



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 3, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Enhanced communication.** The NCAA Football Rules Committee identified overall communication with key internal committees (e.g., NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee, NCAA Divisions II and III Football Championship Committees) as an enhancement priority moving forward. Other organizations, like the National Football League, USA Football and National Federation of State High School Associations continue to provide important perspective. Continuing to enhance this collaboration will be important as future rules adjustments are considered.
2. **Federated rules process.** The Football Rules Committee discussed a portion of the new NCAA Constitution, which allows divisional differences in playing rules for the first time. Each division is in the process of establishing a procedure, but the Football Rules Committee has the option of proposing rules by division if needed.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.** The Football Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2023 season. The Football Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

a. **Extension of Periods (Rule 3-2-3-a).**

- (1) Recommendation. Change this rule to read:

“A period shall be extended for an untimed down in the 2nd or 4th quarter only if a penalty is accepted for a live-ball foul, if there are offsetting fouls, or an official sounds their whistle inadvertently or otherwise incorrectly signals the ball dead during a down in which time expires. The 1st and 3rd quarter will not be extended and any penalty enforcement will be carried over to the following quarter.”

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. This rule change proposal is being made to improve the flow of the game and eliminate an untimed play in these rare instances.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

b. Stopping and Starting the Clock – First Downs (Rule 3-2-2-e-1).

- (1) Recommendation. The Football Rules Committee is proposing an adjustment to the rules to read:

“When Team A (offense) gains a first down, the clock will no longer be stopped to award a first down except with less than two minutes remaining in the 2nd and 4th quarters.”

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. This proposal is intended to provide consistency with officiating mechanics and is likely to remove a small number of plays from the game, while preserving the clock stoppage at the end of either half. Currently, the clock stops to award a first down, and some referees quickly restart the game clock, while others are more deliberate. This eliminates this inconsistency. The removal of some plays in the game will enhance student-athlete safety overall and allow the rules committee to study the impact of this change across all divisions.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

c. Consecutive Charged Team Timeouts (Rule 3-3-4-a).

- (1) Recommendation. The Football Rules Committee is proposing an adjustment to this rule to read:

“Consecutive charged team timeouts will no longer be allowed by the same team in any individual dead ball period. Each team is entitled to three charged team timeouts during each half, with no more than one charged team timeout available per team, per individual dead ball period.”

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. This is an effort to improve the flow of the game and reduce unnecessary stoppages.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Limited.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome, introductions and establishment of committee leadership.** The NCAA staff liaison welcomed the Football Rules Committee and invited guests and reviewed the schedule for the meetings. The Football Rules Committee's first order of business was to establish co-chairs, naming Scott Draper, Big 12 Conference, and Kirby Smart, University of Georgia, as co-chairs. The Football Rules Committee welcomed the following new members: Scott Draper, who is replacing Zac Selmon (formerly of University of Oklahoma, who was named athletic director at Mississippi State University and therefore no longer representing the Big 12 Conference); Thomas Hammock, Northern Illinois University; Woody McCorvey, Clemson Clemson; Scott Maxfield, Henderson State Henderson State; and Jason Lener, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).
- 2. Review committee structure, process and timeline.** The Football Rules Committee reviewed the committee operations manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, as well as guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines. The Football Rules Committee noted that this is a year in which any rules changes may be considered.
- 3. Review of injury data.** The Football Rules Committee received a report from Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center, regarding the injury data collected in the most recent cycle. The report noted requested topics. The Football Rules Committee also received an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the research and offered support to assist with data collection.
- 4. College Football Officiating, LLC report.** Jon Steinbrecher, commissioner of the Mid-American Conference and chair of the College Football Officiating, LLC, provided a report. Jon Steinbrecher noted the CFO's continued emphasis on player safety and noted support for the game flow proposals the committee approved.
- 5. Division I Football Competition Committee joint session.** The Football Rules Committee met with the Division I Football Competition Committee and discussed several items relating to technology in the game and received an update on the postseason framework for the Football Bowl Subdivision. The Division I Football Competition Committee supported the Football Rules Committee's proposals to improve the game flow and officiating mechanics. Chair of the Division I Football Competition Committee, Troy Dannen, Tulane University, sat in on some of the Football Rules Committee sessions.
- 6. National Football League joint session.** The Football Rules Committee met with the National Football League's Competition Committee and staff to share ideas and information. The NFL's rules process follows a similar timeline to the NCAA process. The Football Rules Committee supports continued collaboration and encouraged NCAA staff to meet more frequently with the NFL as appropriate.

7. **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 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 February 28-March 3, 2023, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Aaron Best, Eastern Washington University.
Jason Carmichael, University of West Georgia.
Scott Draper, Big 12 Conference.
Thomas Hammock, Northern Illinois University.
Stan Hodgin, Shenandoah University.
Jason Lener, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).
Scott Maxfield, Henderson State University.
Woody McCorvey, Clemson University.
Steve Shaw, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Kirby Smart, University of Georgia.
Rich Wanninger, Patriot League.
John Wristen, Colorado State University, Pueblo.
Guests in Attendance:
Dean Blandino, CFO.
Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center.
Troy Dannen, Tulane University.
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference, Playing Rules Oversight Panel.
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Ty Halpin.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
D.J. Brown, Amanda Conklin, LaGwyn Durden, Chris Johnson and Greg Johnson.