



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER RULES COMMITTEE
MARCH 12-13, 2019, MEETING**

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 2019 season. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Mandatory Hydration Breaks (Rule 5.6.1).

- (1) Recommendation. Require mandatory hydration breaks of no less than two minutes around the 25-30-minute marks during the first half and 70-75-minute marks during the second half when the WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is equal to or greater than 86 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. This recommendation was made by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) to closely align with FIFA and U.S. Soccer.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. If an institution does not already have a device to measure the WBGT, the institution would be required to purchase a device. The cost is minimal.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Enhance student-athlete safety.

b. Postgame Forfeit (Rules 7.4.3 and 12.8.1 Penalties 1 and 2).

- (1) Recommendation. Enforce the current forfeit rule in Rule 12.8.1 PENALTIES 1 and 2 and delete a portion of Rule 7.4.3 that stipulates that for NCAA statistical purposes, the forfeit will not be enforced. Specifically, require that for NCAA statistical purposes, a forfeit be imposed if it is determined after the game that the winning team allowed a player or coach to participate who was ejected or suspended because of a red card or accumulation of yellow cards. The forfeit would be enforced regardless of the final score and/or the amount of involvement by the player or coach. The winning (offending) team would be recorded as losing the game 1-0 and the losing (non-offending) team would be recorded as winning the game 1-0. Further, if the forfeiting team originally lost the game on the field, the results of the game will remain. In both

situations, all individual statistics will count except for the statistics of the illegal player.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Currently, the penalty for illegal participation by an ejected or card-suspended coach or player is a forfeit and additional suspensions for the coach or player. However, because of conflicting language in the rules book, the forfeit is not being enforced for NCAA statistical purposes. While the additional suspensions punish the coach and player who participate illegally, they do not protect the aggrieved team if they lost the game. It is the rules committee's position that by enforcing the current forfeit rule for NCAA statistical purposes, any disadvantage that the losing team may have encountered is recognized by changing the loss to a 1-0 win (and giving the winning team a 1-0 loss). In an effort to fully understand potential postseason selection implications and to ensure an informed decision-making process, the rules committee gathered feedback during the past year from the membership and nine NCAA committees on this topic. (See Attachment for specific feedback from the NCAA committees' reports.)

- 80% of the membership participating in the rules survey (head men's and women's soccer coaches and commissioners) supported enforcing a forfeit for illegal participation by a coach or player.
- All six of the sport committees responsible for administering the NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Soccer Championships supported enforcing the forfeit even though enforcing the forfeit may have selection implications on the two involved teams and also opponents of these teams.
- The Division I Competition Oversight Committee and the Division II and Division III Championships Committees did not support enforcing a forfeit because of the potential far-reaching impact on statistical and historical records, the selection process, and teams not involved in that particular game.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome, introductions and announcements. The chair welcomed the committee members and guests and thanked them for their time. All attendees introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.

- 2. Review schedule, agenda and committee operations manual.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule, agenda and the committee operations manual. The committee operations manual 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.
- 3. NCAA Injury Surveillance Program data and report.** The committee reviewed soccer injury data provided by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention. Injury rates and injury distributions (by body part, diagnosis, mechanism of injury, injury activity and injury position) have all remained the same over time. The committee requested specific data on injury rates following overtime games. That data showed the injury rate was not statistically significantly different in regular-length games following an overtime game vs. regular-length games following a regular-length game. Also, the results did not change when accounting for time between games, number of overtimes in the previous game or minutes played in the previous game. The committee heard an update on the periodization study, which has now concluded. The results are being finalized and the summary report will be presented to the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) at its June meeting.
- 4. Playing Rules Oversight Panel report.** The committee reviewed the report from PROP's annual meeting in January. Topics of interest included a reminder on the PROP directive from 2014 that encouraged committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay before implementing any rules changes with financial or facility implications, the agreement that the respective PROP liaison will attend a portion of the rules committee's annual meeting, receive pertinent correspondence during the year, and participate in the teleconference when the comment period results are reviewed, and a reminder on the memorandum from 2009 that PROP issued to clarify the use of non-profit logos on the game uniform. It was noted that the PROP liaison for soccer would be attending a portion of the meeting to hear the discussions.
- 5. Secretary-rules editor report.** The committee reviewed a summary on the 617 formal inquiries received by the secretary-rules editor during the season. The majority of the inquiries were on Rules 5 (video review/protest) and 12 (ejections/suspensions), which is consistent with past years. The committee also reviewed the 51 protests received this season. Seven of the 51 protests were granted. After discussing the number of protests received each season, the committee re-emphasized to the secretary-rules editor that he should develop a standard response denying protests based on referee judgment. The committee agreed to review the protest procedure over the next year and consider necessary changes during the 2020 annual meeting.
- 6. National coordinator of officials report.** The committee heard a recap of the 2018 season from the national coordinator of officials. The national coordinator gave a detailed explanation

of the soccer officiating program, including personnel, the postseason assigning process, education efforts and the NCAA-sponsored officiating clinics.

- 7. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) report.** The committee heard a report from the NFHS on the eight rules changes approved by the rules committee and NFHS Board of Directors.
- 8. United Soccer Coaches report.** The committee heard a report from the United Soccer Coaches, which included an update on potential proposed legislation that would allow for playing rules differences by division for “differences in division emphasis that will not change the way competitions are officiated.”
- 9. Statistical trends and red card data.** The committee reviewed the statistical trends, which included year-to-year comparative data on goals, assists, overtime/tie games, yellow and red cards, and fouls.
- 10. Review 2018-19 rules survey results.** The committee reviewed the 2018-19 rules survey and was pleased with the number of respondents and results. Of the 17 rules changes made last year, 16 received a positive impact on the game rating and 1 received a no impact on the game rating.
- 11. Review of rules proposals and discussion items.** The committee reviewed two rules proposals, the recent rules changes made by IFAB, and various discussion items. Although it was a non-rules change year, the committee approved two rules changes, noted above in the Action Items, for the 2019 season. Of the two approved rules changes, one was a recommendation made by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) and the other was a tabled proposal from the 2018 annual meeting. Extensive discussions and meetings took place over the past year to gather more information on the tabled proposal, which would enforce a postgame forfeit for statistical purposes if it is determined after the game that the winning team allowed a player or coach to participate who was ejected or suspended because of a red card or accumulation of yellow cards. Feedback from nine NCAA committees and the membership was reviewed and considered during the discussion of this proposal.
- 12. Future annual meeting and teleconference dates.** The committee agreed to conduct a teleconference Wednesday, April 10, to discuss the comment period results. The committee scheduled its 2020 annual meeting for March 16-18 in Indianapolis.
- 13. Selection of chair.** During the selection of chair discussion, the committee requested the current chair be given a one-year term extension on the committee. This request will be sent to the Division I Nominating Committee for consideration. The committee tabled selecting a chair until after the Nominating Committee has considered the term extension request.

14. Other business. The committee had no other business.

15. Adjournment. The committee adjourned Wednesday, March 13, at noon Eastern time.

Committee Chair: John Trask, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaison: Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee March 12-13, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ken Andres, secretary-rules editor.	
Nikki Ayers, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Alex Balog, Montana State University Billings.	
Mike Kemp, University of Nebraska Omaha.	
Sarah Rountree, Conference Carolinas.	
Mike Singleton, Washington and Lee University.	
John Trask, University of Wisconsin-Madison.	
Absentees:	
Tiffany Christian, College of William & Mary.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Pat Britz, South Atlantic Conference.	
Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of officials.	
Rob Kehoe, United Soccer Coaches.	
Christina Unkel, active official.	
Erin Wasserman, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.	
Theresia Wynns, National Federation of State High School Associations.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ashlee Follis.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
LaGwyn Durden and Greg Johnson.	

Attachment

- Excerpt from the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee's March 19-21, 2018, annual meeting report: 6. ...As part of the rules discussion, the committee spent an extensive amount of time discussing the forfeit rule. Rule 12.8.1 states, "If a suspended player or coach illegally participates in any game, the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team." Rule 7.4 states, "All statistics count if a game is forfeited after the game has concluded, and the team that won the game on the field still gets the victory, while the team that lost on the field still gets the loss." During the 2017 season, there were three instances of illegal participation, which resulted in the game being forfeited to the opposing team. However, those forfeits were not recognized since Rule 7.4 stipulates statistics remain the same in a game forfeited after it has concluded. Since these two rules are in conflict, NCAA staff has been working since Fall 2017 to find a suitable penalty for this type of rules violation. The consensus of NCAA championships and statistics staffs was the forfeit is not a feasible penalty because of the implications on the RPI/strength of schedule and integrity of the statistics. The NCAA staff recommended to the rules committee it reconsider Rule 12.8.1 and change the penalty for this type of rules violation. The rules committee reviewed the membership feedback on this topic, which showed overwhelming support of enforcing the forfeit as a true forfeit (reversing the winner and loser if the offending team won the game on the field), and considered the NCAA staff's recommendation. Because of the uniqueness of soccer with the high number of suspensions over the course of a season (approximately 1,400 during the 2017 season), the committee expressed strong support for enforcing the current postgame forfeit rule to potentially serve as a deterrent for teams not serving suspensions appropriately. The rules committee understood the effect on the championship selection process when assessing a postgame forfeit (e.g., how a postgame forfeit impacts the RPI and strength of schedule of not only the involved teams, but potentially other teams as well), but also noted teams that violate the suspension rule and are not required to forfeit the game could potentially gain an advantage in the selection process. NCAA staff and a representative from the rules committee will meet with various NCAA committees over the next year to present the issue and gather additional information. The committee expects to make a recommendation to PROP on this topic in 2019. In the interim, the committee did agree to extend the suspension period for head coaches when they, or their players, assistant coaches or other bench personnel, participate in a game while suspended to serve as a deterrent for this type of behavior.
- Excerpt from the DI Men's Soccer Committee's August 6, 2018, teleconference report: 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.

- Excerpt from the DI Women's Soccer Committee's August 6, 2018, teleconference report: At the request of the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee, the NCAA Division I Women'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, acknowledging that there are minor RPI implications.
- Excerpt from the DII Men's and Women's Soccer Committees' August 10, 2018, teleconference report: ...The Division II soccer committees support immediately enforcing the forfeit rule in the regular season to ensure offending teams are penalized for using an illegal player. NCAA staff noted the new enhanced penalty approved by the rules committee that is effective with the 2018 season, which requires the suspension normally assessed to the student-athlete to be doubled for a head coach who uses a card-suspended student-athlete, but the sport committees agreed that a forfeit should also be reflected in the score reporting system. For example, if the result of a game is 5-2 for Team A but an illegal player participates (due to a red card or accumulation of yellow cards), then the result in the score reporting system will reflect a 1-0 win for Team B. The committees agreed that a student-athlete competing illegally due to a playing rules offense is different than a student-athlete competing while ineligible due to an NCAA regulation (i.e., academically ineligible) because the playing rules issue is directly in the hands of the head coach.
- Excerpt from the DIII Men's and Women's Soccer Committees' August 3, 2018, teleconference reports: ...The committees support enforcing the forfeit rule in the regular season to ensure offending teams are penalized for using an illegal player. To lessen any potential unforeseen impact at the time of selections, the committees asked the NCAA statistics staff to run additional reports to assist their deliberations in instances where forfeitures impact the records of opponents and the other opponents of that team.
- Excerpt from the Division I Council and Council Standing Committees' October 1-3, 2018, report: Informational Items 2a(4)(a). ...The Competition Oversight Committee asked the NCAA Soccer Rules Committee to determine a penalty other than game forfeiture to sanction teams that play ineligible players.
- Excerpt from the COC October 1-2, 2018, report: 9. The committee reviewed an issue involving a rule in men's and women's soccer requiring a postgame forfeit to be imposed if a student-athlete or coach participates in a match when he or she should have been serving a suspension for a red card or accumulation of yellow cards. Soccer is unique in that it is the only NCAA sport for which a postgame forfeit is provided within the playing

rules. While instances of playing a student-athlete who should be serving a suspension are rare, they do occur (whether intentionally or due to administrative oversight). The matter is complicated by another rule stipulating that all statistics remain the same if a game is forfeited after it has concluded. The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee, during its March 2018 meeting, considered eliminating the statistical provision (i.e., altering the score to reflect a 1-0 loss for the team in violation and not counting the statistics from that game) so that the penalty applies to the regular season in addition to affecting postseason selections. However, the rules committee tabled the matter until its March 2019 meeting to seek feedback from the soccer community and other governance groups regarding whether any changes being considered would have unintended consequences. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Soccer Committees supported enforcing the forfeit rule (as did the sport committees in Divisions II and III) as well as altering the score and statistics accordingly. Feedback from the soccer coaches association was similar. The Competition Oversight Committee does not support enforcing the existing forfeit rule, and does not support a forfeit being reflected in the score reporting system (i.e., that the score would be changed, and the statistics not counted). While the committee agrees that such an egregious act should result in an appropriate penalty that not only penalizes the team in violation but also acts as a deterrent, it does not consider a forfeit to be an appropriate penalty. The impact of changing the outcome of the game once a result has been determined on the field has a far-reaching impact on statistical and historical records (individual and team results and records) and the selection process. The forfeit is a penalty only if the team with the ineligible player wins. A forfeit also penalizes teams that were not involved in the match, which could impact the selection process. Accordingly, the committee requests that the Soccer Rules Committee discontinue the use of a forfeit and determine a different type of penalty that is appropriate for this violation. (Note: The NCAA Divisions II and III Championships Committees reached similar conclusions during their September meetings.

- Excerpt from the DII Championships Committee's September 12, 2018, report: 6b. ... The Division II Men's and Women's Soccer Committees supported enforcing the forfeit rule (as did the sport committees in Divisions I and III) as well as altering the score and statistics accordingly. Feedback from the soccer coaches association was similar. After lengthy discussion, however, the Division II Championships Committee decided to not support enforcing the existing forfeit rule, and to not support a forfeit being reflected in the score reporting system (i.e., that the score would be changed, and the statistics not counted). Championships Committee members acknowledged the seriousness of the matter (and its uniqueness to soccer) and advised the Soccer Rules Committee to consider a different approach regarding how a penalty in these instances should affect the regular season (e.g., fines, additional suspensions, etc.), and they advised the Men's and Women's Soccer Committees to use the existing nullification process as a tool to address these situations as they relate to postseason selection.

- Excerpt from the DIII Championships Committee's September 11, 2018, report: 10c. Soccer rules discussion. ... The Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees supported enforcing the forfeit rule (as did the sport committees in Divisions I and II) as well as altering the score and statistics accordingly. Feedback from the soccer coaches association was similar. After lengthy discussion, however, the Division III Championships Committee decided to not support enforcing the existing forfeit rule, and to not support a forfeit being reflected in the score reporting system (i.e., that the score would be changed and the statistics not counted). Championships Committee members acknowledged the seriousness of the matter (and its uniqueness to soccer) and advised the soccer rules committee to consider a different approach regarding how a penalty in these instances should affect the regular season (e.g., fines, additional suspensions, etc.), and they advised the men's and women's soccer committees to explore using the existing nullification process as a tool to address these situations as they relate to postseason selection.