



Softball Two-Year Playing Rules Cycle

The 2023-24 academic year is year two.

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 the same for all three divisions. Playing rules are the same for regular season and championship competition.

INFORMATION GATHERING STAGE – Year One (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)

During the non-traditional and regular seasons, the secretary-rules editor and rules committee 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 (June 2023)

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



COMMENT PERIOD – Year One (July 2023)

A list of proposals 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 proposals.



PROP APPROVAL – Year One (August 2023)

The Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) reviews all proposals the committee recommends and all comments from the membership. PROP's charge is to review all proposals for financial implications, safety concerns and harm to the image of the game. Items approved by PROP are incorporated into the rules book.



TWO-YEAR RULES BOOK – Year One (October 2023)

A complimentary copy of the rules book is sent to head coaches, conference commissioners and conference coordinators/assignors. Additional copies of the book may be ordered online at www.ncaapublications.com. This rules book is used for the next two seasons (2024 and 2025).



INFORMATION GATHERING STAGE – Year Two (Fall 2023-Spring 2024)

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 (June/July 2024)

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