



ACHA Rule Update Memo

October 17, 2016

We are seeing discrepancy with the calling and reporting of the following penalties.

Student-Athlete Protection:

Continued diligence is needed with regard to player safety rules, particularly contact to the head, contact against defenseless or unsuspecting players and hitting from behind. The rules are very clear in each of these areas and officials must continue to err on the side of safety.

Please remind officials of penalty enforcement for the following rules as we frequently receive incorrect application and incorrect reporting.

Rule 45 - Contact to the Head

45.1 Contact to the Head - A player shall not make direct contact from any direction with an opposing player's head or neck area in any manner (including, but not limited to, with the shoulder, stick, elbow, etc.).

PENALTY—Major and game misconduct or disqualification at the discretion of the referee.

The committee reminds coaches and players that the responsibility remains with the player making the hit to avoid contact with the head and neck area of an opposing player. Any contact directly with the player's head and neck area *“must”* be penalized with a major penalty and a game misconduct or disqualification.

NOTE: There is no possible rule permitting a minor penalty for “Contact to the Head”.

Rule 48 - Fighting or Punching

48.1 Fighting or Punching - A player shall not fight an opponent or participate in a fight, on or off the playing surface. A punch thrown may be considered fighting.

PENALTY—Disqualification.

NOTE: There is no possible rule permitting a Game Misconduct penalty for “Fighting or Punching”.

Please review the 2016-2018 NCAA rule book Rule 20 for Major Penalty guidance.
Please review the 2016-2018 NCAA rule book Rule 22 for Game Misconduct guidance.
Please review the 2016-2018 NCAA rule book Rule 23 for Disqualification guidance.

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