REPORT OF THE
NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. Continued Collaboration. The Football Rules Committee continued to manage the playing rules by collaborating with the Division I Competition Committee and National Football League’s Competition Committee during its meeting sessions. The group also invited key media partners and guests from appropriate high school athletic governing bodies to contribute to the discussions.

2. Data Collection. To continue to make measured changes to the sport, the committee continued to focus on surveying the membership and collecting appropriate data when making decisions and measuring the impact of those decisions. The committee will focus on special teams play in the coming year as an area of continued focus and potential improvement.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   • None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Football Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2019 season. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items.

   a. Overtime (Rule 3-3-f).

      (1) Recommendation. To adjust this rule to read: “Beginning with the fifth extra period, each team will move directly to attempt a two point try. In the absence of a media timeout, after the second and fourth extra period, there will be a two-minute mandatory break period.”

      (2) Effective date. Immediately.

      (3) Rationale. This is a small adjustment to the overtime rules to end contests that go past four overtime periods more quickly and with fewer plays. This change is being proposed for student-athlete safety reasons.

      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

      (5) Student-athlete impact. This is an effort to enhance student-athlete safety.
b. Kickoff – Illegal Wedge Formation (Rule 6-1-10).

(1) **Recommendation.** To adjust this rule to prohibit the use of more than one player blocking shoulder to shoulder on a free-kick play.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This is being proposed to enhance student-athlete safety.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** This change is intended to enhance student-athlete safety.

c. Targeting Penalty (Rule 9-1-2 and 9-1-4).

(1) **Recommendation.** To adjust this rule to read: “If a student-athlete receives a second targeting foul within the same season, that player is disqualified for the remainder of that game and the player would receive an automatic one-game suspension in his team’s next scheduled game.”

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This change continues the evolution of the targeting rule. In very few cases, a student-athlete has been disqualified for targeting more than one time in the same season. This underscores the need for coaches and student-athletes to review their approach after the first targeting penalty.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** For those student-athletes that are penalized under this rule, the penalty will be more stringent.

d. Blind-Side Block (Rule 9-1-18).

(1) **Recommendation.** To add a new rule to read: “No player shall deliver a blind-side block by attacking an opponent with forcible contact. Note: In addition, if this action meets all the elements of targeting, it is a blind-slide block with targeting (Rules 9-1-3 and 9-1-4).”

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This change is being proposed for student-athlete safety reasons.
(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** This is an effort to enhance student-athlete safety.

e. **Instant Replay Review of Targeting (Rule 12-3-5).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To add to this rule: “For a player to be disqualified and the Targeting foul to be enforced, all elements of a Targeting foul must be confirmed by the Instant Replay Official. If any element of Targeting cannot be confirmed, then the Replay Official shall overturn the targeting foul. (There is no option for stands as a part of a Targeting review.)”

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This adjustment is being proposed because of the significant impact on the image of the game. The Targeting rule, since its inception in 2008, has positively changed student-athlete technique and coaching philosophy. This rule better connects the instruction to the on-field officials (when in doubt, it is a foul) and the instant replay official. In some cases, student-athletes were being disqualified without the elements of targeting present, due to instant replay philosophy and education. This carves out targeting separately and requires the instant replay official to review all aspects of the play due to the significance of the rule and penalty involved.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** This is an effort to enhance the officiating and fairness of this important rule.

f. **Blocking Below the Waist (Rule 9-1-6-b).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To adjust this rule to make it clear that when the defense can block below the waist by rule, the block must be directed from the front. There are multiple parts of this rule where either removing “offense” or adding “defense” will clarify the rule.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This change is being proposed for student-athlete safety reasons and aligns the rules appropriately for both the offense and defense.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) Student-athlete impact. This adjustment is intended to enhance student-athlete safety.

g. Officiating Crews – Assignment and Supervision (Editorial).

(1) Recommendation. To adjust this policy to read: “Officiating crews, including the Instant Replay Official, will be assigned from the same officiating organization (effective August 1, 2020).”

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This clarifies that the instant replay official and function is to be managed by the same entity that is assigning the on-field officials for consistency and proper management of this important function.

(4) Estimated budget impact. In most cases, this is the conference policy now for those utilizing instant replay; in some cases, there could be an impact to travel instant replay officials.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This adjustment is intended to enhance student-athlete safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and Introductions. The chair welcomed the committee and invited guests and noted appreciation on behalf of the NCAA for volunteering to serve. Committee members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.

2. Review Committee Structure, Process and Timeline. The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. The 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.

3. Kickoffs. The committee reviewed the impact of the rules change that allows the receiving team to fair catch a kickoff and have it become a touchback. The committee believes this change has been a positive overall in the game and will maintain this rule for the 2019 season. Additionally, the committee plans to work closely with the American Football Coaches Association to review all special teams plays and determine if there are additional rules adjustments that may enhance these plays.

4. Reports from Invited Guests. The committee received reports from Bob Colgate, National Federation of State High School Associations; Susan Elza, University Interscholastic League (Texas); David Polanski, National Athletic Trainers Association and Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.
5. **Meeting with Media Partners.** Representatives from selected television partners joined the committee and discussed the presentation of the sport and potential ways to improve and enhance the in-stadium experience as well as broadcasts.

6. **Review of Injury Data.** The committee received a report from Erin Wasserman, Datalys Center, and John Parsons from the NCAA regarding the injury data collected in the most recent cycle. The committee pledged support to help Datalys with encouraging more institutions to participate in the data collection moving forward.

7. **College Football Officiating, LLC Report.** Jon Steinbrecher provided a report from the College Football Officiating, LLC, which manages Division I football officiating and noted several key areas, including the continued emphasis on player safety and technology to advance the game in officiating. The CFO will also conduct a review of instant replay procedures moving forward and will work closely with the committee in any way it can be helpful.

8. **National Football League joint session.** The committee met with the NFL’s Competition Committee and staff to share ideas and information. The meeting continues to be a productive part of the rules process.

9. **Future Meeting Schedule.** The committee agreed that the overlap with the National Football League combine provided several opportunities for engagement that otherwise did not exist. Additionally, meeting with the Division I Football Competition Committee was a positive, and the group agreed this should continue if possible. Therefore, the annual meeting will be scheduled for a similar timeframe to allow for these discussions.

*Committee Chair:* David Shaw, Stanford, Pacific-12 Conference  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendees:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Carollo, Big Ten Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Cater, Shepherd University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Eavenson, Methodist University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Looney, Missouri Western State University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Reno, Missouri Western State University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Shaw, secretary-rules editor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Shaw, Stanford University, chair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Smithley, Waynesburg University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Viator, University of Louisiana-Monroe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vaughn Williams, Boston College.
Doug Zipp, Ohio Wesleyan.

**Absentees:**
Peter Rossomondo, Central Connecticut State University.

**Guests in Attendance:**
Steve Ackels, ESPN.
Ray Anderson, Arizona State University; Pacific-12 Conference.
Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.
Dean Blandino, CFO.
Bob Colgate, National Federation of State High School Associations.
Susan Elza, University Interscholastic League (Texas).
Jeff Flanagan, active official, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Chuck McDonald, Fox Sports.
Ed Placey, ESPN.
David Polanski, University of Arkansas. (National Athletic Trainers Association).
Brian Polk, University Interscholastic League (Texas).
Rogers Redding, national officiating coordinator.
Craig Silver, CBS.
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference.
Erin Wasserman, Datalys Center.

**NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:**
Ty Halpin.

**Other NCAA Staff in Attendance:**
Dan Calandro, Amanda Conklin, LaGwyn Durden, Barb Hallam, Greg Johnson, Eric Mayes, John Parsons, Kris Richardson.