



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA FIELD HOCKEY RULES SUBCOMMITTEE  
JANUARY 31, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.** The NCAA Field Hockey Rules Subcommittee approved the following rules modification proposals. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. **Uniforms (Rule Modification 3.1.e).**

- (1) Recommendation. To change the language regarding the color of the game shirt to specify light and dark from the currently language of “contrasting” to read as follows:

The game shirt worn by the designated home team must be predominantly dark and the game shirt worn by the designated away team must be predominantly light.

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. This change is a significant editorial change intended to reduce the potential of manipulation of the playing rule.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Minimal.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. **Blood rule (Rule Modification 3.2).**

- (1) Recommendation. To follow the FIH rule regarding blood and state the following:

A player who is injured or bleeding must leave the field unless medical reasons prevent this and must not return until wounds have been covered. Players must not wear blood-stained clothing.

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. Two current modifications provided conflicting guidance on how an injured or bleeding athlete should be handled. This will align the language in Modification 3.2 with the language in Modification 2.b. and is intended to provide clearer guidance to

umpires and coaches regarding what must occur when an athlete has an injury with blood.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Elimination of second horn (elimination of Rule Modification 4.4.b).**

(1) Recommendation. To eliminate Modification 4.4.b, requiring a signal from the scoreboard (horn), table scorer or timer at the 0:15 second mark of the end of quarter and halftime breaks. A signal will be made at the 0:00 mark of the quarter and halftime breaks, and play must restart when the game clock is reset (Modification 4.4.c).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Eliminating this modification is intended to provided consistency across the country.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Suspended game mutual agreement to resume (Rule Modifications 4.5.c and 4.5.d).**

(1) Recommendation. To establish guidelines for resumption of play when a game is suspended to read as follows:

**4.5.c.** - No game may be started more than three (3) hours after the originally scheduled start time unless the umpires have been notified and the new start time mutually agreed upon before the start of the game by the teams or determined by the governing sports authority.

**4.5.d.** – Once a game has been started and suspended, it must be restarted not later than three (3) hours after the originally schedule start time unless mutually agreed upon before the start of the game by the teams or determined by the governing sports authority.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The current modifications do not provide guidance for how long teams should be expected to wait due to inclement weather during a suspended contest. This proposed language is consistent with other outdoor fall sports such as soccer.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**e. Captains meeting (Rule Modification 4.7).**

(1) Recommendation. To require that a coach from each team be present during the pre-game captains meeting with the umpires.

The expectation of this pre-game meeting is to identify a team's speaking captain and other identified captains, confirm whether Video Referral will be used and to agree on restart from suspension of play (if inclement weather is possible).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This modification is intended to address the listed items prior to the start of the game to properly administer specific rules.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**f. Progression of cards for coach misconduct (Rule Modification 6).**

(1) Recommendation. To establish the following progression of cards for coach misconduct during competition:

First offense - green card.

Second offense - yellow card. Speaking captain (or captain on the field of play if the speaking captain is not currently on the field) shall be removed from play for 5 minutes of elapsed playing time.

Third offense - red card. Head coach shall be ejected from the contest and shall be suspended from the next regularly scheduled game, including postseason games.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

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(3) Rationale. Establishing a progression of cards give the umpire another tool to address coaching behavior. The progression is intended to have a greater impact in the game and allow the umpire more latitude in moderating sideline decorum.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **g. Video referral (Rule Modification 7).**

(1) Recommendation. To follow the guideline of the FIH video referral process without modifications.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This is intended to eliminate confusion for umpires and coaches regarding what is reviewable and how the referral process shall be handled. The current Appendix A in the rule modifications will be maintained and revised to be consistent with the FIH to serve as a guide to the membership using video referral.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the Field Hockey Rules Subcommittee and invited guests and thanked them for their time and commitment to the game.
2. **Review of 2022 and 2023 rules process and timeline.** The subcommittee reviewed the timelines for the 2022 and 2023 rules process. The subcommittee reviewed the potential next steps in the process of developing a standing Field Hockey Rules Committee and the necessary steps that needed to consider the creation of an NCAA Field Hockey Rules Book. Staff reminded the subcommittee of the current NCAA Bylaws indicating the International Field Hockey (FIH) rules are used for NCAA competition with NCAA modifications.
3. **NCAA Rules Interpreter update.** The subcommittee received a report from the NCAA Field Hockey Rules Interpreter, which included a summary of interpretations that were provided throughout the year, as well as a review of recent rules guidance by the FIH for the use of video referral. The report also included one rules modifications recommendation, listed below in Informational Item 5.

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4. **NCAA National Coordinator of Official update.** The Subcommittee received a report from the NCAA National Coordinator of Officials, which included a brief overview of the championship and discussed the need for continued education for officials to improve the view referral process moving forward during the regular season and championships.
5. **Review of proposed NCAA ruled modifications.** The Subcommittee reviewed nine proposed rules modifications and recommended seven changes for approval (see Action Items 2.a – 2.g). The recommended modifications include clarifying the language regarding the predominant color both the home and away team, ensuring the blood rule is consistent with other modifications referring to injury, eliminating the :15 second horn at quarter and halftime breaks, establishing a standard for teams to wait when a game is suspended by inclement weather if there is not mutual agreement, requiring that the head coach be present during the pre-game captains meeting, establishing a progression of card for coach misconduct and following the guidelines established by FIH regarding the use of video referral. The subcommittee recommended that Appendix A of the Rules Modification document be maintained, with edits to be consistent with the FIH, to serve as a resource to the membership conducting video referral.
6. **Selection of subcommittee chair.** The Subcommittee selected Victor Brady as chair for the 2023-24 academic year.
7. **Future meeting and teleconference dates.**
  - a. The subcommittee will conduct a videoconference February 23, 2023, to review the results of the comment period and will meet virtual prior to the season, if necessary.
  - b. The subcommittee annual meeting will be January 30, 2024.

*Committee Chair:* Carolyn King-Robitaille, Saint Anselm College

*Staff Liaison(s):* Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

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<b>Attendees:</b>	
Victory Brady, Bryn Mawr College.	
Cheryl Bruttomesso, NCAA rules interpreter.	
Pam Bustin, Duke University.	
Chrissy Needham, Connecticut College.	
Jennifer Gilbert, Miami University (Ohio).	
Cheryl Bruttomesso, NCAA rules interpreter.	
Carolyn King-Robitaille, Saint Anselm College.	
Joanie Milhous, Villanova University	
Julie Munson, Southern New Hampshire University.	
Caitlyn Prandato, Harvard University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Tim Vaughan.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Ben Brownlee.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Will Hopkins and Caleb Kolby.	