

2018 RULE CHANGE REQUEST

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

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 [8-23-17] (rc18-339a)
