

THE NATIONAL



FOOTBALL LEAGUE

410 PARK AVENUE,

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022 • PLaza 8-1500

October 14, 1982

Mr. Peter Hadhazy  
United States Football League  
52 Vanderbilt Avenue - 4th Floor  
New York, New York 10017

*File*  
*NFL*

**RECEIVED**  
**OCT 15 1982**  
**C. R. SIMMONS**

Dear Peter:

This will confirm the substance of your prior telephone conversation with Art McNally.

We will permit the USFL to use the NFL's Rule Book as a basis for development of the USFL's own playing rules. But we will not look kindly on anything like a verbatim or wholesale reproduction of our book simply reprinted between USFL covers.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Moyer".

JAY MOYER  
Counsel to the  
Commissioner

JM:bd



United States Football League

52 Vanderbilt Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
212 682-6363

NFL

**M E M O R A N D U M**

April 3, 1985

**TO:** Harry L. Usher - Commissioner  
**FROM:** Cal Lepore - Supervisor of Officials  
**SUBJ:** RULES AND PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE USFL AND THE NFL

Listed below, in no particular order, to the smallest detail, are the differences between the United States Football League and the National Football League:

1. **USFL -** Team has the option to try for a two-point conversion after scoring a touchdown. The ball is spotted at the 3-yard line for a point after try (PAT).  
**NFL -** Teams do not have the option of attempting a two-point conversion. On PAT, ball may be spotted at the 2-yard line or beyond.
  - A) **Officiating mechanics on PAT(s):**
    - USFL -** Side judge is on end line at his sideline.
    - NFL -** Side judge acts as a second umpire, lining up approximately 7 yards from the line of scrimmage on the defensive side of line with umpire.
  - B) **USFL -** Officiating mechanics on free kick after fair catch are the same as a play from scrimmage, except umpire, who is positioned at sideline on defensive team's restraining line.
    - NFL -** Mechanics are similar to kick-off mechanics.
2. **USFL -** Use of a flat 1-inch tee is allowed for PAT and Field Goal Attempt.  
**NFL -** Tee is not allowed.
3. **USFL -** On all PAT(s), the 4th down fumble rule applies  
**NFL -** 4th down fumble rule does not apply.

4. USFL - For the first free kick out of bounds, receiving team has the option of putting the ball in play on their own 30-yard line or accepting a 5-yard penalty and a rekick. For the second or more free kick out of bounds, receiving team has the option of putting the ball in play on their own 40-yard line or accepting a 5-yard penalty and a rekick. When the second or more free kick is a short free kick, the receiving team has the option of putting the ball in play at the dead ball spot or on their own 40-yard line or accepting a 5-yard penalty and rekick.  
  
NFL - First free kick out of bounds, kicking team is penalized 5 yards and must rekick. For the second or more free kicks out of bounds, receiving team has the option of accepting the ball at the out of bounds spot or accepting the 5-yard penalty and rekick.
5. USFL - On all kicking plays, blocking below the waist by either the kicking or receiving team is not allowed.  
  
NFL - Only receiving team may not block below the waist.
6. USFL - On all kicks from scrimmage (Point after try, Field goal attempt, or punt), the kicking team is not allowed to clip during the down. Close line play is prohibited, and the clipping zone is eliminated.  
  
NFL - Close line play is legal and clipping is allowed.
7. USFL - Defensive pass interference is a 15-yard penalty and an automatic first down. Intentional or deliberate defensive pass interference is a spot foul.  
  
NFL - Defensive pass interference is a spot foul.
8. USFL - Offensive pass interference is a 10-yard penalty, plus loss of down.  
  
NFL - A 10-yard penalty without loss of a down.
9. USFL - Disconcerting is a 5-yard penalty.  
  
NFL - Is a 15-yard penalty.
10. USFL - Sideline violation: After one warning a 5-yard penalty is imposed.  
  
NFL - After 2 warnings a 15-yard penalty is imposed.
11. USFL - Final offensive formation presented prior to a snap is legal regardless of the number of shifts or movements of players prior to to snap.  
  
NFL - Initial formation presented must be legal and final formation presented prior to the snap must be legal.
12. USFL - A player lined up in neutral zone when ball is snapped is ruled as encroaching.  
  
NFL - Is ruled off side.

13. USFL - During the last 2 minutes of a half, the clock is stopped after each first down to allow time for the chains to be moved and clock is restarted on the ready for play signal.  
NFL - The clock is not stopped when a first down is registered.
14. USFL - Prior to the last 2 minutes of a half, the clock is started on the ready for play signal following a change of possession. Prior to the last 2 minutes of a half, the clock is started on the ready for play signal following a penalty.  
NFL - On a change of possession, clock starts on the snap. Following a penalty, clock is started on the snap.
15. USFL - At the 2 minute mark, officials put on wristbands alerting them to special rules during the last 2 minutes.  
NFL - Wristbands are not worn.
16. USFL - Has approved use of instant replay.  
NFL - Does not have it at present time.
17. USFL - Referees time-out signal is tapping of chest with fingers.  
NFL - Referee taps the top of his cap, duplicating ineligible receiver signal.
18. USFL - On penalties, referee signals only once. There is no preliminary signal given.  
NFL - Preliminary signal is given, following enforcement another signal is given and the umpire marches off the yardage with the referee double checking him for proper markoff.
19. USFL - Crowd noise mechanics: Quarterback notifies referee by pointing to his ear(s). Referee uses a special chopping signal for clock operators.  
NFL - Quarterback waves both arms to the crowd. Referee does not have a special signal for clock operators.
20. USFL - Chains are set at the edge of the 6-foot border.  
NFL - Set at the sideline.
21. USFL - Use tan football  
NFL - Use dark brown football.
22. USFL - Ground targets with pylons are used on both sides of the field.  
NFL - Do not have pylons.

23. USFL - Officials' USFL logo is worn on their cap and shirt; also white stockings with black stripes, black bermuda shorts (on hot days) and PONY shoes are worn.  
NFL - No logos are worn, black baseball stockings with white stripes are worn and CONVERSE shoes.
24. USFL - Allows player(s) to demonstrate (celebrate) after a score or big play.  
NFL - Not allowed.
25. USFL - Allows defensive player(s) to leap in an attempt to block a Point After Try or a Field Goal Attempt.  
NFL - Not allowed.
26. USFL - Pocket area is from line of scrimmage, back to end line and from end position to end position.  
NFL - Extended three yards beyond line of scrimmage on running plays.
27. - USFL - Punter, place kicker and holder must be run into or roughed for foul to be called.  
NFL - Any feigning for being run into or roughed is unsportsmanlike.
28. - USFL - Knee braces are worn by offensive and defensive linemen.  
NFL - Not required.

cc: Peter Hadhazy