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# 2025 NCFA RULES & REGULATIONS INDEX

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## 2025 NCFA RULES & REGULATIONS

**NOTE: The National Club Football Association follows the [NCAA Football rules of play](#) with the following exceptions listed below.**

- 1.00.00 (Regular Season Play)
  - 1.01.0 Regular Season Play consists of **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games** featuring at least one NCFA member team competing against an NCFA approved opponent.
    - 1.01.1 NCFA approved opponents consist of: NCFA member collegiate Club football teams, NON-NCFA member collegiate Club football teams, NCAA/NAIA/NJCAA collegiate Varsity football teams, NCAA/NAIA/NJCAA collegiate JV football teams, Post-Graduate Collegiate Prep School football teams, and Semi-Professional football teams.
    - 1.01.2 No games against any High School football team will be counted as an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**.
  - 1.02.0 The NCFA regular season will run from September **15<sup>th</sup>** through November **16<sup>th</sup>** inclusively.
  - 1.03.0 NCFA member teams will be limited to a maximum of 8 Regular Season **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games** per season.
    - 1.03.1 Any NCFA Sanctioned Post Season Play is excluded from the 8 game limit.
    - 1.03.2 There is no limit on the number of **Off Season Football Games** that an NCFA member team can play.
    - 1.03.3 There is no limit on the number of **Exhibition Football Games** that an NCFA member team can play.
- 2.00.00 (Post Season Play)
  - 2.01.0 Conference Championship Games
    - 2.01.1 Single division Conferences:
      - 2.01.1.1 Conferences that have NOT been split into directional divisions (**NONE in 2025**) will conclude the regular season with a Conference Championship Game hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> place team in the conference against the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team.
      - 2.01.2 Dual division Conferences:
        - 2.01.2.1 Conferences that have been split into two geographical divisions (**Great Lakes & Mid-Atlantic**) will conclude the regular season with a Conference Championship Game between the winners of each division.
          - 2.01.2.1.1 The Conference Coordinator will have the discretion to choose between having one of the division winners host the Conference Championship Game or to host it at a neutral site.



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- 2.01.2.1.2 The Conference Coordinator must decide which Conference Championship Hosting option will be used and publicize that to all members of the Conference prior to the start of the season.
  - 2.02.0 Playoffs (**NONE in 2025**)
    - 2.02.1 The NCFA Playoffs will featuring the 3 Conference Champions (North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Great Lakes) plus a Wild Card (Highest ranking remaining team as per the NCFA Power Rankings).
      - 2.02.1.1 The 3 conference champions and Wild Card will be seeded 1-4 based on their rank in the NCFA Power Rankings released following the conclusion of the NCFA Conference Championship Games.
      - 2.02.1.2 The #1 Seed will play the #4 Seed and the #2 Seed will play the #3 Seed, unless this results in two teams from the same conference matching up in the playoffs. In this case #1 will play #3 and #2 will play #4 with the winners moving on to the NCFA National Championship Bowl Game.
      - 2.02.1.3 Both playoff games will be held two weeks prior to the NCFA National Championship Bowl Game.
  - 2.03.0 National Championship
    - 2.03.1 The **2025** NCFA National Championship Bowl Game will be held on Saturday December **6<sup>th</sup>**.
      - 2.03.1.1 The two teams competing in the NCFA National Championship Game will be the winners of the NCFA Playoff Games held two weeks prior.
  - 3.00.00 (Conference Play)
    - 3.01.0 Scheduling
      - 3.01.1 All NCFA conference play will be broken into 1 or 2-game series.
      - 3.01.2 Single division Conferences & Conference Divisions of 4+ teams:
        - 3.01.2.1 Conferences that have NOT been split into directional divisions and split conference divisions of 4 or more teams will play either a home or an away conference game (but not both) against each conference/division opponent during a single NCFA season.
        - 3.01.2.2 NCFA teams alternate their home and away conference game with each conference/division opponent from one NCFA season to the next.
          - 3.01.2.2.1 Example: If Team A played a game at Team B during the 2018 NCFA season, Team B will play a game at Team A during the 2019 NCFA season.
          - 3.01.2.2.2 An exception is if a visiting team forfeits an away conference game without traveling to the opponent, then the following season the team that failed to make the away trip will once again be scheduled away against that particular conference opponent.
            - 3.01.2.2.2.1 Once the forfeiting team has traveled to the opponent in which they had forfeited to, the conference schedule will return to its original rotation.



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- 3.01.2.2.2.2 Example: If in 2016 Team A is scheduled to play at Team B but forfeits the game and fails to make the trip to Team B, then in 2017, Team A will once again be scheduled to play at Team B. Should Team A actually travel to Team B for their conference game in 2017, then in 2018 the conference schedule would return to the original rotation with Team A once again being scheduled to play at Team B and Team B playing at Team A in 2019.
- 3.01.3 Conference Divisions of 3- teams:
- 3.01.3.1 Divisions of conferences that have been split into two geographically, and are comprised of 3 or fewer teams will play both a home game and an away conference game against each division opponent during a single NCFA season.
- 3.01.4 By default, all conference games are expected to be played on a Saturday.
- 3.01.4.1 Should the home team desire to play the conference game on any day other than Saturday, they must communicate that to the opponent in writing (email) no less than 3 weeks before the game is scheduled to take place.
- 3.01.4.2 Should the home team fail to provide their opponent with the required 3 weeks advance notice, then they are accountable to host the conference game on Saturday by default.
- 3.02.0 Weather
- 3.02.1 In the event that an NCFA conference game would be cancelled due to weather (Lightning, Tornado, Hurricane, etc.), the teams have until midnight Thursday of the week following the week that the game was originally scheduled to be played to mutually agree upon a make up date and submit it to their Conference Coordinator for approval.
- 3.02.2 Should the teams fail to mutually agree upon the make up date, the Conference Coordinator will officially set the make-up date at his/her discretion.
- 3.03.0 Non-Conference Games
- 3.03.1 All NCFA teams are welcome and encouraged to supplement their conference schedule with non-conference games against: NCFA member collegiate Club football teams, NON-NCFA member collegiate Club football teams, NCAA/NAIA/NJCAA collegiate Varsity football teams, NCAA/NAIA/NJCAA collegiate JV football teams, Post-Graduate Collegiate Prep School football teams, and Semi-Professional football teams.
- 3.03.2 Conference games ALWAYS take top priority over non-conference games, and it is possible non-conference games may need to be bumped from the schedule in order to make up conference games previously cancelled due to weather.
- 3.04.0 Conclusion of Conference Play
- 3.04.1 Conference play officially concludes at midnight on November 9th.



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- 3.04.2 No additional conference games may be played after the official conclusion of conference play, even if games that were cancelled due to weather have not yet been able to be made up.
- 3.04.3 Teams who do not qualify for the post season may continue to play Non-Conference games up until November 23<sup>rd</sup> or until they reach the 8 Regular Season **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games** per season limit.
- 4.00.00 (Determining Conference Standing)
- 4.01.0 Determining Conference Standing
- 4.01.1 The first criterion for determining conference standing is conference-winning percentage.
- 4.01.2 The first tiebreaker for determining conference standing is conference game head-to-head results.
- 4.01.3 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the head-to-head conference game point differential between tied opponents.
- 4.01.4 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is conference game results versus the next best conference team.
- 4.01.5 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the lower average of points allowed per conference game played excluding forfeits.
- 4.01.6 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the higher average margin of victory per conference game played excluding forfeits.
- 4.01.7 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the higher average of points scored per conference game played excluding forfeits.
- 4.01.8 The final tiebreaker for determining conference standing is a coin toss.
- 5.00.00 (Roster Size)
- 5.01.0 The official eligible NCFA roster must consist of a minimum of 15 players and is limited to no more than 50 players.
- 5.02.0 The 50 players listed on the roster are the **ONLY** players allowed to compete in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**.
- 5.02.1 Any team found playing a player (in an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**) not on the current official roster will be issued a forfeit for all games that the above-mentioned player has competed in.
- 5.02.2 Any team found playing any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** with ZERO players on their eligible roster will **AUTOMATICALLY** be forced to forfeit any victories achieved while having no eligible roster with no protest required by the offended team.
- 5.02.2.1 Additionally, the team is **AUTOMATICALLY** placed on probation.
- 5.02.2.2 Player statistics for both teams of a game forfeited due to a participating team having no eligible roster **DO NOT** count.
- 5.02.2.3 In the event that an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** is played with both NCFA member teams having ZERO players on their eligible roster, then the game is declared a double forfeit tie and the player statistics from



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- that game DO NOT count and both teams are AUTOMATICALLY placed on probation.
- 5.03.0 Each team is allowed to add players to their roster at any time up until and including November 1. Once the team's roster has grown to 50 players, no more players may be added.
- 5.03.1 At no time can a team remove players from their roster.
- 5.04.0 Players are not deemed eligible to participate in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** until their eligibility paperwork has been processed with the league. When the player appears on the team's roster, which is available on the Official NCFA Website ([www.NCFAfootball.org](http://www.NCFAfootball.org)), then that player is then eligible to compete in **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**.
- 6.00.00 (Eligibility)
- 6.01.0 Players are not deemed eligible to participate in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** until their eligibility paperwork has been processed with the league. When the player appears on the team's roster, which is available on the Official NCFA Website ([www.NCFAfootball.org](http://www.NCFAfootball.org)), then that player is then eligible to compete in **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**.
- 6.02.0 Any team found playing an ineligible player will be penalized by forfeiting all games that that ineligible player participated in while holding an ineligible status.
- 6.03.0 All players playing in an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** MUST be a student of the Institution, which that team represents. An example is that no student at the University of Texas may play for the Texas A&M Club Football team.
- 6.03.1 Students from a school's Satellite campus ARE eligible to participate on the main campus' club football team, given that the satellite campus does not have its own NCFA sanctioned football team.
- 6.03.2 If a student is participating in a Bridge Program AND is DUAL-ENROLLED (meaning they are officially recognized as an enrolled student by BOTH the bridge school and the school sponsoring the football club, then they are eligible to compete in the NCFA provided they meet the academic requirements.
- 6.04.0 A player who has previously played for or signed a contract to play for a football team in the NFL, CFL, XFL, USFL, Arena League, or any accredited professional football league in Europe, Canada, or South America is NOT eligible to play in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**.
- 6.05.0 Faculty members are NOT eligible to play in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** unless they are also students who meet all of the eligibility requirements to participate.
- 6.06.0 An undergraduate student playing in an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** MUST be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits with that team's College or University.
- 6.06.1 It does not matter whether or not the 6 credits being taken at the College or University are degree seeking or not.
- 6.06.2 The only exception is if a **Final Semester Undergraduate Student** requires less than 6 credits in order to graduate in which case he needs only be enrolled in sufficient credits to graduate at the conclusion of the fall semester/term.



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- 6.07.0 A graduate student playing in an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** MUST be currently enrolled as a graduate student with that team's College or University.
- 6.08.0 Student-athletes are limited to no more than 5 seasons of intercollegiate football competition whether it is at the Collegiate Club, Collegiate Varsity, or Collegiate JV level to be eligible to compete in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**.
- 6.08.1 Those who competed in any intercollegiate CLUB or VARSITY football competition during the 2020-2021 school year will not lose a year of eligibility effectively giving those players an extra year to participate in the NCFA and meet eligibility requirements.
- 6.09.0 Each student-athlete has an unlimited amount of time to complete his five seasons of participation in intercollegiate football.
- 6.10.0 For a player to participate in the NCFA using a fifth year of eligibility, that player must NOT have exhausted four years of eligibility at the NCAA Varsity Level.
- 6.10.1 Those who competed in their 4<sup>th</sup> year of intercollegiate VARSITY football competition (NCAA) in the 2020-2021 school year will NOT have that year counted and would remain eligible to compete in the NCFA.
- 6.11.0 If a player is injured and is unable to play any part of a season, he may file an appeal for a medical red shirt. If the appeal is granted, the player may be granted an additional season of competition. All appeals must be filed with the NCFA Commissioner and are granted at the Commissioner's discretion.
- 6.12.0 NCFA rules indicate that any competition, regardless of time, during an intercollegiate football game counts as a season of competition. It does not matter how long the player was involved in a particular game (for example, one snap of the ball or one penalty in which a penalty is called), the player is charged with one season of competition.
- 7.00.00 (Academic Eligibility)
- 7.01.0 At the time of any roster submission, a letter from the academic institution must be submitted to the NCFA listing that each player is enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits OR is enrolled as a graduate student at the school AND holds a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- 7.02.0 If a team is within their first 2 years of being established as a club, they may add up to 5 players to their roster who are only required to be enrolled in a minimum of 1 credit at the team's academic institution.
- 7.03.0 Within two weeks prior to the start of the Conference Championships games, the teams participating in the Conference Championship games are required to submit a second academic enrollment confirmation letter (not grades but only enrollment) to confirm all rostered players still meet the NCFA's academic enrollment requirements.
- 7.03.1 Any rostered players who are found to no longer meet the academic enrollment requirements of the NCFA will no longer be eligible to compete in the remainder of the season. The team will NOT receive any repercussions for games that the player in question has already competed in.



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7.03.2 Since the 2025 Conference Championship games are scheduled for Nov 22, 2025, the window for the second enrollment check to be completed is Nov 7 – Nov 21, 2025.

8.00.00 (Uniforms)

8.01.0 Players Uniform

8.01.1 The NCFA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding players uniforms excluding the following exceptions.

8.01.2 Home/Away Jerseys

8.01.2.1 For teams that are operating in their first season as an NCFA club football team, it is **NOT** required (However RECOMMENDED) that each team has **TWO** sets of uniform jerseys of contrasting colors.

8.01.2.2 It is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey worn by the home/host team if a contrasting uniform color is available.

8.01.2.2.1 In the event that the visiting team does not have a uniform jersey of a contrasting color to that worn by the home/host team, it is the responsibility of the visiting team to provide and wear pinnies over their jerseys of a contrasting color to the jerseys of the home/host team.

8.01.3 Offensive Linemen Jersey Numbers

8.01.3.1 While the NCAA requires that at least five offensive players on the scrimmage line shall be numbered 50 through 79, the NCFA allows for any player at any position to wear any number.

8.02.0 Uniform Sponsors

8.02.1 An exemption to the NCAA Uniform Rules allows NCFA Member Teams to advertise up to 3 sponsors on the front shoulder of their jersey and/or up to 3 sponsors on the back of their helmet provided the Sponsor AND the Advertisement Artwork are approved by the NCFA front office.

8.02.1.1 All players must have the sponsor patch or decal to maintain uniformity

8.02.1.2 All sponsor patches/decals must be in the same location on all the jerseys/helmets

8.02.1.3 The sponsor must not be in conflict with any national sponsor of the NCFA

8.02.1.4 Sponsor Patch may be no bigger than 3" x 4"

8.02.1.5 Requests for approval can be sent to [info@collclubsports.com](mailto:info@collclubsports.com) and must include advertisement artwork, a detailed description of the sponsors nature of business, as well as full email/phone/web contact information for the sponsor.

9.00.00 (Equipment)

9.01.0 The NCFA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding player's equipment excluding the following exceptions.



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9.01.1 Eye Shields

9.01.1.1 While the NCAA requires that eye shields worn by players must be clear, the NCFA allows players to wear eye shields that are tinted only if they have a documented medical eye condition requiring the use of a tinted eye shield.

9.01.2 Helmets (This rule will be made official only if the NCFA can secure a sponsor to provide the decals)

9.01.2.1 NCFA member teams are required to feature the NCFA Logo on their helmets during any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**.

9.01.2.2 NCFA will provide each member team with NCFA Logo Decals as part of their membership in the league.

9.01.2.3 All NCFA Helmet Logos must be applied to the same position on the helmet as the rest of the players on the team.

9.01.2.4 Any helmet not featuring the NCFA Logo will be deemed illegal and will be removed from play until it becomes compliant.

9.02.0 The NCFA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding field equipment excluding the following exceptions.

9.02.1 Goal Posts

9.02.1.1 While the NCAA requires that goal posts be 18' 6" apart, the NCFA allows the goal posts to be up to 23' 4" apart (High School Standard) provided both sets of goal posts are the same distance apart.

9.02.1.2 The NCFA RECOMMENDS that teams use goal post that are 18' 6" apart (NCAA Standard) whenever possible.

9.02.1.3 The NCFA has deemed it legal for teams to use temporary goal posts that are of a non-rigid nature (i.e., suspended from the ceiling or sewn into netting) if their facility does not feature traditional rigid goal posts.

9.02.1.3.1 In the event that non-rigid goal posts are being used, any kicked ball that first strikes either the non-rigid upright or cross bar is automatically deemed to be "NO GOOD".

9.02.2 Field Markings

9.02.2.1 While the NCAA stipulates that all field markings must be white excluding the goal lines which may be of a different contrasting color, the NCFA allows for field markings to be of any color provided that color contrasts the actual field itself and that all football markings are of the same color, excluding the goal lines which may still be of a different contrasting color.

9.02.2.2 While the NCAA has limits on the size and location that logos can be placed on a field, the NCFA has no limit to the size or location of logos that can appear on the field.

10.00.00 (Official League Football)

10.01.0 The official league footballs of the NCFA are the Wilson GST and Wilson Traditional leather collegiate football featuring the NCFA logo.



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10.01.1 The Official NCFA Footballs are the **REQUIRED** game ball of the NCFA, and it is **MANDATORY** that they be used by NCFA member teams during **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**.

11.00.00 (Clock Rules)

**11.01.0 The NCFA plays by the updated NCAA Clock Rules, including the two-minute timeout in the second and fourth quarters.**

11.01.1 Below are some simple points of differentiation between NCAA clock rules and High school clock rules to help keep teams informed.

- 11.01.1.1 Before 2 minutes left in the half, if a runner, fumble, or backward pass goes out of bounds, the game clock will be restarted on the Referee's signal. Under 2 minutes, these actions will have the game clock start on the snap.
- 11.01.1.2 If a forward fumble goes out of bounds, the game clock will always start on the Referee's signal.
- 11.01.1.3 If an incomplete legal forward pass occurs, the game clock will always go on the snap.
- 11.01.1.4 The clock will stop when a first down is gained and will be restarted on the Referee's signal, unless an action occurs that causes the clock to go on the snap under 2 minutes in the half.

11.02.0 Slaughter Rule:

- 11.02.1 If a team is up by 35 or more points at any point in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of a regular season NCFA Sanctioned Football Game whether it be conference or non-conference, the clock will switch to a running clock for the remainder of the game regardless if the score differential drops below 35 points.
  - 11.02.1.1 When the Slaughter Rule is in effect, the clock will only stop on scoring plays, timeouts, and injury timeouts.
- 11.02.2 This rule is not in effect during NCFA post-season play including Conference Championship Games, NCFA Playoff Games, and the NCFA National Championship Bowl Game.

12.00.00 (Game Film)

12.01.0 While it is not required that teams share game film (if they have it), it is **RECOMMENDED** that those that do have game film willingly share it with their NCFA opponents.

13.00.00 (Medical Personnel)

- 13.01.0 For all **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**, the home/host team is **REQUIRED** to provide a **MINIMUM** of 1 **CERTIFIED** Athletic Trainer at all times.
  - 13.01.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the home/host team provides additional medical personnel in the form of EMTs, additional Certified Athletic Trainers, and/or student ATCs in order to allow for simultaneous medical attention to both sidelines if need be.



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- 13.01.2 The visiting team is always welcome to travel with their own medical personnel if they choose.
- 13.02.0 The home/host team is required to provide some sort of communications equipment capable of summoning an on-call Ambulance Service in the event of an emergency (i.e., telephone, cell phone, or CB radio).
- 13.03.0 Prior to the start of any NCFA Sanctioned Football Game, the home/host team is required to provide the visiting team with a proof copy of the credentials of the certified Athletic Trainer provided for the game.
- 13.03.1 Should the home/host team fail to provide at least 1 CERTIFIED Athletic Trainer for any NCFA Sanctioned Football Game, the home/host team will automatically lose their \$500 Performance Bond (See 16.06.0).
- 14.00.00 (Officials)
- 14.01.0 During **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**, the home/host team is responsible for providing officials for each competition.
- 14.02.0 It is the responsibility of the home/host team to provide the officials with a copy of the Official NCFA Rules prior to the start of each game.
- 14.03.0 The officials **MUST** be of High School certification or higher.
- 14.03.1 An official is deemed unqualified to officiate an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** if he/she is currently registered as a student at one of the schools scheduled to compete in that game.
- 14.04.0 It is required that the home/host team schedule between four and seven officials to officiate each competition.
- 14.04.1 The game may be played provided that at least three approved officials are present.
- 14.04.2 Should one of the officials be found to be unqualified then the game is deemed to have been played using unqualified officials.
- 14.05.0 If three approved officials have not yet arrived within 45 minutes after the officially scheduled kickoff time, the game is forfeited to the visiting team.
- 15.00.00 (Ejections)
- 15.01.0 Players flagged for “Targeting” receive a 15-yard personal foul penalty but **DO NOT** receive an automatic ejection as per NCAA rules.
- 15.01.1 Should a player be flagged for “Targeting” a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the same game, the player will automatically be ejected as a result of committing a 2<sup>nd</sup> personal foul penalty specifically for “Targeting”.
- 15.02.0 In the event that a player or coach should be ejected from an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**, it is required that the team’s primary representative complete an NCFA Ejection Report and submit it via email to both the appropriate Conference Coordinator and NCFA Commissioner.
- 15.02.1 The team’s primary representative has 48 hours from the time of the ejection to complete and submit the Ejection Report.



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- 15.02.2 If a team fails to report an ejection within 48 hours of the ejection, the team is automatically placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
  - 15.02.3 Upon reviewing the Ejection Report, the NCFA may determine that a further suspension is necessary.
  - 15.02.4 Additional disciplinary action may be taken against the ejected player or coach at the College/University's discretion.
  - 15.02.5 The player or coach is not automatically required to sit out an additional game unless the ejection was the result of an incident involving fighting.
  - 15.03.0 In the event that a player or coach should be ejected from an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** for fighting, the ejected player or coach will be suspended indefinitely until the NCFA Commissioner can review the Ejection Report and perform a full investigation into the altercation.
  - 16.00.00 (Forfeitures)
    - 16.01.0 Any team who forfeits even a single CONFERENCE game, will automatically be deemed ineligible to Win the Conference Title, compete in the Conference Title Game, or Compete in the National Championship Bowl Game.
    - 16.02.0 In the event that a visiting team should forfeit any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** to the home team; the visiting team is required to inform the home team via telephone of their intent not to play at least 6 days in advance of the predetermined start of the game.
    - 16.03.0 Should the visiting team not provide the home team with sufficient notice to cancel officials and/or field rentals for the game in question, the visiting team assumes financial responsibility for the payment of those officials and/or field rentals should any cancellation fees be incurred.
    - 16.04.0 In the event that a home team should forfeit any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** to the visiting team; the home team is required to inform the visiting team via telephone of their intent not to play at least 6 days in advance of the predetermined start of the game.
    - 16.05.0 Should the home team not provide the visiting team with sufficient notice to cancel their transportation and/or lodging arrangements for the game in question, the home team assumes financial responsibility for the payment of those transportation and/or lodging costs should any cancellation fees be incurred.
    - 16.06.0 Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 a \$500 performance bond will be added to the NCFA Annual Dues.
      - 16.06.1 If a team forfeits even a single UNPLAYED CONFERENCE game or fails to secure a CERTIFIED athletic trainer for a home game, the team's \$500 performance bond is seized and that money is used to supplement the conference budget of the conference that the team is affiliated with.
        - 16.06.1.1 This performance bond penalty does not apply to non-conference games or forfeited conference games that were PLAYED.
        - 16.06.1.2 Since the performance bond is \$500 a team can lose no more than \$500 through forfeits in a single season.
      - 16.06.2 At the end of the NCFA season, each team will have the option to have their performance bond returned to them or have it roll over to the next season.



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- 16.06.3 The team that was forfeited to will have the option should they choose to petition the NCFA to NOT seize the forfeiting team's performance bond.
- 17.00.00 (Protests)
- 17.01.0 No protest ever shall be permitted on judgment decisions by the official.
- 17.02.0 On Field Protests
- 17.02.1 On Field Protests consist of protests regarding Uniform Violations, Equipment Violations, Officiating decisions believed to be in violation of NCFA rules, Official qualifications, and In-Game Known Roster Violations.
- 17.02.2 Any On Field protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed.
- 17.02.2.1 If the game ends (legal contest) in a protest able situation, the offended team has until all officials have left the field to voice its protest intentions.
- 17.02.2.2 All On Field protests must be made to the Referee.
- 17.02.2.3 All On Field protests must be reported to the NCFA (via the NCFA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Tuesday following the "NCFA Week" in which the protested game occurred.
- 17.02.3 When a coach claims that an official's decision violates NCFA rules, the Referee must: (1) allow the coach the right to file a protest; (2) announce to each coach, to the official scorer and to the public-address announcer that the game is being played under protest, and (3) note and record the game situation at the time of the protest. No replay of any part of a game will be allowed even if the protest is proven to be legitimate, if the play in question did not directly affect the outcome of the game. If the protest is proven to be legitimate and could have had a bearing upon the game, then it is upheld and play resumes from the point of the protest.
- 17.02.4 When a coach questions the validity that an opposing player is actually the player on the roster who he claims to be, that coach may request that the Referee have the player in question produce a photo ID.
- 17.02.4.1 In the event that the player in question is unable to produce a photo ID, then the game may be played under protest by the opposition as an On Field Protest.
- 17.03.0 Off Field Protests
- 17.03.1 Off Field Protests consist of protests regarding Failure to secure a playing field, Failure to schedule sufficient qualified officials, and In-Game Unknown Roster Violations.
- 17.03.2 All Off Field protests must be reported to the NCFA (via the NCFA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Tuesday following the "NCFA Week" in which the protested game occurred.
- 18.00.00 (Team Probation/Expulsion)
- 18.01.0 A team can be placed on probation if they forfeit 2 or more NCFA scheduled conference games in a single season or if they conduct the football operations of their team in a manner not considered acceptable by NCFA standards.



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- 18.02.0 A team will be automatically placed on probation if they forfeit or cancel any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** in which they give their opponent less than 6 days advanced notice.
- 18.03.0 A team can be expelled from the league if they forfeit 2 or more NCFA scheduled conference games or if they conduct the football operations of their team in a manner not considered acceptable by NCFA standards during a probationary season.
- 18.04.0 Probations and Expulsions are not automatic and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the NCFA Commissioner.
- 18.05.0 The NCFA will publicize to all member teams if, when, and why a team is placed on probation.
- 18.06.0 A team placed on probation will NOT be eligible for the early payment discount off the annual dues.
- 18.07.0 A team on probation will be required to pay their annual dues in full and up front in order to renew their membership in the league.
- 18.08.0 Players and Coaches on a team that is currently on probation are **INELIGIBLE** for any Conference, Division, or National award recognition of either the weekly or seasonal variety. (I.e. All American, All Region, All Conference, MVP, Offensive/Defensive Player of the Week, etc.)
- 19.00.00 (Rankings/Stats/Awards)
- 19.01.0 Any team who has played an **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** and has not posted any player statistics to the NCFA website by the conclusion of week 5 of the season will have their players become automatically ineligible for All-American post-season awards.
- 19.02.0 Beginning in the 2021 NCFA Season, Academic All-American awards will be granted to ALL nominees who have achieved academic milestones regardless of position, stats, or any other measurable factors.
- 19.03.0 The members of the NCFA Top 10 Voting panel will have their weekly votes shared with the other members of the voting panel but their votes will NOT be shared publically outside the panel.
- 20.00.00 (Definitions)
- 20.01.0 Any football game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the National Club Football Association can be classified into one of three categories: “**Off Season Football Game**”, “**Exhibition Football Game**”, or “**NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**”.
- 20.02.0 “**Off Season Football Game**” is defined as any football game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the NCFA, which takes place between November 24<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup> inclusively and excludes any NCFA Sanctioned Post Season Play. “**Off Season Football Games**” are not sanctioned by the NCFA.
- 20.03.0 “**Exhibition Football Game**” is defined as a football game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the NCFA, which is played for the purpose of practice and training rather than for competition. An “**Exhibition Football Game**” may take place between September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>th</sup> inclusively. For a football game to be deemed “**Exhibition**”, it must be declared in writing by the participating teams holding



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membership in the NCFA to their respective Conference Coordinators no less than 48 hours before the scheduled start time. “**Exhibition Football Games**” are not sanctioned by the NCFA.

20.04.0 “**NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**” is defined as any and all football games featuring one or more teams holding membership in the NCFA, which is played for the purpose of competition, and takes place between September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> inclusively and includes any NCFA Sanctioned Post Season Play. Scores, Results, and Statistics from “**NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**” are recorded and tabulated.

21.00.00 “**Final Semester Undergraduate Student**” is defined as an undergraduate student who will be graduating at the end of the fall semester/term.