

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 30

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Urges National Collegiate Athletic Association to strictly enforce college football rules prohibiting contact by or to player's head or helmet to help ensure player safety.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the National Collegiate Athletic
2 Association to strictly enforce college football rules prohibiting
3 contact by or to a player’s head or helmet.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, By its very nature, football is a rough contact sport that
6 includes bodily impact and collisions between opposing players
7 during the course of a game; and
8 **WHEREAS**, On the whole, players today are bigger, stronger, and faster
9 than ever before, and the sheer force with which many of the
10 tackles, blocks, and hits, especially helmet-to-helmet hits, are
11 delivered can cause serious damage to a player; and
12 **WHEREAS**, To safeguard against many serious and life-threatening
13 injuries, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA),
14 which governs college football, has instituted rules concerning the
15 conduct of players when initiating contact and targeting an
16 opponent; and
17 **WHEREAS**, According to Rule 9, Section 1, Article 3 (9-1-3) in the
18 NCAA’s 2019 Football Rules and Interpretations, “no player shall
19 target and make forcible contact against an opponent with the
20 crown (top) of his helmet”; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Rule 9, Section 1, Article 4 (9-1-4) prohibits a player from
22 targeting and making forcible contact to the head or neck of a
23 defenseless opponent; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Violations of these rules are usually considered personal
25 fouls and the team of the player who commits the foul is penalized
26 15 yards, and if the foul is determined to be a flagrant foul, the
27 offender is disqualified for the remainder of the game; and
28 **WHEREAS**, According to Rule 9-6-2, if the subsequent review of a
29 game by a conference reveals plays involving flagrant personal
30 fouls that game officials did not call, including Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-
31 4, the conference may impose sanctions prior to the next scheduled
32 game; and
33 **WHEREAS**, In addition to rules prohibiting a player from striking
34 another with his helmet, NCAA rules also prohibit a player from
35 striking an opponent’s helmet (including the facemask), neck and
36 face with his knee, extended forearm, elbow, locked hands, palm,
37 fist, or the heel, back or side of his open hand; and
38 **WHEREAS**, With the exception of certain instances by or against the
39 ball carrier, all but the most incidental and unavoidable acts of
40 contact by or to a player’s head or helmet are prohibited in college
41 football; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Contact to a player’s head or helmet can result in serious
43 injuries, especially when the contact is made by an opposing
44 player’s helmet. In order to reduce the amount of serious injuries
45 and to promote the safety of the players, it is imperative that the
46 NCAA strictly enforce its rules prohibiting contact to a player’s
47 head or helmet by ensuring that fouls are called during games, that
48 flagrant offenders are disqualified from games, and that additional

1 sanctions are imposed if needed to create a college football culture
2 that has zero tolerance for such infractions; now, therefore,

3
4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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6 1. This House urges the National Collegiate Athletic
7 Association to strictly enforce its college football rules prohibiting
8 contact by or to a player's head or helmet to promote the safety of
9 the players and to help safeguard against serious and life-
10 threatening injuries.

11
12 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
13 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to each member
14 of the governing body of the National Collegiate Athletic
15 Association.

16
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18 STATEMENT

19
20 This Senate resolution urges the National Collegiate Athletic
21 Association (NCAA) to strictly enforce its college football rules
22 prohibiting contact by or to a player's head or helmet to help ensure
23 player safety.

24 Rule 9, Section 1, Article 3 (9-1-3) in the NCAA's 2019 Football
25 Rules and Interpretations, states that "no player shall target and
26 make forcible contact against an opponent with the crown (top) of
27 his helmet." Also, Rule 9-1-4 prohibits a player from targeting and
28 making forcible contact against a defenseless opponent above the
29 shoulders. In addition to rules prohibiting a player from striking
30 another with his helmet, NCAA rules also prohibit a player from
31 striking an opponent's helmet (including the facemask), neck and
32 face with his knee, extended forearm, elbow, locked hands, palm,
33 fist, or the heel, back or side of his open hand. Players who violate
34 these rules are penalized and in some circumstances may be
35 disqualified for the remainder of the game or receive sanctions prior
36 to their next scheduled game.

37 Contact to a player's head or helmet can result in serious
38 injuries, especially when the contact is made by an opposing
39 player's helmet. In order to reduce the amount of serious injuries
40 and to promote the safety of the players, it is imperative that the
41 NCAA strictly enforce its rules prohibiting contact to a player's
42 head or helmet.