



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER RULES COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 22-24, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Game Roster (Rule 3.2.1).

(1) Recommendation. To require the official NCAA game roster to be given to the scorekeeper only (rather than also the opposing coach and referee).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To streamline the game roster exchange.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Re-Entry (Rule 3.6.1). \*This rule was subsequently rescinded by the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee on its April 7, 2022, videoconference.

(1) Recommendation. To eliminate re-entry in the second half for field players and make all periods the same (no re-entry).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Each year the committee receives multiple proposals addressing substitutions, most of which propose reducing the number of possible substitution opportunities. The rationale for this is to more closely align with the IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game and improve the flow of the game. The committee surveyed this topic and a narrow majority (51%) supported changing the substitution rule, and of those that supported a change, the slight majority (59%) supported more restrictive substitution opportunities. The committee reviewed player and substitution statistical data since 2016 and noted the average number of individual substitutions made per team per game has increased by approximately three over that time; however, the number of

players used per team per game has decreased slightly. This data suggests substitutions are being made to move the same player into and out of the game on a rotation basis rather than increasing overall opportunities for participation. Therefore, the committee's aim is to eliminate the second half re-entry to improve the flow of the game and acknowledge the membership's opinion without negatively impacting overall participation rates. Re-entry for goalkeepers (one re-entry per period) and re-entry allowances for illness/injury/bleeding, signs of concussion and permanent medical conditions remain unchanged.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This could result in more players being used in a game or the players in the game staying in for longer periods, which in either case will increase playing time for one segment of the team.

**c. Re-Entry After Injury (Rule 3.6.3.5).**

(1) Recommendation. To allow a player re-entering after illness/injury, who was not substituted for, to re-enter on the side of the field where they were removed (after being beckoned by the referee).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Currently, those players are required to re-enter on the bench side of the field, which could cause a delay in re-entering if they were removed on the opposite side of the field and cause security issues while walking to the other side.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Referee Uniform (Rule 5.2.1).**

(1) Recommendation. To establish a uniform required to be worn by all referees by 2023.

(2) Effective date. Fall 2023.

(3) Rationale. Currently, the only requirement for the referees' uniform is that it is the same color and style for all officials. This has resulted in conferences establishing their own guidelines for what uniform shirt will be worn and, therefore, the necessity for officials

to purchase in some cases up to five different uniform shirts. This rule would provide for a consistent look in uniform across NCAA soccer.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Minimal cost for referees.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**e. Referee Postgame Duties (Rule 5.5.2).**

(1) Recommendation. To adopt the COVID-19 waiver on a permanent basis that allows the referee to verify the paper box score visually/verbally rather than requiring a signature.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This is the same process for verifying electronic box scores.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**f. Video Review (Rule 5.7).**

(1) Recommendation. To expand video review to include whether a foul occurred inside or outside the penalty area.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This situation could be a game critical event and easily corrected with the use of video review. This would be the sixth situation that could be reviewed.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**g. Protests (Rule 5.8.1).**

(1) Recommendation. To expand the postgame protest rule to include a review of violent behavior II and fighting red cards.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Of the 1,300+ red cards issued across all divisions during the 2021 season, 150 were issued for violent behavior II or fighting. A portion of those, based on video evidence, were incorrect calls and resulted in over-penalizing student-athletes with a two-game suspension, which in most cases is 10% of the season. This postgame review of only those specific cards, similar to the process in NCAA football, will provide conferences with an avenue to ensure penalties are appropriate and fair based on the rules.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**h. Overtime – Regular Season (Rule 7.1.1).**

(1) Recommendation. To eliminate overtime during the regular season.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game, reduce playing volume for student-athletes and place value on a tie. In data collected since 2013, 47% of overtime games are left tied at the end of the overtime periods.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Reduce playing volume for student-athletes during the regular season.

**i. Overtime – Postseason (Rule 7.1.1).**

(1) Recommendation. To require both overtime periods to be played to completion during postseason (eliminate golden goal/sudden victory).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To ensure equal opportunity for both teams during the overtime periods. Conditions, such as wind and sun, can greatly impact a team's ability to attack or defend and both teams should be afforded the opportunity to play on each half of the field during the overtime periods. If the score is tied at the end of the second 10-minute overtime period, the tiebreaker procedure of taking kicks from the penalty-kick line or spot shall continue to be used to determine advancement.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. May result in additional playing time, however, will allow for a more equitable experience. Currently, DIII doesn't have a rest day in most postseason competition.

**j. Suspended Game (Rules 7.5.2 and 7.5.3).**

(1) Recommendation. To resume a suspended game from the point of interruption whether it is resumed the same day or another day.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Currently, if a game does not reach 70 minutes and can't be resumed the same day, the game becomes a no contest and must be completely restarted. This could result in a team playing for 69 minutes and then playing for a full 90 minutes the next day rather than for the 21 minutes to complete the contest. Resuming a suspended game from the point of interruption would align soccer with other NCAA sports and minimize physical impact on student-athletes.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**k. Ejections (Rules 12.7.4.2 and 12.7.4.8.2).**

(1) Recommendation. To adopt the COVID-19 waiver on a permanent basis that enhances the spitting at or biting an opponent or any other person penalty to a two-game suspension and categorizes it as a violent behavior II red card and adds coughing at an opponent or any other person to this rule and also categorizes it as a violent behavior II red card.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To acknowledge these actions do not belong in NCAA soccer and should be penalized accordingly.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, introductions and announcements.** The chair of the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee welcomed the committee and invited guests and thanked them for their time.
2. **Review meeting schedule, agenda, committee operations manual and NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel directive.** The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee also reviewed the operations manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee was reminded of the directive of the PROP from 2014. This directive encourages all rules committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay for Division II and Division III institutions before implementing any rules changes that have financial or facility implications.
3. **Approval of February 16 videoconference report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee reviewed and approved the report as written.
4. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a report from Robert Davenport, PROP liaison to the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee, which reviewed topics of discussion from PROP's annual meeting in January. This report focused on PROP's directive to rules committees on the prohibition of tobacco products, uniform trends and the NCAA staff's goal to foster and promote equity, diversity and inclusion through the rules process. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee agreed that the use of tobacco products should result in immediate disqualification/removal from the contest without an accompanying suspension.
5. **Secretary-rules editor report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor, which included of a review of the eight protests received during the 2021 season and a review of proposed major and editorial rules changes for the committee to consider.
6. **National coordinator report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a report from the national coordinator, which focused on a recap of the 2021 season and ongoing training opportunities for coaches and officials.
7. **Active official report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a report from the active official, which focused on major areas of concern and future rules change considerations from the officiating community (referee keeping time on the field, lightning policy and wearable technology wristbands).

8. **National Federation of State High School Associations report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor on behalf of the NFHS, which reviewed the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee annual meeting and major rules changes.
9. **NCAA Injury Surveillance Program data and report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a presentation on the soccer injury data provided by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention in conjunction with the NCAA's Injury Surveillance Program and Sport Science Institute. This presentation included additional information requested by the committee on the type of injury and mechanism in both season segment and game segment.
10. **United Soccer Coaches report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee heard a report from the United Soccer Coaches, which focused on ways to increase participation on the NCAA rules survey.
11. **Trends report.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee reviewed the statistical trends, which included year-to-year comparative data on sport sponsorship, goals, assists, overtime/tie games, red and yellow cards, and fouls.
12. **Review 2021-22 rules survey results.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee reviewed the 2021-22 rules survey results in conjunction with discussion on the corresponding rules change proposals. It was noted that the response rate was low (43% of head coaches).
13. **Review 2022 and 2023 rules proposals.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee reviewed and considered 83 rules proposals and approved 11 major rules changes for the 2022 and 2023 soccer seasons, as noted above in the Action Items section of this report. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee also reviewed and approved several editorial changes.
14. **Future annual meeting and videoconference schedule.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee scheduled a videoconference for 1 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, April 7, to review the comment period results. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee will schedule its 2023 annual meeting and 2022 videoconference dates during its April 7 videoconference.
15. **Selection of chair.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee tabled its selection of chair for the 2022-23 academic year until the April 7 videoconference.
16. **Other business.** The outgoing committee member was recognized and thanked for their service to the committee and the Association.
17. **Adjournment.** The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee adjourned at 4 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, February 24.

*Committee Chair:* Tiffany Christian, College of William & Mary, Colonial Athletic Association  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee February 22-24, 2022, Annual Meeting Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Nikki Ayers, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Brandon Bianco, Denison University.	
Patrick Britz, South Atlantic Conference.	
Tiffany Christian, College of William & Mary.	
Tim Cupello, University of California, Riverside.	
Rudy Fuller, University of Pennsylvania.	
Rich Grady, secretary-rules editor.	
Chris Grassie, Marshall University.	
Kim Sutton, California State University, Chico.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Adrian Boltz, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.	
Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.	
Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of officials.	
Robert Davenport, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Christina Unkel, active official.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Ashlee Follis.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
LaGwyn Durden and Greg Johnson.	