



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JULY 21, 2019, EMAIL VOTE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Men's and Women's Tennis Rules Subcommittee.**

- a. Recommendation. Appoint an eight-member Men's and Women's Tennis Rules Subcommittee (from within the existing Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees) to oversee the playing rules modifications for all three divisions. The NCAA would continue to follow the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) playing rules; however, the subcommittee would be charged with collaborating with the ITA on potential rules changes and/or recommending rules modifications to the ITA rules. The subcommittee composition would be four representatives from Division I (50%), two from Division II (25%) and two from Division III (25%), which is consistent with other Association-wide playing rules committees/subcommittees. More information is included below under Informational Items.
- b. Effective date. January 1, 2020 (to coincide with the ITA rules-making process).
- c. Rationale. In response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP), the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees discussed whether the sport would benefit from having an NCAA playing rules book and/or NCAA playing rules committee/subcommittee to be more involved in the rules-making process for tennis. Currently, the NCAA adheres to the ITA rules. In recent years, several division-specific playing rules have been implemented by the ITA even though NCAA Bylaws 21 and 31 require playing rules and playing rules modifications be the same for all three divisions. The subcommittee would work alongside the ITA Rules Committee to improve the communication and collaboration during the rules-making process and ensure playing rules are common for all divisions moving forward. After two years, the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees would evaluate the effectiveness of the subcommittee to determine if the subcommittee structure should continue or if a stand-alone playing rules committee in the sport of the tennis would be more beneficial.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None during the two-year evaluation period. Business would be conducted via teleconference.

- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

Playing Rules. As noted in the Action Items section above, in response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP), the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees discussed whether the sport would benefit from having an NCAA playing rules book and/or NCAA playing rules committee/subcommittee. Currently, the NCAA is responsible for the playing rules for 15 sports. However, there are 14 sports (including men's and women's tennis) in which the NCAA relies on an outside organization to manage the playing rules. Tennis relies on the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) for the playing rules.

During its review of this issue, the committees noted:

- There is value in continuing to adhere to the playing rules developed by the ITA; however, the NCAA should be more involved in the rules-making process for tennis.
- NCAA Bylaws 21 and 31 stipulate that the playing rules and playing rules modifications in all sports must be the same across all three divisions (unless division-specific playing rules are warranted to address significant financial impact issues). There are currently 19 rules in the ITA rules book that are not the same for all three divisions.
- During its August 14 teleconference, PROP will consider allowing tennis to "grandfather-in" these rules differences with the caveat that moving forward any rules changes must apply to all three divisions as required by Bylaws 21 and 31.
- Appointing a subcommittee has been used in the past in other sports. For example, the sports of swimming and diving, track and field and wrestling previously had playing rules subcommittees prior to stand-alone playing rules committees being approved by the NCAA membership in 2012. The NCAA currently has a rules subcommittee in the sport of water polo.
- If appropriate, the NCAA would consider hiring a rules interpreter as an independent contractor to serve as a tennis rules expert. The rules interpreter would be a non-voting member of the subcommittee and the liaison between the ITA Rules Committee and the NCAA Tennis Rules Subcommittee. [Note: The NCAA currently has 16 secretary-rules editors who serve as the rule's expert to the respective rules committee. The NCAA also currently has three rules interpreters who serve as the rule's expert in the respective sport in which the NCAA does not write the playing rules or have a rules committee (field hockey, women's gymnastics and rifle).]

Committee Chair: Chi Ly, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Independent.
Staff Liaison(s): Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee July 21, 2019, Email Vote	
Attendees:	
Greg Coache, Southern New Hampshire University.	
Abby Davis, Arkansas Tech University.	
Jessica Incorminias, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Scott Linn, Midwestern State University.	
Chi Ly, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Krista Plummer, Northwood University.	
William Powers, Hawaii Pacific University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Roberta Page.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	