



## Frequently Asked Questions on Uniforms and Contest Delays Football – 2020-21

**(This document includes specific NCAA Football Rules references where applicable.)**

### ***1. What words, logos and symbols are allowed on the jersey?***

Other than the uniform number, here are the only items allowed by rule on the jersey (Rule 1-4-5-a-2):

#### Words

- Player's name—within the nameplate on the back
- School name
- Mascot name

#### Logos

- NCAA
- Conference
- School
- Mascot
- Postseason game
- Memorial
- Military
- Captain's "C"
- Graduate or academic recognition

#### Flags

- American flag
- State flag

### ***2. What size restrictions are there for these?***

Any of these items on the jersey may not cover an area larger than 16 square inches (Rule 1-4-5-a-3).

### ***3. Are any words other than the player's name allowed in the nameplate on the back?***

With the recent Playing Rules Oversight Panel directive, the following now applies to the football rules: "As authorized by the institution or conference, other names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back of the jersey/uniform where the player name is traditionally located are allowed. The names/words may vary by team member."

Additionally, current football rules allow the U. S. military academies to substitute character concepts such as Honor, Integrity, Valor, etc. in the nameplate area.

### ***4. May the jersey contain any other words, slogans, messaging, etc.?***

No, the jersey is restricted to the items listed above. No other words are allowed on the jersey.

**5. *Are words allowed on wristbands and other attachments?***

By rule any player may have game information on the wrist or arm, which includes on a wristband (Rule 1-4-6-f). The rules do not specifically address other wristbands, arm sleeves, etc. with regard to words or messaging.

**6. *What about messaging for causes, organizations, etc.?***

In accordance with the PROP directive, a commemorative patch may be worn to celebrate/memorialize persons, events, causes, etc. on the uniform and/or helmet, not to exceed 2 ¼" in size. While not all team members are required to wear the patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch.

**7. *Are there rules that cover the eyeshade?***

Yes, the eyeshade that some players wear under the eyes to reduce sun reflection must be solid black: No words, numbers, symbols, etc., are allowed (Rule 1-4-6-e).

**8. *What is the rule regarding refusal to play?***

Each team shall have its players on the field for the opening play at the scheduled time for the beginning of each half. Penalty is 15 yards from the succeeding spot. (Rule 3-4-1) Additionally, when a team is not ready to play after an intermission or timeout (other than the start of the half), and the play clock expires, it is a 5-yard penalty from the succeeding spot. (Rule 3-4-2-b-3)

Finally, game officials have been instructed to discuss any decision to suspend or end the game with each team's game administrators and/or conference personnel.

**9. *Are there any playing rules that specify protocols for student-athletes and/or coaches during the national anthem?***

No. Participants should be allowed to express their opinions (e.g., kneeling during the national anthem) as long as the action does not delay or disrupt competition.

**10. *What are the possible options for ending the game when it becomes interrupted?***

If a game is suspended 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.

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