



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISIONS I, II AND III FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEES
FEBRUARY 4, 2020, JOINT MEETING

Action Item: The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider a recommendation to create the field hockey rules subcommittee, and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel will consider a request to change the suspended game rules modification.

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Legislative items.**
 - **None.**
- **Nonlegislative items.**
 - a. Modification 4.5 Suspended Game.** The NCAA Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees approved the following rules modification for the 2020 season. The committees request approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following item:
 - (1) Recommendation. To change the suspended game rules modification to the following:

If a game is suspended or interrupted and that game cannot be resumed, that game is considered complete if 48 minutes (80 percent) of playing time has elapsed, unless mutually agreed upon before the beginning of the contest by the teams or determined by conference policy.

If 48 minutes of the playing time has elapsed and the game will not be resumed, if the game is not tied, the game shall be considered a completed game and the score will stand.

If 48 minutes of the playing time has elapsed and the game will not be resumed, if the game is tied, the game shall be considered a completed game and it will be recorded as a tie.

If a suspended game (**one in which less than 48 minutes of playing time has elapsed**) is resumed on another day, the game shall be resumed at the point of suspension.
 - (2) Effective date. 2020 season.
 - (3) Rationale. The Division I Competition Oversight Committee directed the field hockey committees to find a solution after a nonconference regular-season field

hockey game was stopped and the game resulted in a no contest because the two teams could not meet later in the season. The rules of field hockey do not currently permit a result for a game that is nearly complete but unable to finish or unable to be resumed later due to unforeseen circumstances. This modification provides for an outcome (win, loss or tie) and brings field hockey in line with other outdoor sports such as lacrosse, soccer and baseball that have similar rules. In addition, this will positively impact the student-athlete experience by providing a result and recognition of statistics and records recorded during such games that would have been erased due to a no contest result. Also, the participating teams will get credit toward selection criteria with a definitive result. 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. Field Hockey Rules Subcommittee.** The committees request approval from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee, the Division II Championships Committee and the Division III Championships Committee for the following item:
- (1) Recommendation. That an eight-member Field Hockey Rules Subcommittee (from within the existing Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees) be appointed to oversee the playing rules modifications for all three divisions. The subcommittee composition would be four representatives from Division I (50%), two from Division II (25%) and two from Division III (25%), which is consistent with other Association-wide playing rules committees/subcommittees. More information is included below under Informational Item No. 4.
 - (2) Effective date. September 1, 2020, to coincide with the FIH rules-making process.
 - (3) Rationale. In response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, the Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees discussed whether the sport would benefit from having an NCAA playing rules book and/or NCAA playing rules committee/subcommittee to be more involved in the rules-making process for field hockey. Currently, the NCAA adheres to the FIH rules. After two years, the Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees would evaluate the effectiveness of the subcommittee to determine if the subcommittee structure should continue or if a stand-alone field hockey playing rules committee would be more beneficial.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None during the two-year evaluation period, as business would be conducted via teleconference.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2019 joint meeting report.** The committees approved the 2019 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); Millersville 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 2020 (refer to Action Item 2-a). 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. The committee directed the new rules subcommittee to develop a plan.
4. **Rules subcommittee.** As noted in Action Item 2-b, in response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, the Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees discussed whether the sport would benefit from having an NCAA playing rules book and/or NCAA playing rules committee/subcommittee. Currently, the NCAA is responsible for the playing rules for 15 sports. However, there are 14 sports (including field hockey) in which the NCAA relies on an outside organization to manage the playing rules. Field Hockey relies on the International Hockey Federation for the playing rules.

During its review of this issue, the committees noted:

- Appointing a subcommittee has been used in the past in other sports. For example, the sports of swimming and diving, track and field, and wrestling previously had playing rules subcommittees before the NCAA membership approved stand-alone playing rules committees in 2012. The NCAA currently has a rules subcommittee in the sports of water polo and tennis.
5. **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 2020 season.
 6. **Evaluation and education of officials.** Mr. Horgan reviewed the second year of the umpire evaluation process during the regular season. Goals for the next year of the program involve remote evaluations to reach more umpires. In addition, Mr. Horgan recapped umpire education sessions from the previous year.

7. **Arbiter central hub.** Mr. Horgan provided the committees with an update on the first year with the Arbiter central hub and included plans for adding additional content for year two. Head coaches have free access to the site.
8. **USA Field Hockey study.** The committee reviewed the recently released USA Field Hockey-commissioned study about sustaining and growing intercollegiate field hockey.
9. **2022-2026 bid process.** NCAA staff provided a brief overview of the bid process timeline. The committees will review submitted bids for their respective championships and make recommendations to their respective oversight committee this summer.
10. **Dates for 2021 annual meeting.** The committees agreed to hold the annual meetings on February 1-2, 2021.

*Committee Chairs: Chad Dwyer, America East Conference
 Michael McFarland, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic 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, 2020, Joint Meeting
Attendees:
Christina Chappell, Connecticut College.
Megan Cross, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Jacqueline DeMarco, Kenyon College.
Chad Dwyer, America East Conference.
Lynn Farquhar, Saint Joseph's University.
Jennifer Gilbert, Miami University (Ohio).
Steve Kanaby, Colonial Athletic Association.
Kayte Kinsley, Pace University.
Becca Main, Quinnipiac University.
Michael McFarland, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.
Jamie Mullin, Syracuse University.
Jennifer Noon, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham.
Ashley Smeltzer-Kraft, Shenandoah University.
Julie Swiney, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

Absentees:
Andrea Thebarger, Thomas College.
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:
Ben Brownlee, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.
Leslie Havens, Championships and Alliances.