

PLAYING RULES & DIVISION III

November 2024

What is a playing rule?

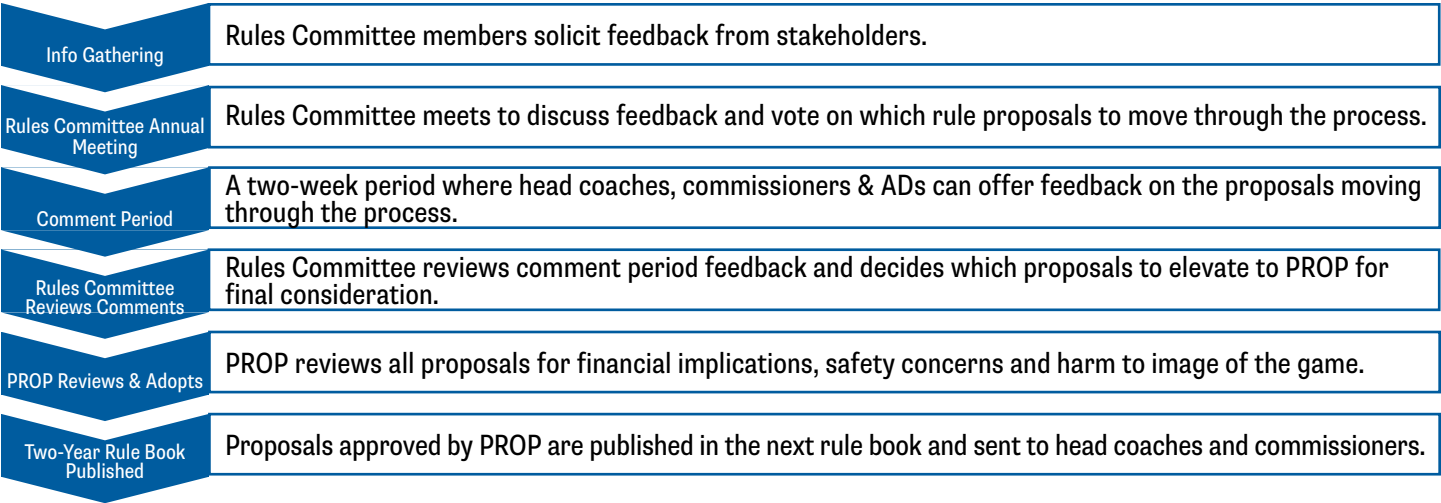
Playing rules are what happens on the field, court, pool, pitch, mat, rink, lane, track or slope when an opponent and officials are present. Playing rules are not what hap-pens during recruiting or practicing, or while working on compliance issues or NCAA championship policies.

What is the difference between a common rule and a federated rule?

A **common** rule is consistent across all three divisions, while a **federated** rule allows for differences by division.

What is the common rule making process and who is involved?

Every two years, each sport undergoes a Playing Rules Cycle.



Stakeholders.

Members of Division III, including coaches, commissioners and athletic administrators.

Rules Committee.

An Association-wide committee that meets to determine which rule changes are elevated to PROP and if proposals are common or federated. DIII is represented on each committee by 2 to 4 members, depending on the sport. For sports using non-NCAA playing rules*, a subcommittee of the DIII Sport Championship Committee serves in this role.

Sport Championship Committee.

A DIII sport-specific committee comprised of coaches and administrators who are experts in their sport, govern each sport and are responsible for administering their respective championships, including establishing brackets and selecting teams to fill them.

PROP.

The Playing Rules Oversight Panel. An Association-wide committee that reviews playing rules proposals and playing rules issues, including implementation of playing rules proposed by rules committees. DIII representation is 3 members.

*sports using non-NCAA playing rules: fencing, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, rifle, rowing, skiing, tennis and men's volleyball.

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How does the Division III federated rules process fit in the existing playing rules process?

Info Gathering	Division III members of the Rules Committee meet with the Division III Sport-Specific Championship Committee to discuss potential rule changes. Division III-specific proposals can be submitted to the Rules Committee during the "Call for Proposals" period.
Rules Committee Annual Meeting	Division III members of the Rules Committee may send a Division III-specific rule for comment and members may identify proposals of interest for Division III.
Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There may be Division III-specific rules where only Division III head coaches, commissioners and ADs provide comments.• The membership will be notified when potential rules carry a financial and/or philosophical impact to encourage participation during the comment period.
Rules Committee Reviews Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Division III members of the Rules Committee meet with the Division III Sport-Specific Championship Committee in an advisory capacity to review the Division III-specific feedback.• During the Association-wide meeting, Division III members may:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve/alter/reject/delay a rule only for Division III.• Reject/alter/delay an adopted common rule as it applies for Division III.
PROP Reviews & Adopts	Division III members of PROP vote on DIII-specific issues
Two-Year Rule Book Published	Proposals approved by PROP are published in the next rule book and sent to head coaches and commissioners.

Are there other ways for Division III members of playing rules committees to get feedback?

Yes. In October 2024 Management Council created a subcommittee to further inform and advise the Division III members of playing rules committees and PROP regarding potential impact of rules proposals on Division III.

Can any playing rule be federated?

While PROP has suggested that some rules areas are integral to competition and should remain common for all divisions, it has also acknowledged that there could be exceptions based on compelling reasons to federate a particular rule. Only the DIII members of PROP determine if a proposed rule that addresses one of the areas, below, has compelling reasons to be federated.

PROP has suggested that the following rules areas should be *common*:

- Rules with a health and safety impact
- Field dimensions, court markings, permissible logos on the field/court
- Scoring and timing rules, including rules surrounding overtime
- Conduct/unsporting rules
- Rules addressing penalty enforcement
- Uniform rules
- Equipment rules (ball/stick specifications, player equipment)
- Technical rules (individual team sports)

PROP has suggested that the following rules areas could be *federated* or *permissive*:

- Halftime/intermission length
- Allowable substitutions
- Technology rules (instant replay, challenge review, technology on bench/sideline, etc.)
- Rules identified as administrative that can be altered by mutual consent of the institutions involved in the contest