

# 2017 RULE CHANGE REQUEST

## HELMET COMES OFF - TIMEOUT - (Rule 3-3-9-a)

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**RULE 3-3-9-a, FR-53.**

**INSERT: “helmet” between “a” and “foul” in Line 2.**

**Rule 3-3-9-a: (after change): If a player’s helmet comes completely off through play, other than as the direct result of a HELMET foul by an opponent, the player must leave the game for the next down. .... The player may remain in the game if his team is granted a charged timeout.**

**INTENT:**

**The current wording of the rule implies that any foul will keep the helmet-off player in the game. This is at odds with the approved rulings.**

**Approved Rulings 3-3-9-I, II, III & IV all indicate that a helmet foul is required before the player who loses his helmet must leave the game for one down unless his team takes a timeout. A player who loses his helmet as the result as a targeting foul in the back must leave the down for one down unless his team takes a timeout. A player who loses his helmet because of a grasping the face mask foul need not leave the game for one down.**

**SOURCE: Rom Gilbert [8-28-16] ..... (rc17-339a)**

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