



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA SWIMMING AND DIVING RULES COMMITTEE
MAY 16-18, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons. The Swimming and Diving Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Use of Underwater Cameras (Rule 2-9-b).

1. Recommendation. To permit the use of underwater cameras to confirm swimming infractions (stroke and turn violations) called by an official.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. This permissive change would align the NCAA with World Aquatics and USA Swimming. This would not allow for calls to be made with video, only to be confirmed.
4. Estimated budget impact. Systems on the market range from \$1,500 to \$50,000, dependent on the manufacturer, the number of cameras and other aspects of the system.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Artificial Aides and Tape (Rule 3-4).

1. Recommendation. To permit the use of tape, kinesiology tape, and compression sleeves to treat a documented medical condition, but not to gain an advantage over the remainder of the field. The prescribed course of treatment must describe a minimally invasive plan identifying the necessary placement of tape, kinesiology tape or compression sleeves to support the athlete's medical condition. Documentation must be presented to the referee and must come from a physician or certified athletic trainer to be considered.
2. Effective date. Immediately.

3. Rationale. To provide clearer guidance on what type of tape or aides can be used, and for what reason. In addition, to ease the process for institutions requesting a waiver from the NCAA for the use of tape when a medical professional recommends it.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Swimwear for Swimmers and Divers (Rules 3-1-1 and 3-2 Modification 4.4.b).

1. Recommendation. To clarify criteria for uniforms and swimsuits for swimmers and divers as follows:

ARTICLE 1. All student-athletes are subject to the swimwear standards that apply to the specific event in which they are participating.

ARTICLE 2 Swimsuits for Swimmers and Divers:

1. Swimmers and divers must wear a swimsuit and it must be specific for the respective event. That is, a suit conforming to Rule 3-1-1-b-4 must be worn in women's competition and a suit conforming to Rule 3-1-1-b-3 must be worn in men's competition, inclusive of all warmups, trials, finals, and any time trial sessions.
 2. Swimwear for divers is bound by the same articles as swimsuits for swimmers regarding institutional and manufacturer's logos as it applies to NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4. Rules relating to permeability and number of suits for swimmers does not apply for competitors in diving events.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
 3. Rationale. This change is intended to provide clear guidance for the requirements for swimwear for swimmers and divers.
 4. Estimated budget impact. None.
 5. Student-athlete impact. None.

d. Caps (Rule 3-1-1-f).

1. Recommendation. To establish that swimmers shall not wear more than two swim caps during competition. Swim caps shall include no more than one (1) institutional logo,

- one (1) conference logo, the student-athlete's name, and one (1) manufacturer's logo on each side of the swim cap.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
 3. Rationale. The playing rules currently do not have established guidelines for the number of swim caps or what identifying marks are permitted on swim caps during competition.
 4. Estimated budget impact. None.
 5. Student-athlete impact. None.
- e. Elimination of required human relay takeoff judges and backup timers – overhead cameras (Rules 4-14-6-a and 4-16-1).**
1. Recommendation. To eliminate the requirement for human relay takeoff judges and human backup timers when using an electronic timing and judging system with fully integrated stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second.
 2. Effective date. Immediately.
 3. Rationale. As timing systems with this level of technological advancement are available at the national and conference level, permitting the use of the overhead camera system to serve as the relay takeoff judge and backup timers will alleviate congestion on the pool deck.
 4. Estimated budget impact. None.
 5. Student-athlete impact. None.
- f. Repeated dive (Rule 4-31-1-b-7).**
1. Recommendation. To permit a re-dive request to be made by the diver or the diver's coach.
 2. Effective date. Immediately.
 3. Rationale. Currently a re-dive request may only come from the diver. Permitting the request to come from the diver or their coach would align the NCAA with World Aquatics and USA Diving.

4. Estimated budget impact. None.

5. Student-athlete impact. None.

g. During the event (Rule 4-31-1-b-1-e).

1. Recommendation. To change language from “more than 90 degrees” to “90 degrees or more as follows:

If the amount of twist is greater or less by ~~more than 90 degrees~~ **90 degrees or more** of that written on the scoresheet. The decision will be based on the last part of the body to enter the water.

2. Effective date. Immediately.

3. Rationale. This change would align the language with World Aquatics and USA Diving.

4. Estimated budget impact. None.

5. Student-athlete impact. None.

h. Removal of Championship procedures for Entries and Events (Rules 5-2-2 and 5-3-2).

1. Recommendation. To remove specific criteria regarding the number of entries per team and the number of entries per competitor from the playing rules. The following information will remain for guidance to conferences and hosts:

Detailed administrative procedures, such as entry and qualifying procedures, for conducting NCAA championship meets are contained in the current divisional NCAA Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Pre-championships Manuals.

2. Effective date. Immediately.

3. Rationale. The change is intended to allow the appropriate governing committee or conference to establish their own administrative policies regarding entries and number of events.

4. Estimated budget impact. None.

5. Student-athlete impact. None.

i. Swim Offs (Rule 5-8-3).

1. Recommendation. To allow ties to be decided by a method other than a swim-off, such as a coin toss, if agreed upon by both coaches in consultation with the athlete(s). If there is no agreement, a swim-off will be held.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. Using a method other than a swim-off would allow the student-athletes involved relief from additional competition in the qualification/advancement process.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

j. Team diving event (Rules 6-1-6 and 8-1-a Note 3; 8-1-b Note 4; 8-1-c Note 3; 8-1-2 Note 2; 8-2 Note 2).

1. Recommendation. To establish a permissive/optional “team diving” event under the meet programs within the playing rules. The team diving event would consist of three divers per team completing no more than two dives each. Each team must do one dive from each dive group for a total of six (6) dives.

Championship and non-championship meets with platforms: Teams must compete no more than two dives on 1M, 3M and platform (5M, 7M, 10M).

Championship and non-championship meets without platforms: Teams must compete no more than three dives on 1M and 3M.

Championship and non-championship meets when only 1M springboard is available: Teams compete all six divers on 1M.

In all rules referenced, the Note would read as follows:

Note: If the team diving event is substituted in non-championship events, it shall appear in the position of the event it is being substituted for and shall consist of three divers per team completing no more than two dives each. Each team must do one dive from each dive category for a total of six (6) dives.

2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. This event would provide an additional type of opportunity for divers to compete during a meet and would provide additional representation of the sport of diving across the combined NCAA sport.
4. Estimated budget impact. Minimal.

5. Student-athlete impact. None.

k. Use of video review during diving events (Rules 6-3-2-j and 6-3-2-k).

1. Recommendation. To permit the use of video review to confirm the diver completed the proper dive.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. Permitting the use of video review will ensure that the diver has completed the proper dive and expands the opportunity for the use of technology beyond what is currently permitted, which is only for swimming events.
4. Estimated budget impact. Minimal.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

l. Balk judge (Rules 6-4-1-d and 6-4-2-g).

1. Recommendation. To permit the use of video when a balk judge is not available on 10M platform to determine if a balk occurred during the Starting Position and Approach and Takeoff.
2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. Permitting the use of video to assist in determining whether a balk occurred on 10M platform would align NCAA diving with other federations.
4. Estimated budget impact. Minimal.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

m. Bona fide competition – collegiate only (Rule 9-1).

1. Recommendation. Revise the standard for bona fide competition to clearly define competition criteria during a non-championship, non-NCAA Championship, or invitational meet as follows:

Non-collegiate athletes may not participate in collegiate meets in any form. Non-collegiate athletes may compete in exhibition events conducted outside of the meet program.

2. Effective date. Immediately.
3. Rationale. Defining bona fide competition as collegiate only competition provides a clear definition to the membership as to whether a time standard achieved in competition can be used for qualification to NCAA Championships.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the committee and guests and thanked them for their time and commitment to the sport.
2. **Review of agenda, schedule, and committee operations manual.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda and received an update from staff regarding sections of the committee operations manual.
3. **Approval of April 11, 2023, videoconference report.** The committee approved the April 11, 2023, videoconference report as written.
4. **Report of the National Federation of State High School Associations.** The committee received a report from the playing rules liaison for the National Federation of State High School Association Swimming and Diving Rules Committee. The report included a review of recent rules changes made by the NFHS.
5. **Report from the secretary-rules editor.** The committee received a report from the secretary-rules editor. The report included a review of communication distributed to the membership and officials throughout the year. The committee reviewed the number of waivers that were issued during the 2022-23 season for Rule 3-4, to permit the use of athletic or kinesiology tape by swimmers during competition.
6. **Review of the 2021 rules changes.** The committee reviewed the approved rules changes from the 2021 annual meeting.
7. **Review of 2023 survey results.** The committee reviewed the results of the 2023 rules survey in conjunction with the rules proposal discussion. Based on data from the survey showing that two-thirds of coaches were not in favor of eliminating the use of athletic or kinesiology tape, the committee did not move forward a proposal to eliminate the use of tape. In addition, the committee recommended that staff and the secretary rules editor work to facilitate a rules test for diving officials similar to the process currently in place for swimming officials.

Report of the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee

May 16-18, 2023, Annual Meeting

Page No. 8

8. **Review of 2023 proposed rules changes.** The committee reviewed the list of proposed rules changes and recommended 14 changes (see Action Items 2.a through 2.m). The proposed rules changes include revisions to the permissible use of athletic or kinesiology tape by swimmers during competition, expanding the permissible use of video review to diving events, eliminating required human relay judges and backup timers when overhead camera systems are used, and establishing a permissible team diving event.
9. **Selection of chair.** The committee selected Abigail Howard, U.S. Military Academy, as chair for the 2023-24 academic year.
10. **Future meeting and teleconference dates.** The committee will conduct a videoconference June 13, 2023, to review the results of the comment period.

Committee Chair: Jessen Book, Kenyon College.

Staff Liaison(s): Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee May 16-18, 2023, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jessen Book, Kenyon College.	
Susan Bromberg, University of Illinois Chicago.	
Andrew Grevers, University of Missouri, Columbia.	
Eileen Hall, Saint Michael's College.	
Abigail Howard, U.S. Military Academy.	
Greg Lockard, secretary-rules editor.	
Tammy Swearingen, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).	
Chris Villa, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.	
John Young, Davidson College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Sandy Searcy, National Federation of State High School Associations.	
Brad Walker, America East Conference, Playing Rules Oversight Panel.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Greg Johnson.	