



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER RULES COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2025, 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 2025 season. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

a. Video review experimental rule (Rule 5.7).

(1) Recommendation. Permit the use of a video review experimental rule that allows for two types of categories for video review for the 2025 season: 1) reviews initiated by the referee; and 2) reviews initiated by a coach's challenge. Coaches shall receive one (1) challenge per game. Should a challenge be successful in overturning a call (e.g., 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).

- a. Referee-initiated reviews: 1) whether or not the entire ball passed over the goal line for a goal; and 2) timing issues.
- b. Coach challenge/initiated reviews: 1) fighting/violent behavior; 2) penalty kicks; 3) straight red cards (not 2nd yellows); 4) denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity/stopping a promising attack; 5) offside (DOGSO/SPA); 6) potential mistaken identity; and 7) determining the location of a foul that was called on the field against the defending team near or in its penalty area.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Allows for coaches to be responsible for initiating aspects of video review. The current rule only allows for video review to be initiated by the referee within the same parameters.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Varies depending on type of equipment used.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Ejections (Rule 12.7).

- (1) Recommendation. Eliminate red card for non-deliberate handling in the penalty area that denies a goal or goal scoring opportunity. Inside the penalty area, red cards are reserved for deliberate, cynical handling (Note: There are no changes to how this will be interpreted outside the penalty area).
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To align with new IFAB Laws of the Game. Non-deliberate handball offences are usually the result of a player attempting to play fairly, so when a penalty kick is awarded for such offences, the same philosophy should apply as for offences (e.g., fouls) which are an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball (i.e., DOGSO offences result in a yellow card and SPA offences result in no card). Deliberate ball handling remains a red-card offence when a penalty kick is awarded, as it is similar to holding, pulling, pushing or not attempting to play the ball, etc.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. End-of-time variations (Rule 14.4).

- (1) Recommendation. Amend encroachment by teammates of the kicker or goalkeeper during a penalty kick to only be punished if it directly impacts an opponent by playing the ball or challenging an opponent for the ball and then scores or prevents a goal; or attempts to score or prevents a goal or creates or stops a goal-scoring opportunity.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To align with new IFAB Laws of the Game. Player encroachment can be difficult to detect and manage. Encroachment rarely affects the outcome of the kick, the same principle should apply to player encroachment as to goalkeeper encroachment (i.e., it is penalized only if it has an impact).
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the committee and thanked them for their time.
2. **Approval of February 19, 2025, videoconference report.** The committee approved the report as written.
3. **Secretary-rules editor report.** No report was provided.
4. **National coordinator report.** No report was provided.
5. **Review of proposed rules changes.** The rules committee reviewed and considered two rules changes as noted above in the Action Items section of this report
6. **Video review experimental rule.** The rules committee reviewed and considered a video review experimental rule for the 2025 season as noted above in the Action Items section of this report.
7. **Other Business.** No other business was discussed.
8. **2024-25 videoconference timeline.** The next videoconference is scheduled for April 9 at Noon Eastern time.
9. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 12:55 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Brandon Bianco, Denison University, North Coast Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Stanley Broaden, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee March 19, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Josh Berlo, University of Denver.	
Amy Calabrese, University of Louisville.	
Eric Crawford, Georgia Southwestern State University.	
Rich Grady, secretary-rules editor.	
Brandon Koons, Otterbein University.	
Michael Seabolt, Missouri State University	
Courtney Sirmans, Miami University (Ohio).	
Kim Sutton, California State University, Chico.	
Absentees:	
Brandon Bianco, Denison University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
John Collins, national coordinator of officials.	
Robert Davenport, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Daniel Radford, active official.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Greg Johnson.	