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## 2013 NCFA RULES & REGULATIONS INDEX

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Definitions



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## 2013 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 1<sup>st</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup> inclusively.
  - 1.03.0 NCFA member teams will be limited to a maximum of 10 Regular Season **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games** per season.
    - 1.03.1 Any NCFA Sanctioned Post Season Play is excluded from the 10 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 Conferences of 7 or fewer teams:
      - 2.01.1.1 If it is **agreed upon by a majority of the members** of a particular NCFA Conference, a conference championship game may be played at the conclusion of the conference season.
      - 2.01.1.2 This Conference Championship Game would be hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> place team in the conference against the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team.
      - 2.01.1.3 The following conferences will be crowning their conference champion via a Conference Championship Game: **Mid-Atlantic Conference, South Atlantic Conference.**
      - 2.01.1.4 The following conferences will be crowning the leader in their conference standings at the conclusion of regular season conference play as their conference champion: North Atlantic Conference.
    - 2.01.2 Conferences of 8 or more teams:
      - 2.01.2.1 Conferences of 8 or more teams will be broken up into two geographical divisions (East & West or North & South).



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- 2.01.2.2 Conferences of 8 or more teams will conclude the regular season with a Conference Championship Game between the winners of each division.
  - 2.01.2.2.1 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.
  - 2.01.2.2.2 The Conference Coordinator must decide which Conference Championship Hosting option will be used and publicized that to all members of the Conference prior to the start of the season.
- 2.02.0 Playoffs
  - 2.02.1 During the 2013 & 2014 NCFA Seasons, there will be no post season playoffs.
- 2.03.0 National Championship
  - 2.03.1 The 2013 NCFA National Championship Bowl Game will be held on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> in Salem, VA.
    - 2.03.1.1 The two teams competing in the 2013 NCFA National Championship Game will be determined by the results of the final NCFA Power Rankings released on Monday November 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - 2.03.1.2 The NCFA Power Rankings will give equal weight to the NCFA Coaches Poll, Conference Win %, Overall Win %, and Total Games Played.
- 3.00.00 (Conference Play)
  - 3.01.0 All NCFA conference play will be broken up into 1 game series.
    - 3.01.1 NCFA teams will play either a home game or an away game (but not both) against each conference/division opponent during a single NCFA season.
    - 3.01.2 NCFA teams alternate their home and away game with each conference/division opponent from one NCFA season to the next.
    - 3.01.3 Example: If Vermont played a game at Maine during the 2009 NCFA season, Maine will play a game at Vermont during the 2010 NCFA season.
  - 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.



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- 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 24th.
  - 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.
- 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 conference game results versus the next best conference team.
    - 4.01.4 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the lower average of points allowed per conference game played excluding forfeits.
    - 4.01.5 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the higher average margin of victory per conference game played excluding forfeits.
    - 4.01.6 The next tiebreaker for determining conference standing is the higher average of points scored per conference game played excluding forfeits.
    - 4.01.7 The final tiebreaker for determining conference standing is a coin toss.
- 5.00.00 (Roster Size)
  - 5.01.0 The official eligible NCFA roster is limited to no more than 60 players.
  - 5.02.0 The 60 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.
      - 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.
  - 5.03.0 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 60 players, no more players may be added.
    - 5.03.1 At no time can a team remove players from their roster.



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- 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 of the University of Texas may play for the Texas A&M Club Football team.
- 6.04.0 A player with any previous professional experience in the sport of football is NOT eligible to play in any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**.
- 6.05.0 Faculty, staff, and employees of the College/University ARE eligible to play in **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games** provided they meet the eligibility requirements of Rules 6.04.0, 6.08.0, and 6.10.0.
- 6.05.1 No more than **3** total faculty, staff, or employees of the College/University may be added to a team's roster in a single NCFA season.
- 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 The only exception is if a **Final Semester Undergraduate Student** requires less than 6 credits in order to graduate in which case he need only be enrolled in sufficient credits to graduate at the conclusion of the fall semester/term.
- 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**.
- 6.09.0 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.
- 6.11.0 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.



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- 6.12.0 NCFA rules indicate that any competition, regardless of time, during an intercollegiate football 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 undergraduate credits OR is enrolled as a graduate student at the school AND holds a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- 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.
- 9.00.00 (Equipment)
- 9.01.0 The NCFA will adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding player's equipment excluding the following exceptions.
- 9.01.1 Athletic Gloves/Hand Pads
- 9.01.1.1 While the NCAA requires that athletic gloves worn by players to only be gray in color, the NCFA allows players to wear athletic gloves of any color including gray.



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9.01.2 Eye Shields

9.01.2.1 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.

9.02.0 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.

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.

10.01.1 The Official NCFA Footballs are the PREFERRED game ball options of the NCFA and are NOT MANDATORY.

10.01.1.1 Effective July 1, 2014 this rule will be revoked and all NCFA teams will be required to use either the Wilson GST or Wilson Traditional leather collegiate football during NCFA Sanctioned Football Games.

10.01.2 NCAA approved game ball rules remain in effect for all other brands of game balls being used in NCFA Sanctioned Football Games.

11.00.00 (Medical Personnel)

11.01.0 For all NCFA Sanctioned Football Games, the home/host team is REQUIRED to provide a MINIMUM of 1 CERTIFIED Athletic Trainer OR 1 EMT at all times.

11.01.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the home/host team provided additional medical personnel in the form of additional EMTs, Certified Athletic Trainers, and/or student ATCs in order to allow for simultaneous medical attention to both sideline if need be.

11.01.2 The visiting team is always welcome to travel with their own medical personnel if they so choose.

11.02.0 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).

11.03.0 Prior to the start of any NCFA Sanctioned Football Game, the home/host teams is required to provide the visiting team with a proof copy of the credentials of the certified Athletic Trainer or EMT provide for the game.



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12.00.00 (Officials)

- 12.01.0 During **NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**, the home/host team is responsible for providing officials for each competition.
- 12.02.0 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.
- 12.03.0 The officials **MUST** be of High School certification or higher.
  - 12.03.1 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.
- 12.04.0 It is required that the home/host team schedule between four and seven officials to officiate each competition.
  - 12.04.1 The game may be played provided that at least three approved officials are present.
- 12.05.0 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.

13.00.00 (Ejections)

- 13.01.0 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.
  - 13.01.1 The team's primary representative has 48 hours from the time of the ejection to complete and submit the Ejection Report.
  - 13.01.2 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.
  - 13.01.3 Upon reviewing the Ejection Report, the NCFA may determine that a further suspension is necessary.
  - 13.01.4 Additional disciplinary action may be taken against the ejected player or coach at the College/University's discretion.
  - 13.01.5 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.
- 13.02.0 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.

14.00.00 (Forfeitures)

- 14.01.0 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.



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- 15.00.00 (Protests)
- 15.01.0 No protest ever shall be permitted on judgment decisions by the official.
  - 15.02.0 On Field Protests
    - 15.02.1 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.
    - 15.02.2 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.
      - 15.02.2.1 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.
      - 15.02.2.2 All On Field protests must be made to the Referee.
      - 15.02.2.3 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.
    - 15.02.3 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.
    - 15.02.4 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.
      - 15.02.4.1 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.
  - 15.03.0 Off Field Protests
    - 15.03.1 Off Field Protests consists of protests regarding Failure to secure a playing field, Failure to schedule sufficient qualified officials, and In-Game Unknown Roster Violations.
    - 15.03.2 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.
- 16.00.00 (Team Probation/Expulsion)
- 16.01.0 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.
  - 16.02.0 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.



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- 16.03.0 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.
- 16.04.0 Probations and Expulsions are not automatic and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the NCFA Commissioner.
- 16.05.0 The NCFA will publicize to all member teams if, when, and why a team is placed on probation.
- 16.06.0 A team placed on probation will NOT be eligible for the early payment discount off the annual dues.
- 16.07.0 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.)



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## Definitions:

Any football game featuring one or more teams holding membership in the National Club Football Association can be classified in to one of three categories: “**Off Season Football Game**”, “**Exhibition Football Game**”, or “**NCFA Sanctioned Football Game**”.

“**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 25<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> inclusively and excludes any NCFA Sanctioned Post Season Play. “**Off Season Football Games**” are not sanctioned by the NCFA.

“**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 1<sup>st</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup> inclusively. For a football game to be deemed “**Exhibition**”, it must be declared in writing by the participating teams holding 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.

“**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 1<sup>st</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup> inclusively. Scores, Results, and Statistics from “**NCFA Sanctioned Football Games**” are recorded and tabulated.

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