

**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 6, 2018, TELECONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM.**

- At the request of the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee, the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee met to revisit the forfeit rule that was discussed during its January 2018 annual meeting. The committee continued to support enforcing the forfeit rule, including switching the win/loss record if the offending team were to win but would like to be able to adjust the data at selections in to see if any major differences occur.

*Committee Chair: Bill Wnek, Loyola University Maryland*

*Staff Liaison: Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division I Men's Soccer Committee August 6, 2018, Teleconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Bill Wnek, Loyola University Maryland	
Lee Reed, Georgetown University	
Eric Nichols, University of South Carolina, Columbia	
Tom McIntosh, The University of Tulsa	
Jeff Bacon, Mid-American Conference	
Brett Surrency, Georgia State University	
Matt Mennell, University of North Carolina, Wilmington	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
D'Ann Keller, Saint Louis University,	
Damon Rensing, Michigan State University	
Earl Koberlein, Stanford University	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Ryan Tressel	
Alaina Keller	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Ashlee Follis and Matt Holmes	



## Men's and Women's Soccer Forfeit Information

### **Background Information**

- In recent years, the NCAA has continued to explore ways to ensure that following a soccer game, involved players, head coaches and conference and institutional administrators are aware of red cards that were issued during the contest so the appropriate penalties (e.g., sitting out the following game) are properly enforced.
- The penalty for failing to require a player or coach to sit out the following game(s) is to forfeit the game(s) in which they participated.
- To assist conferences and institutions in tracking red cards, the NCAA Soccer Red Card Depository, which involves the game official completing an online form that lists the player/coach that received the red card and the reason for the red card, was developed in 2013.
- Once the official submits the form, the system sends an email to the conference commissioner, director of athletics and head coach advising of the red card.
- Although not a perfect system, the report rate of red cards issued by officials has grown from 69% in Year 1 (2013) to 96% in Year 5 (2017).
- For various reasons (usually unintentionally), not all suspensions are being properly served. NCAA staff is aware of 15 instances of suspensions not being served properly from 2012-2017.
- The NCAA soccer playing rules outline the penalties for receiving a red card (or accumulation of yellow cards) and not properly serving the associated suspension, including forfeiting the game. However, a different playing rule contradicts how to handle the penalty for participation by an illegal (card-suspended) player or coach.
  - The rule requiring a postgame forfeit for participation by a card-suspended player or coach has been in the soccer rules since at least the 1990s. (Rule 12.8.1 Penalties 1 and 2)
  - However, in 2005 a rule was added stipulating that for NCAA statistical purposes, the forfeit would not be enforced and instead, the result and statistics would reflect what happened on the field. (Rule 7.4.3)
- The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee and the soccer community (majority of the coaches and commissioners) favor imposing the forfeit if a team fails to enforce the suspension rules correctly.
- However, NCAA legal, championships and statistics staffs oppose enforcing the forfeit and have requested the rules committee delete the forfeit rule.
- Attachment A provides information on how other areas of the NCAA penalize a team and/or student-athlete for illegal participation (e.g., academically ineligible and a failed drug test).
- Attachment B outlines previous meetings/discussions and provides a tentative timeline for upcoming meetings/discussions.
- Attachment C provides a general summary of the reasons for allowing the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee to enforce the forfeit rule, and a summary of reasons for directing the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee to find alternative penalties for institutions that allow for an illegal (card-suspended) student-athlete or head coach to participate.

### Attachment A

Attachment A provides information on how other areas of the NCAA penalize a team and/or student-athlete for illegal participation (e.g., academically ineligible, failed drug test) that is discovered after the contest has ended.

<b>Reason for Ineligibility</b>	<b>Penalty for Soccer</b>	<b>Penalty for Other Team Sports – Regular Season</b>	<b>Penalty for Team Sports - Postseason</b>
Playing rule	Forfeit the game and additional game suspension	In general, playing rules for other sports do not outline a penalty for participation by an ejected or suspended player/coach	Game in which the illegal player/coach participated is subjectively reviewed during the sport committee's selection process (soccer)
Academics/extra benefits/amateurism/initial eligibility	Financial penalty and additional game suspension for player and/or coach  DI - \$500/player/competition (max \$5,000/year) DII/DIII - \$250/player/competition (max \$2,500/year)	Financial penalty and additional game suspension for player and/or coach  DI - \$500/player/competition (max \$5,000/year) DII/DIII - \$250/player/competition (max \$2,500/year)	DI: No action DII: Nullification DIII: Nullification
Failed drug test	Performance enhancing drug – 365 days/loss of a year Illicit drug – 50% of season	Performance enhancing drug – 365 days/loss of a year Illicit drug – 50% of season	Deleting of records (vacating wins) and forfeiting of awards

## **Attachment B**

Attachment B outlines previous meetings/discussions and provides a tentative timeline for upcoming meetings/discussions.

### **Previous Meetings/Discussions**

- September 14, 2017: NCAA playing rules staff met with legal, statistics and championship administrators to discuss the forfeit rule in preparation for the rules committee's annual meeting in March 2018. General consensus was the rules committee should consider a different penalty (other than a forfeit) for participation by an illegal player or coach.
- January 4, 2018: NCAA playing rules staff conducted a call with a focus group comprised of six conference representatives. Although there was no consensus, there was some support that soccer is unique enough that the forfeit rule should be enforced.
- January 18-19, 2018: NCAA playing rules staff attended the soccer coaches convention and discussed the issue with the coaches in the DI, II and III meetings. In general, there was strong support from the coaches in attendance to enforce the forfeit rule.
- January 30, 2018: NCAA playing rules staff met with the Division I Men's and Women's Soccer Committees. In general, there was strong support to enforce the forfeit rule.
- February 5, 2018: The rules committee included four specific questions regarding this issue on the rules survey that was sent to DI, II and III head coaches, commissioners and officials. The survey results were overwhelmingly in favor of enforcing the forfeit as currently written in the rules book (changing the winner/loser).
- February 27, 2018: NCAA playing rules staff again met with legal, statistics and championship administrators to update them on the feedback received during the various meetings and discussions with the membership. The general consensus was the rules committee should consider deleting the forfeit rule and implementing a different penalty.
- March 19-21, 2018: The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee met in-person and discussed the forfeit rule, previous meetings/discussions and survey results. There was strong support to enforce the forfeit rule.
- June 6, 2018: NCAA playing rules staff met with NCAA statistics to discuss the tentative plans and ask that they join the playing rules staff when meeting with the various committees to help the committees understand the issue from the stats group perspective. During this meeting, staff asked whether the rules committee would be in favor of requesting the sport committees add the forfeit to their selection criteria.

- June 22, 2018: The rules committee had a teleconference to discuss the proposal of requesting the sport committees add the forfeit to their selection criteria. While the rules committee agreed this would be a step in the right direction, it ultimately agreed this would only impact teams under postseason consideration and a true forfeit should be the penalty for illegal participation. The rules committee requested NCAA staff continue with the plan of meeting with the various committees to obtain their position on the forfeit rule.
- August 2018: Met via teleconference with the DI, DII and DIII Men's and Women's Soccer Committees (sport committees) to outline the issues and obtain their position on the forfeit rule. These discussions included statistics and playing rules staffs. All sport committees supported enforcing the forfeit rule.

#### **Tentative Timeline for Upcoming Meetings/Discussions**

- September 9-11, 2018: Meet in-person with the DIII Championships Committee to present the issue and positions of the DIII Men's and Women's Soccer Committees (sport committees). These presentations would include statistics, playing rules and potentially the soccer secretary-rules editor (or representative of the soccer rules committee).
- September 11-12, 2018: Meet in-person with the DII Championships Committee to present the issue and positions of the DII Men's and Women's Soccer Committees (sport committees). These presentations would include statistics, playing rules and potentially the soccer secretary-rules editor (or representative of the soccer rules committee).
- October 1-2, 2018: Meet in-person with the DI Competition Oversight Committee to present the issue and positions of the DI Men's and Women's Soccer Committees (sport committees). These presentations would include statistics, playing rules and potentially the soccer secretary-rules editor (or representative of the soccer rules committee).
- November 5 – December 9, 2018: Survey the membership.
- January 10-11, 2019: Discuss the issue with the coaches at the soccer coaches association convention.
- March 12-13, 2019: Soccer Rules Committee annual meeting. Discuss and recommend a rules change to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) based on feedback from various committees and the membership. Note – Although 2019 is a non-rules change year for soccer, PROP has been made aware of a potential recommendation regarding the current forfeit rule in 2019.

### Attachment C

Attachment C provides a general summary of the reasons for allowing the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee to enforce the forfeit rule, and a summary of reasons for directing the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee to find alternative penalties for institutions that allow for an illegal (card-suspended) student-athlete or head coach to participate.

<b>Rationale for Enforcing Forfeit Rule</b>	<b>Rationale for Finding an Alternative Penalty</b>
The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee supports enforcing the penalty.	A forfeit only penalizes a team if they won the game.
The Division I Men's and Women's Soccer Committees support enforcing the penalty.	A forfeit produces unintended consequences, both positively and negatively, impacting the NCAA Tournament selection profile for teams not involved in the game.
The soccer membership supports enforcing the penalty (80% of head coaches and commissioners that participated in the survey).	Soccer is the only sport with postgame administrative forfeits for a playing rules violation.
The soccer focus group (comprised of six conference representatives) supports enforcing the penalty.	No other NCAA disciplinary body, including the Committee on Infractions, has the authority to change the result of a completed game (i.e., retroactively awarding a win to a team that lost) that was played with ineligible student-athletes.
NFHS – Rules do not require a forfeit, however, most state associations' bylaws require a forfeit for illegal participation. FIFA/IFAB – Disciplinary code 55 – Forfeit and minimum fine.	There is no way to know if the losing team would have won had the suspended player/coach not participated.
The forfeit rule has been in place since at least the 1990s.	A forfeit could create an incentive for opposing coaches to withhold information that would've prevented an illegal student-athlete from participating in a game.