



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MAY 6, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. Emergency Legislation – Football Preseason Practice Model.

- (1) Recommendation: The NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Council adopt emergency legislation to revise the football preseason practice model, as specified below.

(a) Extend the Acclimatization Period.

- Intent: To increase the length of the acclimatization period from five days to seven days, as specified.
 - i. On the first two days that activity occurs, helmets and spider pads shall be the only pieces of protective equipment student-athletes may wear.
 - ii. On the next three days that activity occurs, helmets, spider pads and shoulder pads shall be the only pieces of protective equipment student-athletes may wear.
 - iii. On the sixth day that activity occurs, student-athletes may practice in full pads.
 - iv. Institutions are required to provide student-athletes with one day off during the seven-day acclimatization period. The required day off may occur as soon as the second day or as late as the seventh day, at the institution's discretion.

(b) Restructure the Preseason Practice Period.

- Intent: To specify what equipment may be used during preseason practice sessions.
 - i. A minimum of seven practices in which helmets and, at the institution's discretion, spider pads, shall be the

only pieces of protective equipment student-athletes may wear.

ii. A maximum of nine practices in full pads.

iii. Remaining practices may include helmets, spider pads and/or shoulder pads as protective equipment for student-athletes and may not include full contact.

(c) Establish Contact Restrictions for the Preseason Practice Period.

- Intent: To establish contact restrictions during the preseason practice period, as specified.

i. No more than two consecutive days of full contact practices.

ii. A total of no more than 75 minutes of full contact may occur within any practice session.

iii. No more than two scrimmages may be conducted during the preseason practice period.

- A scrimmage is defined as a practice devoted primarily (greater than 50% of practice time) to 11-on-11, full tackle activities. A scrimmage practice counts as one of the permitted nine (9) practices in full pads and may include more than 75 minutes of full contact.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The proposed revisions to the preseason practice model, developed with feedback from multiple stakeholders including student-athletes, coaches, practitioners, institutional medical personnel and conferences, make several changes to the preseason practice period intended to enhance student-athlete safety. The changes to the acclimatization period better align it with existing research related to transitioning into football activities. The other revisions reduce the maximum number of contact practices that could occur during the preseason from 21 to 18, retain flexibility for programs regarding how to structure that

period and establish limits on the amount of contact that may occur during the preseason.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed model is intended to enhance student-athlete safety.

b. Emergency Legislation – Prohibited Drills.

- (1) Recommendation: The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council adopt emergency legislation in football to prohibit institutions from engaging in drills that encourage or create straight-line contact that is not common to football, consistent with the draft policies for prohibited athletic activities document ([Attachment](#)).
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The proposed prohibition on drills that encourage or create straight-line contact that is not common to football, which was developed with feedback from multiple stakeholders including student-athletes, coaches, practitioners, institutional medical personnel and conferences, is intended to enhance student-athlete safety.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Prohibiting drills that encourage or create straight-line contact that is not common to football is intended to enhance student-athlete safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. **Review of the Football Oversight Committee's April 22 report.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved its April 22 videoconference report.
- 2. **2021 Preseason Education Program.** The Football Oversight Committee charged NCAA staff with developing an educational program designed to help coaches and institutional staff understand the new preseason practice requirements, if those requirements are adopted. The educational program will be designed in consultation with the oversight committee.
- 3. **NCAA Division I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group update.** Ryan Cassidy provided the Football Oversight Committee with an update from its May 5 NCAA Division

I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group videoconference. The SACG shared feedback on the preseason practice model concepts, including contact restrictions, the number of full padded practices, the extended acclimatization period and the prohibition of specific drills. Additionally, the SACG shared its perspective on the importance of having transparent communication with student-athletes regarding the information provided in the proposed educational program how the preseason will be conducted.

4. **Review of legislative relief waiver.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and provided feedback on a legislative relief waiver from an institution seeking relief from the transportation prior to initial enrollment legislation. The Football Oversight Committee did not support relief to permit institutions to provide football prospective student-athletes with transportation to enroll, noting the potential scope of the issue beyond football and the committee's interest in returning, where possible, to the existing legislation for summer 2021 and in preparation for the 2021-22 football season.

5. **Issues related to the impact of COVID-19.**

- a. **Discussion of nonphysical CARA activities blanket waiver extension.** The Football Oversight Committee discussed the April 28 blanket waiver that was supported by the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee for sports other than football and basketball through the summer of 2021 and whether to support similar relief in the sport of football. The Football Oversight Committee did not support extending similar relief in the sport of football. The Football Oversight Committee noted that FCS is in the midst of conducting its championship and the importance of returning, where possible, to the legislated playing season for summer 2021 and in preparation for the 2021-22 football season.
- b. **Review of annual signing and initial counter limit legislation.** The Football Oversight Committee agreed to review the annual signing and initial counter limit legislation at a future meeting and discuss whether changes are needed in response to the creation of a one-time transfer exception in FBS and FCS football.
- c. **Review of drug testing policy and procedures.** The Football Oversight Committee plans to collaborate with other appropriate committees to request a review of drug testing policies and procedures, including cannabinoid testing.

6. **Future Meetings and Teleconferences.**

- a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, May 20; Videoconference.
- b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, June 3; Videoconference.

Committee Chair: Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.

Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.

Kris Richardson, NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee May 6, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Whit Babcock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.	
Sandy Barbour, Pennsylvania State University.	
Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.	
Greg Byrne, University of Alabama.	
Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois University, Head Football Coach.	
Ryan Cassidy, Rutgers University, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
David Cutcliffe, Duke University, Head Football Coach.	
Troy Dannen, Tulane University.	
Patrick Fields, University of Oklahoma.	
Bret Gilliland, Mountain West Conference.	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.	
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham.	
Kyle Moats, Missouri State University.	
Chrissi Rawak, University of Delaware.	
Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley Conference.	
Absentees:	
Jean Gee, University of Montana.	
Doug Gillin, Appalachian State University.	
Michael Hamrick, Marshall University.	
Jennifer Williams, Alabama State University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin and Kris Richardson.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Michael Bazemore, Geoff Bentzel, Jenn Fraser, Michelle Hosick, Chris Howard, Chris Johnson, Jessica Kerr and John Parsons.	

DRAFT Prohibited Athletic Activities – Football Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures related to prohibited athletic activity in football shall be established and maintained.

Annual Review.

The policies and procedures, including the list and definition of prohibited activities, shall be reviewed on an annual basis and prior to the start of preseason football practice for the year.

Any addition to the list of prohibited activities or change to the existing definitions of prohibited activities must be reviewed by the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Competitive Aspects of Sports and the appropriate divisional football committees (e.g., NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee, NCAA Division II Football Committee, NCAA Division III Football Committee).

Prohibited Athletic Activity.

Generally, athletic activity designed to create straight line collisions is not permissible. The prohibition on activity designed to create straight line collisions does not prohibit a team from scrimmaging or conducting a drill with a limited number of players if upon the snap of the ball or a whistle being blown, players are instructed to take angles and to execute offensive and defensive schemes as in game situations. Further, activity that includes the essential elements of the below definitions are also prohibited. However, elements of the below that may occur during thud or live action (e.g., scrimmage) remain permissible.

The following athletic activities/drills are not permissible:

1. Bull in the Ring/King of the Circle;

- Prior to the start of the drill players stand in a circle surrounding one player in the middle. Each player is assigned a number. The drill begins when a coach calls out a number. The player to whom that number was assigned is then required to charge at the player standing in the middle of the circle. Coaches may call more than one number at a time, resulting in multiple players charging the player in the middle.

2. "Oklahoma" Drill; and

- Players begin the drill barricaded on each side and lined up directly across from each other. (The players could be a defensive tackle, offensive lineman, ball carrier, and linebacker, or defensive back versus a wide receiver and ball carrier). Upon the start of the drill, players attack each other straight on with no angles. After contact the defender is attempting to shed a block while the offensive player is attempting to create a vertical drive block or a defender attempting to tack the ball carrier runs directly downhill as the ball carrier runs directly through a defender without the ability of either to avoid linear contact due to the barricade on each side with the goal of freeing or tackling the ball carrier.

3. **Offensive/Defensive Line Run Blocking Board Drill.**

Note: This rule does not prohibit or limit one-on-one pass rush or pass protection drills that do not occur within an artificially confined area.

- Two players begin the drill by aligning directly across or slightly offset from one another within an artificially confined area, such as between boards, straddling a board or confined by other similar objects or as otherwise indicated by a member of the coaching staff. Upon the snap, players are directed to physically engage with each other off the ball and challenge for vertical push with no attempt by the defensive player to evade the block. The intent of the rule is to prohibit one-on-one tests of strength within artificially confined areas that do not permit the defensive player to angle his approach, shed the blocker, or take other evasive action. (Prohibited during OL versus DL padded practice. Conducting this drill with or without pads and at walking or jogging pace is permitted).

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