



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WRESTLING RULES COMMITTEE  
APRIL 13-14, 2020, ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the committee and thanked them for their time and flexibility with conducting the annual meeting via videoconference instead of in-person.
2. **Review schedule, agenda, committee operations manual and Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) directive.** The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. The committee also reviewed the committee operations manual, which 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. The committee was reminded of the directive of PROP from 2014. This directive encourages all rules committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay for Divisions II and III institutions before implementing any rules changes that have financial or facility implications.
3. **Approval of Feb. 11 teleconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the Feb. 11 teleconference report as written.
4. **NCAA Injury Surveillance Program data and report.** The committee heard a presentation on the wrestling injury data provided by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention. The committee continues to voice concerns on how Datalys is currently calculating athlete exposure as per competition/event rather than per match. Datalys has been working with Trackwrestling to gather information on number of matches per athlete to potentially calculate athlete exposure differently and more accurately. Injury rates were down slightly.
5. **PROP report.** The committee reviewed the report from PROP's annual meeting in January, specifically highlighting the NCAA bylaw that requires the same playing rules for all three divisions. NCAA staff informed the committee that David Hicks, PROP liaison to the committee, would hopefully be participating in a portion of the meeting to hear the discussions.
6. **Secretary-rules editor and weight management liaison report.** The committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor and weight management liaison. The secretary-rules editor report included observations on the rules changes implemented during the 2019-20 season, a review of the interpretations and rules book corrections, a review of the sanctions from the season, and thoughts on how to get coaches to register for Center Mat. The weight management liaison report included a review of the two weight management violations during

the 2019-20 season and a discussion with the committee on the continued concern with wrestlers wearing vapor-impermeable suits to lose weight quickly. The committee noted the need to explore ways to make it a competitive disadvantage to lose weight quickly and to continue the educational efforts on the risks of wearing these suits.

- 7. National coordinator of officials report.** The committee heard a report from the national coordinator of officials, which included a review of highlights/accomplishments from the 2019-20 season, information on areas of improvement (more education on Center Mat, recruitment and retention of officials, increase in officials' fees, and increasing the number of officials from 12 to 14 at the DIII Wrestling Championships), and an update on third-party video review at the NCAA Championships moving forward.
- 8. Active official report.** The committee heard a report from the active official, which focused on thanking the committee for limiting "on the mat" rules changes and allowing the officials to focus on expanding their skills, and positive thoughts on the videos and education that has been posted on Center Mat.
- 9. National Athletic Trainers' Association liaison report.** The committee heard a report from the National Athletic Trainers' Association liaison, which included the need to expand the definition of the season to include the weight certification period so that violations of the prohibited weight-loss practices that occur during the weight certification period can be penalized (currently, the rules only cover violations that occur from the first official practice until the end of the competition season), and the need to discuss compensation for the host athletic trainers at the DI Wrestling Championships with the DI Wrestling Committee.
- 10. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) report.** The committee heard a report from the NFHS on the 12 rules changes the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee approved during its recent annual meeting. The major concerns at the high school level are the number of weight classes for the boys, the number of match stoppages (point of emphasis), and the need for national weight classes for the girls.
- 11. Review of 2019-20 rules survey results.** The committee reviewed the 2019-20 rules survey results which focused on the impact of the 17 rules changes made previously. All 17 rules changes received positive or no impact feedback. The committee also reviewed the written feedback and identified areas of further discussion.
- 12. 2019-20 Wrestling Case Book.** The committee reviewed and approved all approved rulings/interpretations in the 2019-20 Wrestling Case Book.
- 13. Discussion items.** The committee reviewed the discussion topics from the past season and feedback from the rules survey. This review included discussions on medical forfeits, bylaw-related topics, use of saunas, how to get coaches to register for Center Mat, and the following

topics that were identified for the next rules survey and discussion at the 2021 annual meeting: 1) eliminating riding time, 2) implementing a three-point takedown, 3) requiring a visual count for neutral danger situations, 4) changing to a seven-match daily limit, 5) eliminating the headgear requirement, 6) defining open events, 7) eliminating the deduction of a team point for control of mat area violations, 8) awarding three points for a reversal, and 9) removing the suspension for a flagrant misconduct violation and only requiring the offender to be ejected.

**14. Future annual meeting and teleconference dates.** The committee scheduled its 2021 annual meeting for April 12-14 in Indianapolis. The committee scheduled a teleconference for Aug. 11 at noon Eastern time.

**15. Selection of chair.** The committee selected Jack Maughan, North Dakota State University, as chair for the 2020-21 academic year.

**16. Other business.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on the updated nominations to replace Matt Valenti on the committee. The NCAA staff liaison will send the feedback to the DI Nominating Committee. The committee met virtually with the DI, II and III Wrestling Committees to discuss issues and concerns. The outgoing committee members were recognized and thanked for their service to the committee and the Association.

**17. Adjournment.** The committee adjourned Tuesday, April 14, at 5 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair:* Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania, The Ivy League  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee April 13-14, 2020, Annual Meeting Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Chuck Barbee, secretary-rules editor and weight management liaison.	
Brad Bruhn, State University of New York at Cortland.	
Austin DeVoe, Colorado School of Mines.	
Jack Maughan, North Dakota State University.	
Lonnie Morris, Johnson & Wales University (Providence).	
Jonathan Reeder, Appalachian State University.	
John W. Smith, Oklahoma State University.	
Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania.	
Cy Wainwright, Newberry College.	

<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.
Elliot Hopkins, National Federation of State High School Associations.
Tim Shiels, national coordinator of officials.
Matt Sorochinsky, active official.
Jim Thornton, athletic trainer liaison.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Ashlee Follis.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
LaGwyn Durden and Greg Johnson.