



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER TWO-YEAR PLAYING RULES CYCLE

The 2025-26 academic year is year one.

WHAT ARE PLAYING RULES?

Playing rules are what happens on the field, court, pool, pitch, mat, rink, lane, track or slope when an opponent and officials are present. Playing rules are typically the same for all three divisions except for those that can be federated. Playing rules are the same for regular season and championship competition.

INFORMATION GATHERING STAGE – Year One (Fall 2025-Winter 2025-26)

During the non-traditional and regular seasons, the secretary-rules editor and rules committee/subcommittee members compile hot topics from coaches, commissioners and athletics administrators. Topics are discussed at the coaches convention, if possible. A rules survey is conducted to determine how the membership feels about certain issues.



ANNUAL MEETING – Year One (January/February 2026)

The rules committee meets to discuss and determine rules recommendations to improve the game.



COMMENT PERIOD – Year One (February-March 2026)

A list of recommendations approved by the committee is sent to head coaches and conference commissioners for feedback. This two-week comment period allows the membership to see and respond to the language of the recommendations.



OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OR PROP APPROVAL – Year One (April 2026)

The DI Oversight Committee (OC) and DII/III Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) reviews all recommendations and all comments from the membership. The charge of the OC and PROP is to review all recommendations for financial implications, safety concerns and harm to the image of the game. Items approved by the OC or PROP are incorporated into the rules book.



TWO-YEAR RULES BOOK – Year One (July 2026)

A complimentary copy of the rules book is sent to head coaches, conference commissioners and conference coordinators. Additional copies of the book may be ordered online at www.ncaapublications.com. This rules book is used for the next two seasons (2026 and 2027).



INFORMATION GATHERING STAGE – Year Two (Fall 2026-Winter 2026-27)

During the non-traditional and regular seasons, the secretary-rules editor and committee members compile hot topics. Topics are discussed at the coaches convention, if possible. A rules survey may be conducted to determine how the membership feels about certain topics.



ANNUAL MEETING – Year Two (January/February 2027)

The committee meets to discuss items for future consideration and educational opportunities and submits a report to the OC and PROP.