



NCAA SOCCER EXPERIMENTAL RULE 2025 SEASON

The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee is interested in allowing institutions to experiment and provide data and feedback as it considers potential rules change in the future. Although this is a non-rules change year for soccer, the Rules Committee recommended one experimental rule, which was approved by the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

Any conference interested in experimenting must submit the request in writing Stanley Broaden (sbroaden@ncaa.org). Conferences granted permission to experiment are required to collect data and submit it to the rules committee at the end of the season. The experimental rules are approved for the 2025 season during conference play only, including postseason conference tournaments. The experimental rules will not be used during the NCAA postseason.

Video Review Experimental Rule

Description: Coaches shall receive one (1) challenge per game. Should a challenge be successful in overturning a call (the decision on the field is changed), the team retains that challenge for one (1) additional use. No additional challenges shall be provided during overtime. An unused challenge shall carryover to the overtime. Once a team has used all challenges, they will not be able to challenge any further calls for the remainder of the game, including overtime. During overtime only and provided that the affected team has exhausted its challenges, the referee may initiate a review under either category (e.g., referee-initiated reviews or coach challenge/initiated reviews).

Under the new rule, video reviews are divided into two categories:

1. Referee-initiated reviews:

- Whether or not the entire ball passed over the goal line for a goal; and
- Timing issues.

2. Coach challenge/initiated reviews:

- Fighting/violent behavior;
- Penalty kicks (including whether or not there was an offside offense or foul by the attacking team prior to the penalty being committed);

- Straight red cards (not 2nd yellows);
- Denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity/stopping a promising attack;
- Offside (DOGSO/SPA);
- Potential mistaken identity;
- Determining the location of a foul that was called on the field against the defending team near or in its penalty area; and
- Determining whether the attacking team committed a foul in the building up to or scoring of a goal.

Outline of Procedures for NCAA Soccer Experimental Video Review:

1. After a potential decision that is subject to video review, the referee (including the assistant referees and 4th official) should scan the coaching and team areas for a potential video review challenge signal as practical, keeping in mind of more important priorities.
2. Only the head coach will give the video review challenge signal (“overhead finger twirl”) to the referee and/or 4th official and/or assistant referee.
 - a. Any other match participant (player, substitute, bench personnel) who gives the video review challenge signal or referee video review signal (“the box”) at any time shall be cautioned for unsporting behavior.
 - b. If a head coach gives the video review challenge signal and their team is out of challenges, then the head coach shall be cautioned for unsporting behavior.
3. Once a match official receives the video review challenge signal from a head coach:
 - a. The referee will communicate to the officiating team, stop play at an appropriate team and/or will not allow play to be restarted.
 - b. The assistant referee will communicate to the referee. At the next stoppage, the assistant referee will raise their flag to indicate that play should not be restarted, if necessary. If in doubt, the assistant referee should raise the flag.
 - c. The 4th official will communicate to the referee. At the next stoppage, the 4th official will raise their hand to indicate that play should not be restarted, if necessary. If in doubt, the 4th official should raise their hand. If an air horn is available to use under the immediate supervision of the 4th official, then the 4th official should arrange for the air horn to be used to indicate a review has been requested.

4. Once play is restarted, a video review challenge cannot take place. A raised flag by the assistant referee and/or a raised hand (and possible horn) from the 4th official that is not immediately acknowledged by the referee will be considered to have stopped play for the purpose of allowing a video review challenge.

Data collection: This will include the number of uses throughout the season, effectiveness of the coach challenge system and referee-initiated reviews, the type of review that occurred and if the review was upheld or overturned. A conference may compile this information or referees can complete the the video review form on RQ+ to submit information after each game.