



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE
APRIL 12, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of comment period results.** The NCAA Football Rules Committee reviewed the feedback received regarding the proposals the Football Rules Committee approved at its annual meeting in March. The Football Rules Committee noted opposition to the rules proposal to adjust the clock status when awarding a first down. The comment period response rate was reviewed, and Football Rules Committee members discussed the merits of the proposals. The Football Rules Committee continues to believe this specific proposal will improve the game overall and does not believe the comment period results should carry the day.

The federated rules option was also discussed, as it was during the annual meeting. The Football Rules Committee did not choose to adjust its proposals and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel will consider the proposals, with rationale and comment period feedback, during its April 20 meeting.

2. **Federated rules process.** The Football Rules Committee discussed federating playing rules, which is an option in the NCAA Constitution. The Football Rules Committee discussed this topic at length and is sharing the following considerations with PROP for consideration as the oversight body for all NCAA playing rules committees:
 - a. The Football Rules Committee believes it is important to properly define and give examples of rules that are “integral to the playing and administration of the game.” The Football Rules Committee believes rules that meet this definition should be the same for all divisions.
 - b. The Football Rules Committee supports attempts to ensure student-athletes and coaches are playing under the NCAA brand and therefore playing the same physical game when possible. The Football Rules Committee has some concern about divisions having a stigma as “less-than” at Divisions II and III if integral rules are allowed to be different.
 - c. Officiating overlap and development concerns are significant, particularly in sports where officials regularly work different divisions, especially in an environment where recruiting sports officials is a significant challenge.
 - d. The Football Rules Committee recognizes that some proposals will not be popular with some segments of the membership (e.g., coaches versus administrators) and that there will be times where the support of a proposal may be lacking. The Football Rules Committee’s main focus is to construct playing rules that support the game at all levels.
 - e. The process currently allows for the financial/administrative differences and has served football well (e.g., headsets are only limited in Football Bowl Subdivision, video replay is a permissive rule).

3. **Future meeting schedule.** The Football Rules Committee plans to review its meeting cadence, given the potential changes in the calendars, particularly in Division I. There is some interest in having any rules adjustments finalized before spring practice sessions; this will be a topic of discussion for the Football Rules Committee to review at a future meeting. A joint meeting with the NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee and the divisional championship committees continue to be critical.

Committee Co-Chairs: Scott Draper, Big 12 Conference, and Kirby Smart, University of Georgia

Staff Liaison(s): Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

NCAA Football Rules Committee April 12, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Aaron Best, Eastern Washington University.	
Jason Carmichael, University of West Georgia.	
Jonathan Drach, Wilkes University.	
Scott Draper, Big 12 Conference.	
Thomas Hammock, Northern Illinois University.	
Stan Hodgins, Shenandoah University.	
Jason Lener, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).	
Scott Maxfield, Henderson State University.	
Woody McCorvey, Clemson University.	
Steve Shaw, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Rich Wanninger, Patriot League.	
John Wristen, Colorado State University, Pueblo.	
Absentee:	
Kirby Smart, University of Georgia.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Rachel Seewald.	