



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISIONS I, II AND III FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEES
FEBRUARY 5, 2019, JOINT MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees approved the following rules modifications for the 2019 season. The committees request approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Modification 3.1 Uniforms.

- (1) Recommendation. Allow field players of the same team the choice of shorts or kilt/skirt as long as the shorts/kilt/skirt are of the same color and similar design/trim and cut. Field players of the same team would no longer have to wear the same uniform bottoms. Jersey or shirt and sock/stockings must be uniform.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 season.
- (3) Rationale. While noting the historical perspective of the uniform rule, the current rule does not support inclusive practices for transgender/non-gender conforming individuals. The NCAA best practices document, "Inclusion of Transgender Student-Athletes," shares the following: "Uniforms – all team members should have access to uniforms that are appropriate for their sport and that they feel comfortable wearing. No student-athlete should be required to wear a gendered uniform that conflicts with the student's gender identity." Currently, the only way for a student-athlete to wear a different style uniform bottom in field hockey is to file a waiver. While waivers have been granted, it forces the transgender student-athlete to unnecessarily "out" themselves to NCAA staff. The current rule stands as a barrier to inclusion. The difference in a uniform bottom does not alter the competitiveness or outcome of a contest. This recommendation is supported by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Same as stated rationale.

b. Modification 4.1 Length of Game and Modification 4.4 Timeouts.

- (1) Recommendation. Delete the current length of game modification specifying the game shall be of two periods of 35 minutes each to follow the new FIH rule of four quarters of 15 minutes with an interval of two minutes between the first and second

quarters and between the third and fourth quarters. In conjunction with this change, delete a portion of the timeouts modification (Modification 4.4 a-d).

(2) Effective date. 2019 season.

(3) Rationale. Since all international levels of field hockey are playing the four-quarter format, it would be beneficial for collegiate field hockey to also play this format. As part of the format change, the current timeout modification is no longer needed since there will be more natural stoppages in play. This recommendation is supported by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Aligns the collegiate game with the elite national and international game.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2018 joint meeting report.** The committees approved the 2018 joint committee report as submitted.
2. **Divisional championship reports.** The chairs of the NCAA Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees provided updates on their respective championships and noted their respective national champions – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Division I); Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (Division II); and Middlebury College (Division III).
3. **NCAA rules modifications.** Steve Horgan, NCAA field hockey secretary-rules interpreter, joined the meeting to discuss proposed rules modifications for 2019 (refer to nonlegislative action items). The committees discussed the desire for more feedback on rules modifications proposals from conferences and institutions for review during deliberations, including the development of a rules survey. The committees noted the process would need to start earlier so conferences and institutions could review before the National Field Hockey Coaches Association convention. In addition, the committees expressed interest in developing an NCAA rules book as well as either a rules committee or rules subcommittee of the sport committees.
4. **Umpire manual updates.** The committees discussed developing conflict of interest guidelines for officiating in the NCAA tournament. Staff will report back to the committees with a proposal before implementation for the 2019 season.

5. **Evaluation and education of officials.** Mr. Horgan reviewed the first year of the umpire evaluation process during the regular season. Goals for the second year of the program involve expanding evaluation to more Division II and Division III games. In addition, Mr. Horgan recapped umpire education sessions from the previous year.
6. **Arbiter central hub.** Mr. Horgan provided the committees with the purpose and rollout timeline for the Arbiter central hub that will debut on May 15. The site will include videos, educational information and testing for umpires. Head coaches will have free access to the site.
7. **Bid process.** NCAA staff provided a brief overview of the upcoming bid process. The committees will review and edit bid specifications for their respective championships. In addition, the committees discussed a desire for a joint championship in the next bid cycle as long as all games take place on the same style of playing surface.
8. **Dates for 2020 annual meeting.** The committees agreed to hold the annual meetings on February 3-4, 2020.

Committee Chairs: Kayte Kinsley, Pace University, Northeast-10 Conference
Jamie Mullin, Syracuse University, Atlantic Coast Conference
Jennifer Noon, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham, Middle Atlantic
Conference Freedom

Staff Liaisons: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees February 5, 2019, Joint Meeting	
Attendees:	
Deb DeJong, Long Island University/LIU Post.	
Jacqueline DeMarco, Kenyon College.	
Chad Dwyer, America East Conference.	
Lynn Farquhar, Saint Joseph's University.	
Steve Kanaby, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Kelly Kingsbury, State University of New York at Oneonta.	
Kayte Kinsley, Pace University.	
Helen Knull, Michigan State University.	
Becca Main, Quinnipiac University.	
Michael McFarland, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.	
Jamie Mullin, Syracuse University.	

Christina Needham, Connecticut College.
Jennifer Noon, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham.
Ashley Smeltzer-Kraft, Shenandoah University.
Julie Swiney, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.
Andrea Thebarger, Thomas College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Steve Horgan, NCAA coordinator of officials and secretary-rules interpreter.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ashlee Follis, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Leslie Havens, Championships and Alliances.
Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion.