shall test and be sole judge of not more than ten balls offered for play by each team before and during the game. The game officials may approve additional balls if warranted by conditions.

EXCEPTION: 1-3-2-a. Add to the end of the first sentence: NOTE: It is mandatory that at least one ball be offered for play. It is recommended that each team offer at least two balls for play.

13. 1-3-2-g. When the ball becomes dead in a side zone, is unfit for play, is subject to measurement in a side zone or is inaccessible, a replacement ball shall be obtained from a ball person (A.R. 1-3-2-I).

EXCEPTION: 1-3-2-g. Add: “(if balls are available and ball persons are being used).”

14. 1-4-2-d. When a player enters the game after changing his jersey number, he must report to the referee. The officiating crew informs the opposing head coach and the referee announces the change. A player who enters the game after changing his number and does not report commits a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. [S27]. (A.R. 1-4-2-I)

EXCEPTION: 1-4-2-d. Add: “(Note: For UIL games, the announcement of the change is dependent upon whether a Referee microphone is being utilized.)”

15. 1-4-4-h. Players of a team must wear socks or leg coverings that are identical in color and design (*Exceptions:* Unaltered knee braces, tape or a bandage to protect or prevent an injury, and barefoot kickers).

EXCEPTION: 1-4-4-h. Add: “(EXCEPTION: Any player may wear white sweat socks in lieu of socks or leg coverings that are identical in color and design worn by teammates.)”

16. 1-4-5-a-2

a. *Design*

2. Other than the player’s number, the jersey may only contain:

Player’s name;

School name;

Mascot name;

NCAA logo;

Sleeve stripes;

Logo for school, conference, mascot, postseason-game, memorial, the military;

Graduate or Academic Recognition as part of an institutional or conference logo;

The letter “C” to identify a Team Captain;

American flag

State flag

Permissive for the 2019 season only: College Football 150th Anniversary Mark.

EXCEPTION: 1-4-5-a-2. Delete all of item 2 and replace with the following:

2. Other than the player’s number, the jersey may only contain:

Player’s name, or, words that reflect positive values, such as “Honor”, “Integrity”, “Courage”, etc., substituted for the player’s name on the back of the jersey (by local district approval)

School name

Mascot name

UIL Logo

Sleeve stripes

Logo for school, conference, mascot, postseason-game, memorial, the military

Team slogan/acronym (by local district approval)

The letter “C” to identify a Team Captain

American flag

State flag

17. 1-4-5-b

b. *Color*

1. Players of opposing teams shall wear jerseys of contrasting colors. Players on the same team shall wear jerseys of the same color and design.

2. The visiting team shall wear white jerseys; however, the home team may wear white jerseys if the teams have agreed in writing before the season.

3. If the home team wears colored jerseys, the visiting team may also wear colored jerseys, if and only if the following conditions have been satisfied

a. The home team has agreed in writing prior to the game; and

b. The conference of the home team certifies that the jersey of the visiting team is of a contrasting color.

4. If on the kickoff at the start of each half, the visiting team wears a colored jersey in violation of the conditions specified in paragraph 3, it is a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.

PENALTY: Administer as a dead-ball foul. 15 yards at the succeeding spot following the kickoff. If the kickoff is returned for a touchdown, the penalty is assessed either on the try or on the succeeding kickoff, at the option of the home team. [S27]. In addition, Officials shall charge a team timeout at the start of each quarter the illegal jerseys are worn, or a foul for delay of the game if all timeouts have been used.

EXCEPTION: Rewrite 1-4-5-b to read:

1-4-5-b

b. Color

1. Players of opposing teams shall wear jerseys of contrasting colors. Players on the same team shall wear jerseys of the same color and design.
2. It is suggested the visiting team wear white jerseys, however, light colored jerseys, instead of white, are acceptable if jersey colors of the teams are obviously contrasting colors with clearly visible numbers. The home team may wear white jerseys if the teams have agreed in writing before the season.
3. If the home team wears colored jerseys, the visiting team may also wear colored jerseys if the jerseys are of contrasting colors and are agreed upon by the home team head coach prior to the game's opening kickoff. A "light colored" jersey (in lieu of a white jersey as per paragraph 2) worn by the visiting team does not require home team coach agreement provided the jersey is of contrasting color to the home team's jerseys.
4. If on the kickoff at the start of each half, the visiting team wears a colored jersey (other than a contrasting light color) in violation specified in paragraph 3, it is a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.

PENALTY: Administer as a dead-ball foul. 15 yards at the succeeding spot following the kickoff. If the kickoff is returned for a touchdown, the penalty is assessed either on the try or on the succeeding kickoff, at the option of the home team. [S27]. In addition, Officials shall charge a team timeout at the start of each quarter the illegal jerseys are worn, or a foul for delay of the game if all timeouts have been used.

(Note – beginning with the 2024 season, the visiting team shall wear white jerseys unless colored jerseys are agreed upon by the home team head coach prior to the game's opening kickoff).

18. 1-4-5-c-1&2
c. Numerals

1. The jersey must have clearly visible, permanent Arabic numerals measuring at least 8 and 10 inches in height front and back, respectively, of a color which itself is clearly in distinct contrast with the color of the jersey, irrespective of any border around the number.
2. Teams wearing jerseys/numerals that do not conform to this rule will be asked to change into legal jerseys before the game and before the start of the second half. On the kickoff at the start of each half, if a team wears a jersey in violation of the conditions specified in paragraph 1, it is a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct.

PENALTY—Administer as a dead-ball foul. 15 yards at the succeeding spot following the kickoff. If the kickoff is returned for a touchdown, the penalty is assessed either on the try or on the succeeding kickoff, at the option of the home team. [S27] In addition, Officials shall charge a team timeout at the start of each quarter the illegal jerseys are worn, or a foul for delay of the game if all timeouts have been used. (A. R. 1-4-5-I)

EXCEPTION: 1-4-5-c-1. Add to 1-4-5-c-1: “The numerals on white or light-colored jerseys must be black or dark color; numerals on dark colored jerseys must be white or light color”.
(Note: Numerals must be “clearly visible” on the field and from press box level – i.e., coaches, media, etc., can clearly see the numerals from the press box, and the numerals are clearly visible on film.)

PENALTY – Add to penalty the following note: *(Note – although “clearly visible” is subject to interpretation, the requirement of “black or dark color” numerals on white or light-colored jerseys, and the requirement of “white or light color” numerals on dark colored jerseys, is expected to be adhered to at the varsity level, with the penalty for non-compliance to be strictly enforced as written)*

19. 1-4-6-a-1. *Towels and Hand Warmers.* 1. Solid white towels no smaller than 4” X 12” and no larger than 6” X 12” with no words, symbols, letters, or numbers. Towels may bear the team logo. They may also contain a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area. Towels that are not solid white are not permitted.

EXCEPTION: 1-4-6-a-1. Exception: For UIL games, towels may be of school color and may contain school name, school initials and/or mascot insignia. Towels may not contain numbers.

20. 1-4-6-c *Eye shields*. Eye shields must be clear, not tinted, and made from molded or rigid material. Eyeglasses and goggles also must be clear and not tinted. No medical exceptions are allowed.

EXCEPTION: 1-4-6-c. DELETE the last sentence that states: “No medical exceptions are allowed.”

ADD: “Exception: A player(s) is permitted to participate in UIL games wearing tinted eyeglasses or goggles, if the player has been issued a current season UIL Medical Exemption Form that allows for his/her participation wearing tinted eyeglasses or goggles. Prior to the start of each game in which the player will potentially participate wearing tinted eyeglasses or goggles, the Head Coach must present to the Referee of the game a copy of the properly completed UIL Medical Exemption Form that allows for the player’s participation with tinted eyeglasses or goggles. Once the game begins, no player may participate wearing tinted eyeglasses or goggles unless the coach has presented the UIL Medical Exemption Form to the Referee prior to the start of the game. (Note: *The exemption applies only to tinted eyeglasses or goggles – tinted eye shields are prohibited and medical exceptions are not allowed for tinted eye shields.*)”

21. 1-4-8-a. No player wearing illegal equipment or failing to wear mandatory equipment shall be permitted to play, (Exception: Rule 1-4-5-c).

EXCEPTION: 1-4-8-a. Add: “Exception: Players are allowed to wear Elastic Ankle Coverings/Spats in UIL games.”

22. 1-4-11-c. Media communication equipment, including cameras, sound devices, computers and microphones, is prohibited on or above the field, or in or above the team area (Rule 2-31-1). **Exceptions:**
1. Camera equipment attached to a goal support behind the uprights and crossbar.
 2. Camera(s) embedded in any pylon.
 3. A camera, with no audio component, may be attached to the cap of any official with prior approval of the conference and the participating institutions.

EXCEPTION: Change 1-4-11-c-3 to read:

“A camera, with no audio component, may be attached to the cap of any official with prior approval of the official, the UIL, and the participating institutions.”

23. 1-4-13. A microphone is mandatory for the referee to be used for all game announcements. It is strongly recommended that it be a lapel-type microphone. The microphone must be controlled by the referee. It may not be open at other times. Microphones on other officials are prohibited. *Exception: A protected wireless communication system open only to the officiating crew and conference officiating observer is allowed.*

EXCEPTION: 1-4-13. In the first sentence, change “mandatory” to “recommended”.

(Note: *This exception only removes the mandatory requirement to provide a referee’s microphone – the other provisions of the rule remain as written in the NCAA Rule Book. If a referee’s microphone is provided, the announcement of a player’s number who has committed a foul is considered to be part of “game announcements” and is not prohibited by NCAA rule or by UIL exception.*)

24. 2-16-4-a. A field goal place kick is a kick by a player of the team in possession while the ball is controlled on the ground by a teammate.

EXCEPTION: 2-16-4-a. Change to read: A field goal place kick is a kick by a player of the team in possession while the ball is controlled on the ground or a tee by a teammate. If a tee is used it shall not elevate the ball’s lowest point more than two inches above the ground.

25. 2-27-12
a. *Disqualified Player:*

1. A disqualified player is one who is declared ineligible for further participation in the game and is allowed to remain in the team area.
2. A player serving a first-half suspension due to his disqualification in the team's previous game may participate in pre-game warm-up activities. During the first half he may remain in the team area but may not participate in the first half of the game.

b. *Ejected Player:*

1. An ejected player is one who is declared ineligible for further participation in the game and is not allowed to remain in the team area. This player must leave the playing enclosure under the escort of team personnel before the next play after his ejection. He must remain out of view of the field of play under team supervision for the duration of the game.
2. A player serving a first-half suspension due to his ejection in the team's previous game may participate in pre-game warm-up activities. During the first half he must remain out of view of the field of play under team supervision.

EXCEPTION: 2-27-12. Delete Article 12 in its entirety and replace with the following: "A disqualified player, or an ejected player, is one who is declared ineligible for further participation in the game. A disqualified/ejected player is not required to leave the team area. Participation in any future game is governed by the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Subchapter C, Athletics SECTION 1208 (I) (5) (A): Player Ejection. Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game.'

(Exception: Disqualification/ejection as a result of a targeting foul does not automatically require the player to miss the first half of the following game.)

26. 2-29-1. The game clock is any device under the direction of the appropriate official used to time the 60 minutes of the game.

EXCEPTION: 2-29-1. Change '60' to '48'.

27. 2-29-2. Each stadium shall have a visual play clock at each end of the playing enclosure. The play clock must be capable of counting down from both 40 seconds and 25 seconds. It should automatically default to 40 seconds and start immediately upon being reset by the play-clock operator when any official signals that the ball is dead after a play.

EXCEPTION: 2-29-2.. At the beginning of the first sentence, add the following: "It is recommended that".....and delete the word 'shall'. (Note: Visual play clocks are not mandatory, but if visual play clocks are available and operated, they must be capable of counting down from both 40 seconds and 25 seconds).

28. 3-1-1
 - a. *Pregame Warmup.* Prior to regular season games, teams may have access to the field for pregame warm-ups until at least 22 minutes before the opening kickoff. This may be altered in advance through written mutual agreement of the teams. Game management personnel are responsible for administering this rule.
 - b. When any Squad Member enters the playing enclosure prior to the officials escorting the captains out for the coin toss, the head coach or an assistant coach from that team must be present on the field.
 - c. When Squad Members are present within the playing enclosure subsequent to the officials' jurisdiction, they must be wearing their jerseys or have their numerals readily visible. Any player without their numeral readily visible must leave the playing enclosure.
 - d. Each half shall start with a kickoff.
 - e. Three minutes before the scheduled starting time, the referee shall toss a coin at midfield in the presence of not more than four field captains from each team and another game official, first designating the field captain of the visiting team to call the coin toss. Before the second half, the referee will obtain the teams' second-half options.

f. During the coin toss, each team shall remain in the area between the nine-yard marks and its sideline or in the team area. The coin toss begins when the field captains leave the nine-yard marks and ends when the captains return to the nine-yard marks.

EXCEPTION: 3-1-1-a, b & c: Items “a, b, & c” do not apply to UIL games

EXCEPTION: 3-1-1-e: Replace item “e” with the following: “It is recommended that the coin toss be conducted at midfield three minutes before the scheduled starting time. The referee shall toss the coin in the presence of no more than four field captains of the opposing teams and another game official, first designating the visiting field captain to call the fall of the coin. Before the second half, the referee will obtain the teams’ second-half options.”

29. 3-1-3. The NCAA tiebreaker system will be used when a game is tied after four periods. NCAA football-playing rules apply, with the following exceptions:

EXCEPTION: 3-1-3 Change to read: “UIL varsity games and playoff games that end in a tie will be decided using the NCAA Tiebreaker Procedure”. “Exception – in district games in which the referee has been informed before the game that the game will be played using the UIL “positive points” tie breaking criteria, the scoring team may elect to play the try down after scoring a touchdown during an extra period. If the team on defense refuses to play the try down, the Referee may award the number of points the team could have scored had the defense played the try down without the snap of the ball being required.

30. 3-1-3-b.

b. The officials will escort the captains (Rule 3-1-1) to the center of the field for the coin toss. The referee shall toss a coin at midfield in the presence of not more than four field captains from each team and another game official, first designating the field captain of the visiting team to call the coin toss. The winner of the toss may not defer the choice and shall choose one of the following options:

1. Offense or defense, with the offense at the opponent’s 25-yard line to start the first possession series.
2. Which end of the field shall be used for both possession series of that overtime period. The officials will escort the captains (Rule 3-1-1) to the center of the field for the coin toss.

EXCEPTION: 3-1-3-b. Change the first paragraph to read: “In overtime the officials will escort the head coaches to the center of the field for the coin toss. The referee shall toss a coin at midfield in the presence of the head coach of each team and another game official, first designating the head coach of the visiting team to call the coin toss. The winner of the toss may not defer the choice and shall choose one of the following options:”

31. 3-2-1. The total playing time in a collegiate game shall be 60 minutes, divided into four periods of 15 minutes each, with one-minute intermissions between the first and second periods (first half) and between the third and fourth periods (second half) (*Exception:* A one-minute intermission between the first and second and the third and fourth periods may be extended for radio and television timeouts).

- a. No period shall end until the ball is dead and the referee declares the period ended [S14].
- b. The intermission between halves shall be 20 minutes, unless altered before the game by mutual agreement of the administrations of both schools. Immediately after the second period ends, the referee should begin the intermission by signaling to start the game clock [S2].

EXCEPTION: 3-2-1. Change to read as follows:

The total playing time in UIL Varsity games shall be 48 minutes, divided into four periods of 12 minutes each, with one-minute intermissions between the first and second periods (first half) and between the third and fourth periods (second half) (*Exception:* In games below the varsity level, periods may be shortened by mutual consent of the competing schools).

- a. No period shall end until the ball is dead and the referee declares the period ended [S14].
- b. The intermission between halves, which begins when the field is clear of all players and

coaches, shall be a maximum of 28 minutes for regular season games and 24 minutes for post-season games. The intermission between halves for post-season games may be 28 minutes if mutually agreed upon by both schools. [S2]

c. Halftime of State Championship games shall be 24 minutes. [S2]

32. 3-3-2-d-2. *Starts on the Snap.* For each of the following, the game clock is stopped on an official's signal. If the next play begins with a snap, the game clock will start on the snap:
2. With fewer than two minutes remaining in a half a Team A ball carrier, fumble or backward pass is ruled out of bounds. (*Exception:* After a Team A forward fumble, the clock starts on the referee's signal.)

EXCEPTION: 3-3-2-d-2. Replace 3-3-2-d-2 with:

A Team A ball carrier, fumble or backward pass is ruled out of bounds. (*Exception:* After a Team A forward fumble, the clock starts on the referee's signal.)

33. 3-3-2-e-3. *Starts on the Referee's Signal.* For each of the following reasons, the game clock is stopped on an official's signal. If the next play begins with a snap, the game clock will start on the referee's signal:
3. Other than with fewer than two minutes remaining in a half, a Team A ball carrier, fumble or backward pass is ruled out of bounds.

EXCEPTION: 3-3-2-e-3. Delete – does not apply to UIL games.

34. 3-3-3-c. If a game is suspended under Rules 3-3-3-a and b before the end of the fourth period and cannot be resumed, there are four possible options:

1. Resume the game at a later date;
2. Terminate the game with a determined final score;
3. Forfeit of the game; or
4. Declare a no contest.

The option that takes effect shall be determined by conference policy if both institutions are members of the same conference. In non-conference competition, the directors of athletics at the participating institutions or their designees, in consultation with the coaches, must agree on one of the four options. This agreement will include the final score if the game is terminated (Rule 8-1-2). In the event that the directors of athletics do not reach an agreement, the conference policy of the home team shall be used to determine the outcome.

DELETE the last paragraph in its entirety and replace with the following paragraph:

“The option that takes effect shall be determined by District Policy if both schools are members of the same district. In non-district competition, the directors of athletics at the participating schools or their designees, in consultation with the coaches, must agree on one of the four options. This agreement will include the final score if the game is terminated (Rule 8-1-2). In the event that the directors of athletics do not reach an agreement, UIL policy shall be used to determine the outcome if both schools are UIL member schools”.

35. 3-3-5-b. Feigning Injuries

Feigning an injury for any reason is unethical. An injured player must be given full protection under the rules, but feigning an injury is dishonest, unsportsmanlike, and contrary to the spirit of the rules. For questionable game action, an institution or conference has the option to consult the National Coordinator of Football Officials who would then facilitate a video review. After the review, the National Coordinator will communicate any findings with the Director of Athletics at the institution for further action.

EXCEPTION: 3-3-5-b: Replace 3-3-5-b with the following: “Feigning an injury for any reason is unethical. An injured player must be given full protection under the rules, but feigning an injury is dishonest, unsportsmanlike, and contrary to the spirit of the rules. For questionable game action, a school or head coach should consult with the UIL for possible video review.”

36. 3-3-7-b. Length of Timeouts

b. For live televised games only, a charged team timeout shall be 30 seconds plus the 25-second play clock

interval. However, the head coach may request that one of the allowed three timeouts in each half be a full timeout. This request should be communicated to the referee when the timeout request is made to the officials. The charged team timeout during an extra period may be a full timeout, at the request of the head coach.”

EXCEPTION: 3-3-7-b. Delete paragraph “b” in its entirety – does not apply to UIL games.

37. 6-1-1 For any free kick formation, the kicking team’s restraining line shall be the yard line through the most forward point from which the ball shall be kicked, and the receiving team’s restraining line shall be the yard line 10 yards beyond that point. Unless relocated by a penalty, the kicking team’s restraining line on a kickoff shall be its 35-yard line, and for a free kick after a safety, its 20-yard line.

EXCEPTION: 6-1-1 Change the last sentence to read: Unless relocated by a penalty, the kicking team’s restraining line on a kickoff shall be its 40-yard line, and for a free kick after a safety, its 20-yard line.

38. 8-3-2-a. The ball shall be put in play by the team that scored a six-point touchdown. If a touchdown is scored during a down in which time in the fourth period expires, the try shall not be attempted unless the point(s) would affect the outcome of the game. (*Exception:* If the scoring team is ahead by one or two points, they have the option to forego the try.).

EXCEPTION: 8-3-2-a. Varsity district games using "positive points" tie breaking criteria will use the following exception:

Coaches in the game should inform the referee before the game (pre-game conference) that the game will be played using the UIL "positive points" exception. Failure to notify the referee prior to the coin toss does not negate specific DEC rules relating to "positive points". If notification is given to the referee, the tie game will be played with the following exception to rule 8-3-2-a:

If a touchdown is scored during a down in which time in the fourth period expires, the scoring team may elect to play the try down. If the team on defense refuses to play the try down, the Referee may award the number of points the team could have scored had the defense played the try down without the snap of the ball being required.

39. 9-1-3 TARGETING AND INITIATING CONTACT WITH THE CROWN OF THE HELMET (PENALTY Statement)
and
9-1-4 TARGETING AND INITIATING CONTACT TO HEAD OR NECK AREA OF DEFENSELESS PLAYER (PENALTY Statement)

PENALTY [ARTICLE 3 and ARTICLE 4]—15 yards. For dead-ball fouls, 15 yards from the succeeding spot. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules. For fouls in the first half: Disqualification for the remainder of the game. For fouls in the second half: Disqualification for the remainder of the game and the first half of the next game. If the foul occurs in the second half of the last game of the season, players with remaining eligibility shall serve the suspension during the first game of the following season. If a student-athlete receives a third or any subsequent targeting foul within the same season, that player is disqualified for the remainder of that game and the player would receive an automatic one-game suspension in his team’s next scheduled game. The disqualification is subject to review by Instant Replay (Rule 12-3-5-f).

When the Instant Replay Official reverses the disqualification:

If the targeting foul is not in conjunction with another personal foul by the same player, the 15-yard penalty for targeting is not enforced. If the player commits another personal foul in conjunction with the targeting foul, the 15-yard penalty for that personal foul is enforced according to rule.

For games in which Instant Replay is not used:

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.

If a player is disqualified in the second half, the conference has the option to consult the national coordinator of football officials who would then facilitate a video review. Based on the review, if the national coordinator concludes that the player should not have been disqualified, the conference may vacate the suspension. If the national coordinator supports the disqualification, the suspension for the next game would remain.

EXCEPTION: 9-1-3 and 9-1-4 - PENALTY [ARTICLE 3 and ARTICLE 4]: For UIL games, delete the entire penalty statement for ARTICLE 3 and ARTICLE 4 and replace with the following penalty statement:

PENALTY—15 yards. For dead-ball fouls, 15 yards from the succeeding spot. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules. Flagrant offenders shall be disqualified. A subsequent targeting foul committed by the same player in the game requires the player to be disqualified. Disqualification is for remainder of the game only. The UIL or UIL District Committee, or the respective local school district, may apply additional disciplinary action.

If Instant Replay is used, a disqualification of a player due to a targeting foul will automatically be reviewed to determine if the foul met the criteria and/or definition of a targeting foul – replay will either confirm or reverse the foul for targeting based on the video evidence. When the Instant Replay Official reverses the disqualification, if the targeting foul is not in conjunction with another personal foul by the same player, there is no foul and therefore no penalty. If the player commits another personal foul in conjunction with the targeting foul, the 15-yard penalty for that personal foul is enforced according to rule.

(UIL NOTE: In accordance with Rule 9-1-3 & Rule 9-1-4, when in question as to whether there is a foul for targeting, a foul should be called. If the foul is flagrant (“contact so extreme or deliberate that it places an opponent in danger of catastrophic injury”) the player shall be disqualified. If the foul is the player’s first targeting foul of the game, AND the foul is deemed not to be flagrant, the foul does not require disqualification. A second targeting foul by the same player in the same game is automatically classified as flagrant and therefore requires the player to be disqualified.)

40. 9-1-6-a. *Team A prior to a change of team possession:*

Linemen with initial position completely inside the tackle box may legally block below the waist inside the tackle box until the ball leaves the tackle box. All other Team A players are allowed to block below the waist only if the force of the initial contact is directed from the front. “Directed from the front” is defined as within the clock-face region between “10 o’clock and 2 o’clock” forward of the area of concentration of the player being blocked.

Exceptions:

1. Team A players may not block below the waist when the block occurs five yards or more beyond the neutral zone.
2. Players outside the tackle box at the snap, or any time after the snap, or in motion at the snap may not block below the waist toward the original position of the ball at the snap.
3. Once the ball has left the tackle box a player may not block below the waist toward his own end line.

ADD UIL NOTE: “*(UIL NOTE: For a lineman’s initial position to be considered “completely inside the tackle box”, he must be positioned within five yards of the snapper, and be no more than the second lineman from the snapper).*”

41. 9-2-1-b-2. No ejected person shall be in view of the field of play (Rule 9-2-6).

EXCEPTION: 9-2-1-b-2. Does not apply to players, or squad members in uniform, in UIL games.

42. 9-2-2-e & f

e. No more than two Squad Members may be assigned or wear the same jersey number.

PENALTY—Unsportsmanlike Conduct charged against the Head Coach and the players must immediately correct the numbering and report the change [S27].

EXCEPTION: 9-2-2-e & PENALTY. Does not apply to UIL games. (Note – although more than two Squad Members may be assigned & wear the same jersey number, they may not wear the same number during the game if they play the same position [Rule 9-2-2-d], nor may they participate in the same down wearing identical numbers [Rule 1-4-2-b]

f. No player may play with cleats more than 1/2-inch in length (Rules 1-4-7-d).

PENALTY—Ejection for the remainder of the game and the team’s next game [S27 and S47]. Administer as a dead-ball foul; 15-yard penalty enforced at the succeeding spot. Automatic first down for fouls by Team B if not in conflict with other rules. Team timeout. VIOLATION—Rules 3-3-6 and 3-4-2-b [S23, S3 or S21]. If the ejection occurs during the last game of a season, players with eligibility remaining will serve the next-game ejection during the first game of the next season for which they are eligible.

EXCEPTION: 9-2-2-f-PENALTY. For UIL games, ejection is for remainder of game. Participation in any future game is governed by the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Subchapter C, Athletics SECTION 1208 (I) (5) (A): Player Ejection. Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game.”

43. 9-2-6-a, b, c, d, & e. EJECTED PLAYERS AND COACHES

a. Any coach, player or identified squad member in uniform who commits two unsportsmanlike conduct fouls in the same game shall be ejected.

b. A player ejected from the game (Rule 2-27-12) must leave the playing enclosure under team supervision within a reasonable amount of time after his ejection. He must remain out of view of the field of play under team supervision for the remainder of the game.

c. A player serving a first-half suspension due to his ejection in the team’s previous game may participate in pre-game warm-up activities. During the first half he must remain out of view of the field of play under team supervision.

d. A coach ejected from the game must leave the playing enclosure within a reasonable amount of time after the ejection and must remain out of view of the field of play for the remainder of the game.

e. A head coach ejected from the game may designate a new head coach.

EXCEPTION: 9-2-6-a. ADD sentence to read: “Exception: In UIL games in which there is only one sideline coach, two unsportsmanlike conduct fouls committed by the coach will not result in his/her ejection”.

EXCEPTION: 9-2-6-b & c. Replace b & c with the following:

b. Players or identified squad members in uniform, that are ejected/disqualified for committing two unsportsmanlike conduct fouls are not required to leave the playing enclosure.

c. Potential suspension in future game participation is governed by the UIL Constitution And Contest Rules, Subchapter C, Athletics SECTION 1208 (I) (5) (A): “Player Ejection. Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game.”

44. 9-5-1, 2, 3 ARTICLE 1.

a. Before the game, squad members in uniform or coaches shall not participate in a fight (Rule 2-32-1). During the first half, players shall not participate in a fight.

PENALTY—15 yards. For dead-ball fouls, 15 yards from the succeeding spot. Also, first down for Team B fouls if the first down is not in conflict with other rules. Ejection for the remainder of the game [S7, S27 or S38, and S47].

b. During the half-time intermission, squad members in uniform or coaches shall not participate in a fight. During the second half, players shall not participate in a fight.

PENALTY—15 yards. For dead-ball fouls, 15 yards from the succeeding spot. Also, first down for Team B fouls if the first down is not in conflict with other rules. Ejection for the remainder of the game and the first half of the next game [S7, S27 or S38, and S47]. For fights that occur in the last game of a season, squad members in uniform, coaches and players with eligibility remaining will serve fight-related suspensions during the first game of the next season for which they are eligible.

ARTICLE 2.

a. If the squad member, coach or player is ejected for fighting a second time during that season, he shall be ejected for that game and suspended for the remainder of the season.

b. If a second fighting suspension occurs in the final game of a season, he shall be suspended for the first game of the next season for which he is eligible. This suspension is considered to be his first fight of that season.

ARTICLE 3. The referee will notify (in writing) his assigning agency of all ejections for fighting. The assigning agency becomes responsible for implementation of the penalty.

EXCEPTION: 9-5-1, 2, 3 Replace Rule 9 Section 5 in the NCAA Football Rules and interpretations with the following:

Section 5. FIGHTING

ARTICLE 1

a. Before the game, or during half-time intermission, squad members in uniform and coaches shall not participate in a fight. (Rule 2-32-1).

b. During either half, squad members, coaches, or any person authorized to be in the team area, shall not leave their team area to participate in a fight. Persons leaving the team area during a fight, to participate in a fight, are to be penalized for fighting.

EXCEPTION: Coaches designated by their head coach prior to the game may enter and leave their team area to act as peacemakers. It is recommended that at least one coach remain in their team area to assist in preventing persons from leaving their team area to participate in a fight.

PENALTY -15 yards. For dead-ball fouls, 15 yards from the succeeding spot. Automatic first down for Team B fouls if not in conflict with other rules. Ejection/disqualification for the remainder of the game.

ARTICLE 2. Coaches who are ejected/disqualified for fighting may not be in the playing enclosure during the remainder of the game. (See 2-31-5 for the definition of the playing enclosure).

ARTICLE 3. It is strongly recommended that coaches who are designated as peacemakers contact only their players in their attempt to stop a fight.

Note - In UIL games in which there is only one sideline coach, fighting, or participation in a fight by the coach, will not result in his/her ejection. Players or squad members ejected/disqualified for fighting, or participation in a fight, are subject to the UIL Constitution And Contest Rules, Subchapter C, Athletics SECTION 1208 (I) (5) (A): "Player Ejection. Any player ejected from a contest is subject to an automatic penalty. The automatic penalty for such an ejection is as follows:

(A) Football. Ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game.

45. 9-6 FLAGRANT PERSONAL FOULS

PLAYER EJECTION ARTICLE 1: When a player is ejected from the game due to a flagrant personal foul (Rule 2-10-3), that team's conference shall automatically initiate a video review for possible additional sanctions before the next scheduled game.

FOUL NOT CALLED ARTICLE 2. If subsequent review of a game by a conference reveals plays involving flagrant personal fouls that game officials did not call, the conference may impose sanctions prior to the next scheduled game.

EXCEPTION: 9-6 Does not apply to UIL games.

46. 11-1-1 & 2

ARTICLE 1. The officials' jurisdiction begins 90 minutes before the scheduled kickoff and ends when the referee declares the score final [S14]. It is expected that a minimum of three officials will take the field at 90 minutes before kickoff. All officials will be on the field at 40 minutes prior to kickoff.

ARTICLE 2. At 90 minutes before kickoff the playing field will be divided into an "L-shaped" configuration with the 30 yard-lines forming the "L" (See Appendix D). No later than 40 minutes before kickoff, the configuration will change to the "Buffer Zone" configuration, and no player shall enter the 10-yard buffer zone between the 45 yard-lines (See Appendix D).

EXCEPTION: 11-1

ARTICLE 1 - Delete & replace with: "The officials' jurisdiction begins 60 minutes before the scheduled kickoff and ends when the referee declares the score final."

ARTICLE 2 – Delete in its entirety

47. 11-2-1-a & b

- a. The game shall be played under the supervision of four, five, six, seven or eight officials.
- b. Officiating crews, including the Instant Replay Official, will be assigned from the same officiating organization (effective August 1, 2020).

**EXCEPTION: 11-2-1-a. Number of required officials may be waived in UIL games
11-2-1-b. Does not apply to UIL games**

48. 11-2-2. Officiating responsibilities and mechanics are specified in the current edition of the Football Officials Manual, published annually under the jurisdiction of the Collegiate Commissioners Association. Officials are responsible for knowing and applying the material in the Manual.

EXCEPTION: 11-2-2. The Officials Mechanics approved by the TASO or UIL Football Board of Directors shall be used.

49. Rule 12 -Replay

EXCEPTION: Rule 12 – Replay. Instant replay may only be used in televised state championship games. The decision to use, or not to use, instant replay in a game will be determined by the UIL. If instant replay is used, it must be used in full compliance with the "2021 UIL Modified RULE 12 – Instant Replay" document.

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