SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES: NCAA v. NFHS (2015)

Rule 1:  
- NFHS shoes required; NCAA no.
- NFHS kicking tee allowed; NCAA no.
- NCAA 15- yd penalty for jersey violation; NFHS no
- Towels: NFHS: Any solid color; NCAA: White only

Rule 3:  
- NCAA 15 min period; NFHS 12 min.
  - NCAA player must leave game for equipment repair unless TO is taken
  - NCAA 40 sec play clock
  - NCAA clock starts on R signal for ball OOB except last 2 min
  - NCAA: option for 30-second timeout
  - 12 Players on field: NFHS- 15 yds, Ill Participation, NCAA: 5 yds, Ill Sub
  - Overtime - NCAA 25 yd line, 3d OT – no kick try; NFHS 10 yd line.

Rule 4:  
- NCAA fumble OOB in advance of spot of fumble is returned to spot of fumble; NFHS at OOB spot.

Rule 6:  
- NCAA FK from 35; NFHS 40.
- NCAA all kicks stay alive in EZ if touched by R before touching ground in EZ.
- NCAA FK encroachment – option to enforce from end of run
- Free kick OOB: Penalty if untouched by R (NFHS: 25 yd option; NCAA: 30 yd option).
- NCAA Defensive formation on place kicks- Illegal for three players to line up shoulder-to-shoulder and move forward with primary contact against a single player.
- NCAA no penalty for invalid or illegal FC signal; NFHS 5 yds.*
- NFHS option to FK after FC; NCAA no.
- Kick catching interference
  NFHS – Option to enforce 15 yd penalty from PS
  NCAA – One yd box in front of receiver
  NCAA – Protection applies on kicks into turf
  NFHS - FK - K can't touch before ball touches ground.
  SK - R must be in position to catch
- NCAA - DEF may not attempt to block a punt by jumping over a Team A player behind the neutral zone inside the tackle box.
- NCAA – Touchback on FK puts ball on 25

Rule 7:  
- NFHS: Only guards & snapper may lock legs; NCAA: no restriction
- NCAA offside by DEF is live ball foul unless it causes false start.
- NCAA shift involves two players.*
- NCAA on fwd pass ball can't cross NZ prior to pass*
- NCAA PI must be on catchable ball.
- NCAA face guarding not PI, must be contact.
- Pass crossing NZ (impacts PI & ineligible receivers).
  -- NCAA where touched first; NFHS where it ends up.
- Passer beyond NZ
  -- NCAA must be completely beyond; NFHS if foot is beyond
- NCAA may not throw BP intentionally OOB.
- NCAA 4th down fumble, only fumbler can advance for A.
- Illegal touching NFHS – LOD; NCAA no LOD
- NCAA int grounding – spot foul + exception for passer outside tackle

* Definitional difference
Rule 7:
- NFHS full numbering exception only on 4th down
- NFHS 7 on line required; NCAA no more than 4 in backfield
- If entire team does not set: NFHS- illegal shift; NCAA- false start
- NCAA: Spiking ball w/ < 3 secs in half is last play if clock is stopped

Rule 8:
- NCAA ball not dead on failed kick try.
- NCAA DEF can score on try.
- NCAA 4th down fumble rule applies on try.
- NCAA after failed FG outside 20, ball spotted on PS.

Rule 9:
- NCAA blocking below waist
  -- Players in motion, backs outside tackle box or >7 yds from snap can't BBW from side.
  -- No BBW: during kick downs or after a change of possession.
  -- Defense can only BBW within 5 yds of NZ.
- NCAA legal clipping zone (6 x 10)
  -- Only offensive linemen.
  -- May not leave zone and return.
  -- Exists until ball is touched outside zone or fumble/muff leaves zone.
- Chop Block: any combo block, low-high or high-low
  -- NFHS at knee or below
  -- NCAA at thigh or below
- NCAA contact foul on elig rec when pass crosses NZ is automatic first down
- Facemask foul- NCAA no 5 yd foul
- NCAA: Horse collar tackle must be immediate; NFHS no exceptions
- NCAA: No blocking OOB
- Protection for snapper: NFHS-looks up; NCAA-one second
- NCAA no warning for sideline interference
- Players OOB:
  -- NFHS A or K can't return during down.
  -- NCAA K can't return, but A can except to catch a pass.
- NCAA: Targeting is automatic DQ; NFHS: Only if flagrant (against defenseless player)
- NCAA: Non-football late hits are USC fouls

Rule 10:
- Automatic first down: NCAA: All personal fouls; NFHS: Only roughing fouls.
- NCAA no RTK if kicker is outside tackle box
- NCAA: USC by player enforced as live-ball foul
- NCAA: 10-sec runoff in last min of each half for certain fouls, helmet off and injuries.
- Roughing the passer: NFHS: Dead-ball spot; NCAA: End of last run; includes low hits
- PSK: Foul in NCAA need not be > 3 yds from line
- Basic spot for run ending behind NZ: NCAA - previous spot; NFHS - end of run
- NCAA contact fouls enforced from PS if foul is behind NZ
- NCAA dead-ball fouls may cancel; NFHS: only equal # of 15-yd penalties cancel
- NCAA – kick plays except FG, penalty may be enforced from succeeding spot
- Fouls by opponents on scoring play:
  -- NFHS - all may carry over if after any COP.
  -- NCAA – PF’s carry over on TD play only
- Fouls by opponents on try
  -- NFHS – can carry over on all tries; NCAA – PF may carry over