

# NCAA and College Football

The first college football game, held on November 6, 1869, would probably not be recognized as the same sport that is played today. Rutgers beat Princeton, using a round ball on a huge field measuring 120 yards by 75 yards. After the game, the teams ate dinner together. From this modest beginning, college football has become so popular that it attracts millions of television viewers.

The first game to feature a football shaped as those used today was between Harvard and McGill Universities in 1874. Exact measurements for the ball weren't established until 1912. (1) In the late 1800s and early 1900s, other decisions were made that *underlie* today's game. In 1876, a crossbar was added to the goalposts. In 1877, Princeton players wore the first uniforms. Numbers were added to uniforms in 1937.

Early on, football was violent, and games resulted in injury or death. (2) President Theodore Roosevelt was an *advocate* of physical fitness and sports. (3) Yet, he was so shocked by the brutality of football that he threatened *sanctions*. (4) Several colleges, feeling that they could not *justify* the sponsorship of such a dangerous sport, decided to discontinue the game. (5) Others made reforms, such as *invalidating* the "flying wedge," a dangerous maneuver where a group of players formed a wedge and hurled themselves at the other team's defense.

(6) Colleges that continued to sponsor football were forced to *acknowledge* that more reforms were needed. (7) In 1905, they decided to form a *coalition*, known as the Intercollegiate Athletic Association. This name was changed to the National College Athletic Association, or NCAA, in 1910. One of the first acts

of this association was to legalize the forward pass. This added interest to the game and decreased injuries, because a player trapped with the ball could throw it to a team member. Aided by such changes, football became a game of intelligence and strategy, rather than simply of brute force.

(8) Today, all colleges that want to play in the NCAA must *conform* to its high standards. (9) Because this professional organization is dedicated to *upholding* sportsmanship and fair play, interest in college football has exploded. In fact, many feel the excellent quality of the college game has sparked interest in professional football.

The NCAA monitors college football closely, changing rules when needed. In 1996, tie games were eliminated with a system of overtime rules in division I-A. NCAA committees vote on schedules, selection of players, rules of the game, and how to handle problems. (10) Members may vote for or against resolutions, or they may simply *abstain*.

The NCAA has been so successful that the organization has expanded to regulate basketball, baseball, soccer, and several other college sports for both men and women. Under the NCAA's leadership, football has grown from its violent beginnings into a respected national pastime.



Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, other decisions were made that \_\_\_\_\_ today's game.
 

a. spoke in favor of	b. argued against	c. approved of	d. lay the foundation for
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. President Theodore Roosevelt was a \_\_\_\_\_ of physical fitness and sports.
 

a. keen observer	b. temporary ally	c. strong supporter	d. mild sympathizer
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Yet, he was so shocked by the brutality of football that he threatened \_\_\_\_\_.
 

a. demonstrations	b. recommendations	c. elections	d. penalties
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Several colleges, feeling that they could not \_\_\_\_\_ the sponsorship of such a dangerous sport, decided to discontinue the game.
 

a. recommend	b. defend	c. approve	d. permit
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Others made reforms, such as \_\_\_\_\_ the "flying wedge."  
 a. speaking up for      b. accepting      c. approving of      d. ruling illegal
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Colleges that continued to sponsor football were forced to \_\_\_\_\_ that more reforms were needed.  
 a. provide support      b. demonstrate      c. admit the truth      d. offer approval
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In 1905, they decided to form a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, known as the Intercollegiate Athletic Association.  
 a. group      b. set of rules      c. opposition      d. basis
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Today, all colleges that want to play in the NCAA must \_\_\_\_\_ its high standards.  
 a. permit      b. follow      c. avoid      d. approve
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Because this professional organization is dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_ sportsmanship and fair play, interest in college football has exploded.  
 a. opposing      b. admitting      c. permitting      d. maintaining
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Members may vote for or against resolutions, or they may simply \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. not vote      b. vote late      c. oppose the issue      d. speak in favor

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Intercollegiate Athletic Association was a coalition created to improve college football.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Legalizing the forward pass had little long-term effect on college football.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. College football is less violent now than it was when it first began.

## WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Court of Appeals \_\_\_\_\_ the robber's conviction. (*uphold*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. For many years, medical experts have \_\_\_\_\_ daily exercise for just about everyone. (*advocate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ reasons that support your opinion should be stated clearly. (*underlie*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The mayor's \_\_\_\_\_ for imposing a curfew failed to convince the students. (*justify*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The principal \_\_\_\_\_ the car wash because he believed that the students would conduct it responsibly. (*sanction*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Evidence to the contrary may \_\_\_\_\_ an argument. (*invalidate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. People often disagree on the need for \_\_\_\_\_. (*conform*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Agatha's \_\_\_\_\_ was the only one among the student voters. (*abstain*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The student newspaper contained an \_\_\_\_\_ thanking everyone who helped to create the special edition. (*acknowledge*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Many members thought they would be more effective if they merged their two \_\_\_\_\_ into one. (*coalition*)