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# Stadium Bag & Seat Rules Cheat Sheet (2026)

What gets through the gate at NFL and Power 4 football stadiums: the clear bag rule, seat & cushion rules for 99 teams, and the seat profile that passes the most rules.

## 👜 NFL clear bag basics

From the NFL's league-wide clear bag policy. Teams can add stricter rules.

**12″ × 6″ × 12″**
Clear plastic, vinyl or PVC bag (clear totes, backpacks, fanny packs & cinch bags OK within size)

OR

**1 gallon**
Clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc or similar)

**PLUS** one small clutch up to **4.5″ × 6.5″**, clear or not, with or without a strap.

Medical exceptions are handled after inspection at a designated gate. The NFL also lists "large traditional seat cushions that have pockets, zippers, compartments, or covers" as non-approved.

**Watch for local twists:** LSU's policy names clear *tote* bags only. Northwestern's Ryan Field bans backpacks of any size. Nebraska lists backpacks larger than 4.5″ × 6.5″ as prohibited.

## 🏟️ Seats & cushions at a glance

99 teams checked against official pages (32 NFL, 16 SEC, 18 Big Ten, 17 ACC, 16 Big 12).

**1** — NFL stadium clearly allows a seat with a back: **Lambeau Field** (18″ wide max, no arms).

**11** — NFL teams ban seat cushions outright or allow them only for a medical need. Atlanta also bans "seating devices."

**11 of 16** — **SEC** schools allow a personal seat or chair back. Auburn & South Carolina allow cushions (not seatbacks with arms).

**12 of 18** — **Big Ten** schools allow cushions only. Indiana allows only cushions bought inside the stadium.

## ✅ The "safe pick" checklist

The seat or cushion that passes the most rules we checked:

- **16″ wide or less.** The most common SEC limit. Buffalo and Philadelphia cap cushions at 15″ × 15″.
- **No armrests.** Banned at Auburn, Georgia, LSU, Ole Miss, Tennessee and many more.
- **No pockets or zippers.** Pockets come up in more of the 99 rules than anything else we tracked.
- **No metal frame, clamps or hard parts.** Banned at SoFi, Minnesota, Ohio State and others.
- **For NFL games, bring a flat cushion, not a seat with a back.** Lambeau Field is the only clear exception.
- **Thin is safer.** Ravens: foam core no thicker than 1″. Minnesota: under 2″ thick.

## 🎒 What to bring

- [ ] Clear bag up to 12″ × 6″ × 12″ (or a 1-gallon clear freezer bag)
- [ ] Small clutch up to 4.5″ × 6.5″ for phone, cards and keys
- [ ] A gate-friendly cushion or seat that fits *your* stadium's row (see pages 2–6)
- [ ] Phone charged for mobile tickets
- [ ] Layers for cold games (check blankets first: Lucas Oil lists them as not permitted)
- [ ] Rain gear without an umbrella (Neyland, for one, prohibits umbrellas)
- [ ] Screenshot of your venue's official policy page

# NFL stadium seat & cushion rules (32 teams)

| Team / School | Stadium | Seats allowed? | Size limit | Backs / arms / pockets |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arizona Cardinals** | State Farm Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | Not stated; one-piece only, no zippers, pockets or concealable areas |
| **Atlanta Falcons** | Mercedes-Benz Stadium | **No (seats); cushions not stated** | n/a | "Chairs, booster seats, stools or other seating devices" are prohibited; cushions not mentioned |
| **Baltimore Ravens** | M&T Bank Stadium | **Cushions only** | Foam core no thicker than 1" | No backs; no zippers or pockets (inflatable cushions OK) |
| **Buffalo Bills** | Highmark Stadium | **Cushions only** | Max 15" × 15" | No armrests, zippers, pockets, flaps or metal backs |
| **Carolina Panthers** | Bank of America Stadium | **Cushions only (seat pads)** | Not stated | No covers, zippers, clasps or pockets; backs not stated |
| **Chicago Bears** | Soldier Field | ***Not stated (only some types banned)*** | Not stated | Bans cushions with zippered covers, pockets, flaps or compartments |
| **Cincinnati Bengals** | Paycor Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | No pockets; no zippered covers or flaps |
| **Cleveland Browns** | Huntington Bank Field | ***Not stated (only some types banned)*** | Not stated | Bans large traditional cushions with pockets, zippers, compartments or covers |
| **Dallas Cowboys** | AT&T Stadium | **No** | n/a | Seat cushions are on the prohibited list |
| **Detroit Lions** | Ford Field | **No** | n/a | "Seat cushions or chairs" are not permitted |
| **Green Bay Packers** | Lambeau Field | **Yes** | Max 18" wide, max 10" deep | Backs OK; no armrests, pockets, zippers or concealable areas |
| **Denver Broncos** | Empower Field at Mile High | **Cushions only** | Max 18" wide | No zippers, pockets or concealable areas; backs not stated |
| **Houston Texans** | NRG Stadium | **Cushions only** | Max 18" wide | No pockets, zippers, compartments or covers; backs not stated |
| **Indianapolis Colts** | Lucas Oil Stadium | **No** | n/a | "Blankets and seat cushions" are on the not-permitted list |
| **Jacksonville Jaguars** | EverBank Stadium | **No** | n/a | "Seat cushions or chairs" are prohibited |
| **Kansas City Chiefs** | GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | No pockets, zippers, compartments or covers; backs not stated |
| **Las Vegas Raiders** | Allegiant Stadium | **No** | n/a | "Strollers, seat cushions, child seats, and portable chairs" are prohibited |
| **Los Angeles Chargers** | SoFi Stadium | **Cushions only (soft)** | Max 22" × 16" | No pockets, metal or hard materials; rigid-framed seats prohibited |
| **Los Angeles Rams** | SoFi Stadium | **Cushions only (soft)** | Max 22" × 16" | No pockets, metal or hard materials; rigid-framed seats prohibited |
| **Miami Dolphins** | Hard Rock Stadium | **No (medical exception)** | n/a | "Seat cushions of any size except those for medical needs" are prohibited |
| **Minnesota Vikings** | U.S. Bank Stadium | **No (medical exception)** | n/a | Seat cushions are on the not-permitted list (exceptions for medical needs) |
| **New England Patriots** | Gillette Stadium | ***Not stated (only some types banned)*** | Not stated | Bans "Seat cushions with pockets or zippers" |
| **New Orleans Saints** | Caesars Superdome | ***Not stated (only some types banned)*** | Not stated | Bans "non-approved seat cushions" |
| **New York Giants** | MetLife Stadium | **No (medical exception)** | n/a | "Seat cushions of any size except those for medical needs" are prohibited |
| **New York Jets** | MetLife Stadium | **No (medical exception)** | n/a | "Seat cushions of any size except those for medical needs" are prohibited |
| **Philadelphia Eagles** | Lincoln Financial Field | **Cushions only** | Max 15" × 15" | No armrests, zippers, pockets, flaps or metal backs |
| **Pittsburgh Steelers** | Acrisure Stadium | **No** | n/a | "Strollers or seat cushions" are not permitted |
| **San Francisco 49ers** | Levi's Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | Not stated (listed simply as "Seat cushions" under permitted items) |
| **Seattle Seahawks** | Lumen Field | **Cushions only (soft-sided)** | Not stated | No pockets, zippered compartments, metal frames or extra straps |
| **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** | Raymond James Stadium | **No** | n/a | Seat cushions are on the prohibited list |
| **Tennessee Titans** | Nissan Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | Must be enclosed with no zippers or metal pieces; folding/standalone chairs prohibited |
| **Washington Commanders** | Northwest Stadium | ***Not stated (only some types banned)*** | Not stated | Bans cushions with pockets, zippers, compartments or covers |

**Yes** personal seat/chair back allowed **Cushions only** flat cushion OK, back not allowed or not mentioned **No** banned (medical exceptions noted)
***Not stated*** official page doesn't say

# SEC stadium seat & cushion rules (16 schools)

| Team / School | Stadium | Seats allowed? | Size limit | Backs / arms / pockets |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alabama** | Bryant-Denny Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16" wide (one seat) | Seat backs, chair backs and stadium seats allowed up to 16"; arms not stated |
| **Arkansas** | Razorback Stadium | **Yes** | Under 16" wide | No armrests; folding chairs/stools prohibited |
| **Auburn** | Jordan-Hare Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | "Stadium seats with arms" are prohibited; seat backs not mentioned |
| **Florida** | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | **Cushions only** | Max 16" | No backs, no pockets; personal seatbacks not permitted |
| **Georgia** | Sanford Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16" wide | Personal seat backs OK; no arms, no pockets |
| **Kentucky** | Kroger Field | **Yes** | Max 18" wide | Personal chair backs OK; arms not stated |
| **LSU** | Tiger Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16" wide | No pockets, compartments, armrests or metal sidebars |
| **Ole Miss** | Vaught-Hemingway Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16" | Chairbacks OK; no armrests; folding chairs prohibited |
| **Mississippi State** | Davis Wade Stadium | **Yes** | Not stated | Seats/cushions with backs OK; no arms, pockets or mesh pouches |
| **Missouri** | Faurot Field at Memorial Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16" × 16" × 9" | Chair backs OK; no arms or pockets |
| **Oklahoma** | Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium | **Yes** | Under 16" wide | Seat cushions and chair backs OK; no frames or armrests |
| **South Carolina** | Williams-Brice Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | Bans cushions with pockets, zippers, compartments or covers and seatbacks with armrests |
| **Texas** | Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium | **Yes** | Max 12" × 12" × 18" | Stadium seats/chairbacks OK; no pockets or zippers; arms not stated |
| **Texas A&M** | Kyle Field | **Yes** | Max 16" wide | Personal stadium seats OK; arms not stated; no lawn chairs |
| **Tennessee** | Neyland Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | No arms or pockets; seat backs not addressed directly |
| **Vanderbilt** | FirstBank Stadium | **Cushions only** | Max 16" × 16" | No pockets, backs or zippers; personal seatbacks not allowed |

### Good to know: rentals & notes from the official pages

- **Alabama:** Seat-back rentals/season seatbacks offered
- **Arkansas:** Official seatback chairs for season-ticket holders
- **Florida:** Season-installed Gator Seatbacks available
- **Georgia:** Seat-back rentals at Gates 2, 6, 7 & 9
- **Kentucky:** Single-game chair-back rentals $15 (cash)
- **LSU:** Season pre-installed seatbacks available
- **Ole Miss:** Also in the 2026 Football Policy Guide (PDF); chairback rentals
- **Mississippi State:** Chair/seat rentals near Sections 1 & 23
- **Missouri:** $5 temporary cushion rentals; season chairbacks
- **Oklahoma:** Chair back sales/rentals on site
- **Texas:** Current 2026 fan guide does not mention seats
- **Texas A&M:** Gameday/season seat rentals
- **Vanderbilt:** Seatback rentals inside all gates

**Yes** personal seat/chair back allowed **Cushions only** flat cushion OK, back not allowed or not mentioned **No** banned (medical exceptions noted) ***Not stated*** official page doesn't say

# Big Ten stadium seat & cushion rules (18 schools)

| Team / School | Stadium | Seats allowed? | Size limit | Backs / arms / pockets |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Illinois** | Gies Memorial Stadium | **Yes** | Not more than 16" wide (same page also says 9" × 16") | Personal seat backs and cushions allowed; arms not stated |
| **Indiana** | Merchants Bank Field at Memorial Stadium | **No (only stadium-sold cushions)** | n/a | Own seat backs and cushions not permitted; only cushions bought inside the stadium ($15 per game) are allowed |
| **Iowa** | Kinnick Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | Cushions without back support; personal chairbacks prohibited |
| **Maryland** | SECU Stadium | **Yes** | Max 18" wide | Chairbacks OK; no armrests; pockets must be empty |
| **Michigan** | Michigan Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated ("small") | No metal, pockets, storage slots, seat backs, armrests or attachments; seatbacks by medical accommodation request only |
| **Michigan State** | Spartan Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | No backs or zippered sections; non-approved chair backs prohibited |
| **Minnesota** | Huntington Bank Stadium | **Cushions only (soft)** | Under 2" thick | No framing; chairbacks with metal frames or bench attachments prohibited |
| **Nebraska** | Memorial Stadium (Lincoln) | **Cushions only** | Max 16" wide | No backrests, metal fastenings, pockets, zippers, compartments or covers |
| **Ohio State** | Ohio Stadium | **Cushions only (seatbacks with doctor's note)** | Seatbacks max 16" wide | Foam cushions without backs, zippers or storage slots; seatbacks only with doctor's note and no metal frame or clamp |
| **Northwestern** | Ryan Field | *Not stated* | Not stated | Not stated (official Getting In page lists bags and prohibited items but not seats or cushions) |
| **Oregon** | Autzen Stadium | **Yes** | Max 17.5" W × 13.5" D; back up to 19" tall; cushion up to 4" thick | Seat backs OK; no pockets, zippers, compartments or covers; arms not stated |
| **Penn State** | Beaver Stadium | **Cushions only (plus roll-up chairs)** | Not stated | Cushions must be soft and roll up, with no back supports, zippers or storage slots; chairs with backs only if they roll up and have no pockets |
| **Purdue** | Ross-Ade Stadium | *Not stated (only some types banned)* | Not stated | Bans "seat backs and seat cushions with metal or storage slots" |
| **Rutgers** | SHI Stadium | **Cushions only (foam)** | Not stated | Foam seat cushions permitted; backs not stated |
| **UCLA** | Rose Bowl | **Cushions only (soft)** | Not stated | Soft, flexible, no pockets, zippers, compartments, covers or rigid frames |
| **USC** | Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum | **Cushions only** | Should not be larger than 18" wide | No pockets, zippers, storage compartments or metal structures |
| **Washington** | Husky Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not stated | No zippers or pockets |
| **Wisconsin** | Camp Randall Stadium | **Cushions only** | Not more than 16" wide | Backs and arms not stated |

## Good to know: rentals & notes from the official pages

- **Illinois:** Page lists both size limits; plan for 9" × 16"
- **Indiana:** Stadium seatback rentals inside Gates E3 and W2
- **Iowa:** Single-game chairback rentals $15
- **Michigan:** Season seat-cushion leases available
- **Michigan State:** Spartan Seatbacks near Section 21
- **Minnesota:** Single-game seat-back cushion rentals near 105, 115, 133
- **Nebraska:** Backrest rentals $10; East Upper seats have backrests
- **Ohio State:** NEW 2026: single-game padded seatback rentals on A Deck and C Deck
- **Penn State:** Seatback rentals $15 (cash) at Gates B–F
- **Purdue:** Single-game seatbacks sold online, pickup at Gate F
- **Rutgers:** 2026 Know Before You Go page does not mention cushions
- **USC:** Season cushions via IMG College Seating

**Yes** personal seat/chair back allowed **Cushions only** flat cushion OK, back not allowed or not mentioned **No** banned (medical exceptions noted) ***Not stated*** official page doesn't say

# ACC stadium seat & cushion rules (17 schools)

| Team / School | Stadium | Seats allowed? | Size limit | Backs / arms / pockets |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Boston College** | Alumni Stadium | *Not stated* | Not stated | Not stated; folding chairs and heated blankets prohibited |
| **California** | California Memorial Stadium | **Yes (own seatbacks up to 14″ wide)** | Seatbacks 14″ wide max; cushions 18″ max | No metal seatbacks; season-long Cal Seat lease available |
| **Clemson** | Memorial Stadium | **Yes (soft-sided seatbacks)** | Single seat (17″) | Soft-sided only; no arms or non-clear compartments |
| **Duke** | Brooks Field at Wallace Wade Stadium | **Yes (seat cushions and stadium chairs)** | Not stated | No size, arm or pocket limits stated; outside folding/tailgate chairs prohibited |
| **Florida State** | Doak Campbell Stadium | **Yes (no arms)** | Single seat (12″ × 16″ × 14″) | No arms; no seatback rentals in stadium |
| **Georgia Tech** | Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field | **Yes (no arms or pockets)** | Under 16″ wide | No arms, pockets, compartments or covers |
| **Louisville** | L&N Federal Credit Union Stadium (L&N Stadium) | *Not stated (cushions with backs banned)* | Not stated | No backs; plain cushions not addressed |
| **Miami** | Hard Rock Stadium | **No (medical exception)** | n/a | Seat cushions of any size prohibited except for medical needs |
| **NC State** | Carter-Finley Stadium | *Not stated* | Not stated | Not stated; guide's 'Chair Backs' entry only lists Guest Service contacts |
| **North Carolina** | Kenan Stadium | *Not stated (cushions with pockets listed as exceptions)* | Not stated | No pockets; folding chairs prohibited |
| **Pitt** | Acrisure Stadium | **No** | n/a | Seat cushions prohibited; no medical exception stated |
| **SMU** | Gerald J. Ford Stadium | *Not stated (limits only)* | Seatbacks over 18″ wide prohibited | No metal seatbacks; no cushions with zippers, pockets or compartments |
| **Stanford** | Stanford Stadium | *Not stated (limits only)* | Cushions over 18″ prohibited | No metal seatbacks or portable chairs (unless ADA compliant) |
| **Syracuse** | JMA Wireless Dome | *Not stated* | Not stated | Not stated |
| **Virginia** | Scott Stadium | **Yes (no pockets or zippers)** | Not stated | No pockets, zippers or carrying bag; lawn chairs banned; chairback rentals $15 at gates ($12 in advance) |
| **Virginia Tech** | Lane Stadium | **Cushions only (no arms or backs)** | Not stated | No arms or backs; official Hokie Stadium Seat chairbacks rent for $15 on game day |
| **Wake Forest** | Allegacy Financial Stadium | *Not stated (hard metal seats banned)* | Not stated | Hard-backed metal seats prohibited |

## Good to know: rentals & notes from the official pages

- **Boston College:** Fixed seatbacks were added in sections C, D and E for 2026
- **California:** Seat cushions are allowed; cushions over 18″ and metal seatbacks are banned
- **Florida State:** Chair backs with arms, or wider than a single seat, are banned
- **Miami:** Same rule at Dolphins and Hurricanes games
- **NC State:** No official list of banned items was found
- **North Carolina:** The clear bag policy lists cushions with pockets as an exception, with no other detail
- **Pitt:** Acrisure Stadium's own rules also ban seat cushions
- **Syracuse:** Current official pages don't mention cushions or seatbacks
- **Virginia:** Same page's FAQ lists the large clear bag as 12″ × 12″ × 6″
- **Virginia Tech:** Bag section also lists 'seat cushions with arms or backs' among prohibited items

**Yes** personal seat/chair back allowed **Cushions only** flat cushion OK, back not allowed or not mentioned **No** banned (medical exceptions noted) ***Not stated*** official page doesn't say

# Big 12 stadium seat & cushion rules (16 schools)

| Team / School | Stadium | Seats allowed? | Size limit | Backs / arms / pockets |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arizona** | Casino Del Sol Stadium | **Yes** | Max 18″ wide × 9″ deep | Personal chair backs OK at staff discretion; no armrests, cupholders or reclining; no pockets, zippers, compartments or covers |
| **Arizona State** | Mountain America Stadium | **Yes** | Max 18″ wide | Cushions with backs OK; no pockets, compartments, zippers or covers; arms not stated |
| **Baylor** | McLane Stadium | **No** | n/a | Chairbacks and cushions both prohibited |
| **BYU** | LaVell Edwards Stadium | **No** | n/a | No outside stadium chairs; in-stadium chair back rentals (season or per game) |
| **Cincinnati** | Nippert Stadium | **Yes** | No larger than 18″ | Cushions with or without backs OK; pockets and arms not stated on current sheet |
| **Colorado** | Folsom Field | **Yes** | Max 18″ wide | Chair backs OK; no pockets, zippers or covers; can't overhang bleacher |
| **Houston** | TDECU Stadium | ***Not stated*** | Bans seats/seat backs wider than 18″ | Only bans seats and seat backs wider than 18″; cushions not mentioned |
| **Iowa State** | MidAmerican Energy Field at Jack Trice Stadium | ***Not stated*** | Not stated | Current page silent on seats/cushions |
| **Kansas** | David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium | **No (seatbacks); cushions not stated** | n/a | Personal seatbacks/chairbacks prohibited; seatbacks provided to season ticket holders and rented on game day |
| **Kansas State** | Bill Snyder Family Stadium | **Yes** | Max 18″ wide | Seat cushions and chairbacks OK; no pockets, zippers, compartments or covers; arms not stated |
| **Oklahoma State** | Boone Pickens Stadium | **Cushions only (no backs)** | Max 16″ wide | No back or metal frame; personal chair backs prohibited |
| **TCU** | Amon G. Carter Stadium | **No** | n/a | Outside seat cushions prohibited; attached Frog Seats chairbacks sold for $69/season |
| **Texas Tech** | Galaxy Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16″ wide | Cushions and seatbacks OK; no armrests, pockets, zippers, compartments or covers |
| **UCF** | Acrisure Bounce House | **Cushions only** | Not stated | No arms or pockets; seatbacks/chair frames of any kind prohibited |
| **Utah** | Rice-Eccles Stadium | **Yes** | Max 18″ wide | Cushions and seat/chair backs OK; no pockets, zippers, compartments or covers; 'large stadium seats' prohibited |
| **West Virginia** | Milan Puskar Stadium | **Yes** | Max 16″ | Armless only; no pockets, zippers, compartments or covers; no overhang |

## Good to know: rentals & notes from the official pages

- **Arizona:** Formerly Arizona Stadium; chair backs that break the rules must be removed and stored
- **Baylor:** No medical exception is listed for chairbacks or cushions
- **BYU:** Flat cushions not specifically mentioned; chair back rentals sold with tickets
- **Colorado:** Seatback rentals near Gates 1, 6 & 13 ($15 game day; buffseats.com)
- **Houston:** Chairback rentals $15/game; season chairbacks through the ticket office
- **Iowa State:** Older official pages allowed cushions, but the current page doesn't say
- **Oklahoma State:** Chair backs sold through Cowboy Stadium Seating (cowboyseats.com)
- **Texas Tech:** Formerly Jones AT&T Stadium; seat rentals at Gates 1, 3 & 4
- **Utah:** Utah's bag size is written 12″ × 12″ × 6″
- **West Virginia:** Seatback rentals on the east and west concourses; seatbacks also sold on game day for $20 (cashless)

Checked October 2026 against official team, school and stadium pages only. "Not stated" means the official page doesn't say, so ask guest services. **Always confirm on your venue's official page before you leave.** Sortable table with every source link: **beststadiumseats.com/stadium-seat-rules**