



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
APRIL 23, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Oversight Committee Rules Subcommittee annual meeting report and comment period results.** The Women's Soccer Oversight Committee reviewed and approved major rules changes submitted by the Women's Soccer Oversight Committee Rules Subcommittee, which included:
 - a. Increase the permissible maximum field width from 75 yards to 80 yards;
 - b. Permit up to four commercial logos on the field provided they are not in the penalty area and do not obscure any required field markings;
 - c. Require not fewer than nine game balls be used and available during the game;
 - d. Permit substitutions at any time the clock is stopped;
 - e. Permit devices for the collection of data that may be worn on the wrist or arm provided it is properly taped down and padded;
 - f. Require a fourth official for all games/matches;
 - g. Permit both players to remain on the field should a player from each team seek medical evaluation or is treated on the field after a penalty kick has been awarded;
 - h. Permit the following changes to video review procedures as follows: (1) Referees can initiate a review at any time for timing issues or for the ball crossing the endline; (2) All other reviews will require a coach's challenge; (3) Each team will have two challenges per match; and (4) If a team is out of challenges, the referee can initiate a review on their own during the last 10 minutes of regulation or in overtime;
 - i. Permit the addition of the following offenses by the attacking team as reviewable play situations: (1) A foul prior to the scoring of a goal; (2) a foul or an offside prior to the award of a penalty kick or the issuing of a red card for denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity; (3) and offside prior to the scoring of a goal;
 - j. Permit the use of a video match official to assist referee with all aspects of video review;
 - k. During the last 15 minutes of the second half, when there is a margin of five (5) or more goals, the clock will only stop for serious injuries and video reviews;

- l. Amend requirements for a suspended game that is not resumed or completed at a later date to be considered a contest;
- m. Clarification on the resumption of play for a suspended game due to inclement weather;
- n. Amend the goalkeeper delay penalty to award a corner kick to the non-offending team if the goalkeeper retains possession of the ball for longer than eight seconds;
- o. Permit cautions to be issued to the head coach when: (1) Multiple substitutes run through the opposing team's bench area or illegally enter the field beyond the immediate vicinity of the touchline during the celebration of a goal; (2) and misconduct punishable by a caution takes place in the coaching or team area and the individual offender cannot be located;
- p. Permit issued cautions (yellow cards) to bench personnel during a game to be charged against the head coach for the purposes of accumulation;
- q. Permit red card ejections to be reviewed by a select committee to determine if criteria for Violent Behavior II, Fighting and Referee Assault have been met;
- r. Permit the following penalty for failure to serve a suspension: (1) Two-game suspension for the individual; and (2) two-game suspension for the head coach;
- s. Permit the red card ejection penalty to not add additional games for each subsequent ejection beyond the first; and
- t. Require game suspension incurred during the regular season to be served during contest against institutions from the same division.

2. Legislative Discussion

- a. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-20 – Recruiting – Women's Soccer – Sports Camps and Clinics – Publicize Coaches and Noninstitutional Staff Members Employment.** The oversight committee reviewed NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-20 and voted to table the proposal. While the oversight committee recognized the proposal's intent to increase transparency in camp employment and reduce improper recruiting interactions with prospective student-athletes engaged in club soccer practices being conducted under the guise of a noninstitutional camp or clinic, the oversight committee expressed concern regarding the additional administrative and monitoring burden the proposal would place on institutions without ensuring the proposal would effectively address their concerns. The committee will continue to evaluate alternative approaches to addressing improper recruiting interactions in women's soccer.

- b. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-29 – Playing and Practice Season – Field Hockey, Soccer, Volleyball – Nonchampionship Segment Travel – Eliminate Ground Transportation Restriction.** The oversight committee adopted legislation to eliminate the restriction to ground transportation for travel to competition in the nonchampionship segment.
3. **Intercollegiate Women's Soccer Organization for Coaches (IWSOC) update.** The oversight committee discussed several potential enhancements to the championship brought forward by the IWSOC, including adjusting the dates of the second and third rounds to avoid competition on Thanksgiving Day and modifying the format so that each round would consist of a single game hosted by the higher-seeded team. The committee also discussed the possibility of mandating game times for the quarterfinal round to avoid simultaneous contests and increase opportunities for fans to watch multiple games. The committee noted that the financial implications and logistics of these potential changes would need to be reviewed by the NCAA. The committee agreed to continue these discussions once further guidance is provided by the NCAA regarding what changes may be permissible for the 2026–27 season.
4. **Approval of meeting report.** The committee approved its March 9, 2026, meeting report.

Committee Chair: Jackie Wallgren, University of Akron, Mid-American Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): Jejuan Bowser, Division I Governance and Member Services.
Abigail Markey, Division I Governance and Member Services.
Alyssa Rice, Championships and Alliances.

Division I Women's Soccer Oversight Committee April 23, 2026, Virtual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Samar Azem, Villanova University.	
Sara Bower, University of Akron.	
Laura Cannon, University of Incarnate Word.	
John Collins, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.	
Nathan Fry, Harvard University.	
Rich Grady, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor.	
G Guerrieri, Intercollegiate Women's Soccer Organization for Coaches.	
Isabella Gutierrez, East Carolina University.	
Ryan Higginbotham, Texas Christian University.	
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.	
Todd Plourde, Iona University.	
Eddie Radwanski, Clemson University.	

Stephanie Ransom, University of Georgia.
Thad Satre, Loyola Marymount University.
Brandi Stuart, Pennsylvania State University.
Jackie Wallgren, University of Akron.
Absentees:
Elizabeth Galvin, Eastern Illinois University.
Saige Wimes, University of Kansas.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Jejuan Bowser, Abigail Markey and Alyssa Rice.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Stanley Broaden and Jackie Kawamoto.