



MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2026

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division II Football Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics and Head Coaches.

FROM: Ty Halpin,
Director of Championships.

SUBJECT: Status of Coach-to-Player Helmet Communication.

This document is intended to provide an update regarding coach-to-player helmet communication for Division II football competition. In short, the possible use of this technology in Division II football is currently tabled and will be taken up by the appropriate committees later this month. The Division II members of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) tabled this issue to permit the new structure to take hold and allow time for additional feedback on helmet communication technology as well as other items (e.g., wearables).

Listed below is the timeline for this issue and potential next steps for Division II institutions:

- **February 2024 and 2025 – Rules Committee notice/proposal.** The permissive use of helmet communication was proposed for Division I Football Bowl Subdivision institutions for the 2024 competition season and for Division I Football Championship Subdivision institutions for use in the 2025 competition season. Divisions II and III Football rules committee members included its intent to permit the use of this technology starting in the 2026 competition season to permit two full seasons for implementation. The formal request was made for Divisions II and III in February 2025.
- **April 2025 – PROP Action.** PROP approved the permissive use of the technology as requested by the rules committee, except for Division II. The Division II PROP members requested an additional survey of the membership and tabled the issue until a future PROP meeting.
- **May/June/July 2025 – Division II PROP Member Review.** The Division II members of PROP continued to survey and review responses from the Division II membership, which were overall supportive, but limited in quantity. With the playing rules structure changing, the DII PROP members decided to table the proposal to permit the new structure to take hold.
- **December 2025 – Divisions II/III Football Rules Committee seated.** The final members were approved and accepted positions on the Divisions II/III Football Rules Committee.
- **January 2026 – Divisions II/III Football Rules Committee Meeting.** First meeting of the group was held. Division II members of the committee met separately and noted initial support for the permissive use of the coach-to-player helmet technology and potential use for the 2026 season. The group agreed to target its February in-person meeting to discuss and provide additional feedback to the newly-constituted Divisions II/III PROP.

- **February 12, 2026 – Divisions II/III PROP Annual Meeting.** Issue overview will be provided, and Division II members will consider options to address the tabled proposal.
- **February 12, 2026 – Division II Football Committee Meeting.** Annual meeting of the Division II sport championship committee; playing rules update will be provided and feedback collected.
- **February 26-27, 2026 – Divisions II/III Football rules committee meeting.** The Division II members of the rules committee will review feedback and share its position on the coach-to-player communication, depending on the Division II PROP action. Consideration of other technology (e.g., wearable communication devices) and any experimental rules will be considered by the full committee.
- **April 15, 2026 – Divisions II/III PROP Meeting.** All football playing rules proposals and comment period results from the committee's February meeting will be considered during this meeting. Once approved, rules will be final for the 2026 competition season.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Ty Halpin (thalpin@ncaa.org) or Steve Shaw (sdshaw.cfo@gmail.com). Thank you for your attention to this document and good luck this season.

TH:cl

cc: NCAA Division II Football Rules Committee
NCAA Division II Playing Rules Oversight Panel
NCAA Division II Championships Committee
NCAA Division II Football Committee