



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA FIELD HOCKEY RULES SUBCOMMITTEE  
JANUARY 28, 2025, 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. Face Masks (New Rule Modification 3.2).**

1. Recommendation. To require all field players defending a penalty corner to wear a face mask (currently a recommendation). This rules modification would require four (4) face masks with a goalie or five (5) face masks if a goalie is not used.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. The FIH and USA Field Hockey are requiring all field players to wear face masks when defending penalty corners during their tournament competition to best protect the players. The use of face masks on penalty corners is widely accepted by professional organizations and NCAA member schools and is an important consideration in mitigating injury risk.
4. Estimated budget impact. \$75-\$145/face mask.
5. Student-athlete impact. Enhance student-athlete safety.

**b. Complete Game (Rule Modification 4.5b).**

1. Recommendation. To change a complete game to the end of the third period (75%).
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. With periods instead of halves, it is more logical for the end of the third period (75%) to be considered a complete game instead of the current rule which is 80%.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.

5. Student-athlete impact. None.

c. **Ejections and Suspensions (Rule Modification 6.3).**

1. Recommendation.

**Ejection for a Player:** A player receiving a red card shall be ejected from the game and shall leave the venue, be out of sight and sound and is prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel until the completion of the contest, including the overtime periods.

**Suspension for a Player:** A player serving a game suspension(s) may be in the team area, provided they are not in uniform. A player serving a game suspension(s) may not participate in any pregame activities.

**Ejection for a Head Coach:** The head coach shall receive any red card assessed to their team bench area. A head coach receiving a red card shall be ejected from the game and shall leave the venue, be out of sight and sound and is prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel until the completion of the contest, including the overtime periods.

**Suspension for a Head Coach:** A head coach serving a game suspension(s) shall not be in the venue from one hour before the scheduled start of the game until 30 minutes after the completion of the contest. During the suspension, the head coach must be out of sight and sound and is prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel until the completion of the contest, including the overtime periods. A coach serving a game suspension(s) may participate in any pregame activities up until one hour before the scheduled start time.

2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. To clarify ejection requirements for players and coaches, including leaving the venue, being out of sight and sound and not communicating with the team. Additionally, to clarify suspension requirements for coaches and players. The language for ejections and suspensions aligns with other NCAA sports.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Illegal Participation (New Rule Modification 6.3).**

1. Recommendation. If an ejected or suspended player illegally participates in any game: (1) the original term of suspension for the player shall be doubled, and (2) the head coach shall also serve the same suspension of the player. If an ejected or suspended head coach illegally participates in any game, the original term of suspension for the head coach shall be doubled.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. In response to the directive from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP), to implement a penalty for illegal participation by an ejected or suspended player or coach.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The subcommittee was welcomed and thanked for their time.
2. **Approval of January 30, 2024, annual meeting report.** The subcommittee approved the report as written.
3. **Report of the national coordinator of officials.** The subcommittee received a report from the NCAA national coordinator of officials, which included an overview of the championship.
4. **Report of the rules interpreter.** The subcommittee received a report from the NCAA rules interpreter, which included a review of changes for the 2024 season, consideration of a technical official instead of a reserve umpire at the championships, rules modification considerations for 2025 and feedback received during the NFHCA convention.
5. **Review of the proposed rules modifications and clarifications.** The subcommittee reviewed 12 proposed rules modifications and recommended four changes for approval (see Action Item 2a). The subcommittee will continue discussing potential changes to overtime over the next year.
6. **Future meeting dates.** The subcommittee scheduled a videoconference for Tuesday, March 25, to review the comment period results. The 2026 annual meeting will be held Tuesday, January 27, 2026, in conjunction with the divisional sport committee annual meetings.

7. **Selection of subcommittee chair.** The subcommittee will select a chair during its March 25 videoconference.
8. **Other business.** The subcommittee had no other business.
9. **Adjournment.** The subcommittee adjourned at 3 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair:* Joanie Milhous, Villanova University, Big East Conference.  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

NCAA Field Hockey Rules Subcommittee January 28, 2025, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Wendy Andreatta, University of Rochester.	
Victor Brady, Bryn Mawr College.	
Cheryl Bruttomesso, rules interpreter.	
Pam Bustin, Duke University.	
Jarred Martin, The Ohio State University.	
Joanie Milhous, Villanova University.	
Julie Munson, Southern New Hampshire University.	
Rayell Wallace, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.	
Sydney Van Der Merwe, Sacred Heart University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Tim Vaughn, national coordinator.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Ashlee Follis.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Will Hopkins, Caleb Kolby and Ryan Richardson.	