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The following is the result of the Oakland University protest of their 2:00 pm game against Michigan State University on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Game protested by Oakland for an Equipment Violation

**Requested action** - Forfeit game.

**Protest:**

Oakland has protested their 2:00 pm, 10/10/15 game against Michigan State, requesting a forfeit victory because the field provided by the host team was not to regulation.

Oakland Club Football President Nick Newsome and Head Coach Jeff Allor stated,

“THE REFEREES AGREED BEFORE THE GAME THAT THE FIELD WAS TOO LONG AND THAT THE HASHES WERE FAR TOO CLOSE TOGETHER.

1. SECTION 12 ARTICLE 2 OF NCAA RULES STATES THAT GOAL LINES MUST BE PLACED 100 YARDS APART. YARD LINES WERE NOT ON THE FIELD ASIDE FROM THE 50 YARD LINE, AND MARKERS WERE PLACED MORE THAN 10 YARDS APART ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN OF THE GRASS. THIS MEASURED TO BE LONGER THAN 10 YARDS - CLOSER TO 11 YARDS, MAKING THE FIELD AROUND 108 YARDS IN LENGTH FROM GOAL TO GOAL. THIS AFFECTED GAME PLAY IN TERMS OF PUNT AND FIELD GOAL ALIGNMENTS. IT ALSO AFFECTED GAMEPLAY NEAR THE GOAL LINE DEFENSIVELY IN TERMS OF FUMBLE RECOVERIES AND SAFETIES.
2. THE HASH MARKS WERE WERE NOT ACCORDING TO SECTION 12 ARTICLE 7 IN THE NCAA RULES. THE HASHES WERE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER MORE SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN NFL FIELD. THIS DISRUPTED OUR GAME PLAN BECAUSE OUR OFFENSE USES THE SHORT AND WIDE SIDE OF THE FIELD BASED ON THE HASHES.
3. THE GAME FIELD PROVIDED BY THE HOST TEAM IN MANY OTHER WAYS DID NOT COME CLOSE TO RESEMBLING THE FIELD DIAGRAM PROVIDED IN THE NCAA RULES APPENDIX D INCLUDING LACKING LINES FOR RESTRICTED AREA, COACHING BOX, AND TEAM AREA; ITS LACK OF CLARITY DREW A PENALTY AGAINST OU. PHOTOS AND VIDEO MAY BE PROVIDED IF NECESSARY.”



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**Investigation:**

During a phone interview with the Head Referee (Joe Abro), he stated that prior to the game Oakland had concerns with the dimensions of the field and that his crew used the first down chains to measure portions of the field and everything seemed satisfactory. He stated that Oakland made no more mention of field concerns after that and at no point in time did they make mention that they were playing the game under protest.

NCFA Rules dictate that a protest regarding an equipment violation requires an on field protest and any on field protest must be made directly to the Referee at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest.

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.

17.02.2.2 All On Field protests must be made to the Referee.

Since the Referee (Joe Abro) was never informed that Oakland was playing the game under protest, by rule this protest is invalid.

**Ruling:** Protest Denied – The score and result of this game will remain as is.

**Sandy Sanderson**  
**NCFA President**