



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. Postseason Football – Postseason Bowl Games – Exception – Insufficient Number of Eligible Institutions.

- (1) Action. The NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee introduced legislation in the June 2026 Division I pilot legislative process to modify NCAA Division I Bylaw 18.7.2.1.3-(d) by removing the requirement that alternates identified under this exception be identified as eligible in descending order based on the institutions' multiyear Academic Progress Rates.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This modification to the insufficient number of eligible institutions exception provides additional flexibility and opportunities for conferences to satisfy their bowl commitments. The modification does not change the Academic Progress Rate required for postseason participation.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Postseason Football – Postseason Bowl Games – Contest Status.

- (1) Action. The NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight committee introduced legislation in the June 2026 Division I pilot legislative process to remove NCAA Division I Bylaw 18.7.2.1.3-(c) and add an exception to the contest status legislation to permit an institution reclassifying from Football Championship Subdivision to Football Bowl Subdivision to be considered a deserving team, provided the institution is meeting all applicable reclassification requirements, otherwise meets the definition of a “deserving team” and is otherwise eligible for postseason participation.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.

- (3) Rationale. This modification will allow institutions reclassifying from Football Championship Subdivision to Football Bowl Subdivision to meet the definition of a deserving team and participate in the postseason, provided all reclassification and postseason requirements are met.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Increased opportunities for reclassifying institutions to access postseason competition.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- a. **Division I Football Rules Subcommittee Playing Rules Proposals**. The FBSOC reviewed and adopted seven playing rules proposals developed by the Division I Football Rules Subcommittee. The committee did not adopt Proposal No. 2 - Players Uniform - Leg Coverings. Additional information related to the proposals and committee actions can be found in [Attachment A](#).
- b. **Division I Football Rules Subcommittee Logo Placement Recommendation**. The FBSOC reviewed and approved the commercial logo placement recommendation from the Division I Football Rules Subcommittee (See [Attachment B](#)).
- c. **Division I Cabinet Request for feedback regarding Proposal No. 2026-10 – Recruiting – Transfer Outside of the Notification of Transfer Process and Participation in Athletically Related Activities – Penalties**. The FBSOC reviewed a request from the Division I Cabinet on NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-10.
 - (1) The committee supported amending the proposal to specify that the penalty applies if a student-athlete participates in athletically related activities; signs an athletic aid agreement/settlement related benefits agreements; is included on the institution’s roster; or meets the definition of a student-athlete (Bylaw 13.02.14), whichever occurs first.
 - (2) The committee recommends the Cabinet remove the roster reduction penalty.
 - (3) The committee does not support adding exceptions to the proposal, including changes to participation opportunities.
 - (4) The committee did not support introducing legislation to create a postgraduate student-athlete notification of transfer period in football.

- d. **Review of the Designation and Number of Off-Campus Recruiters.** The FBSOC reviewed current off-campus recruiters legislation and discussed future changes to the legislation. The committee directed NCAA staff to issue a blanket waiver to permit institutions to designate up to 16 institutional staff members designated as off-campus recruiters with only ten of those recruiters out at any one time during the 2026 spring contact period.

The FBS Calendar Subgroup will continue to review off-campus recruiters in conjunction with potential changes to the FBS recruiting calendar. In its review of the off-campus recruiters legislation, the subgroup will also evaluate the individual associated with a prospective student-athlete legislation.

- e. **FBS Calendar Subgroup Update - Recommendation to modify the First Contest Date Legislation.** The FBSOC received a recommendation from the FBS Calendar Subgroup to introduce legislation into the expedited legislative process that would modify the first contest date to annually provide 14 weeks for institutions to conduct up to 12 contests and eliminate the first contest date exceptions beginning with the 2027 season. The subgroup's recommendation does not include changes to out-of-season activities that are still being discussed and developed by the subgroup. FBSOC will continue its discussion and may introduce expedited legislation during its April 16 meeting.
- f. **Approval of the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee February 24-25 report.** The committee approved the February 24-25 FBSOC report.
- g. **Future meetings.**
- (1) 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Eastern time, April 16, 2026; videoconference.
 - (2) 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Eastern time, May 7, 2026; videoconference.

Committee Chair: Mark Alnutt, University of Buffalo, the State University of New York.
Staff Liaisons: Geoff Bentzel, NCAA Division I Governance and Membership Services.
Jenn Fraser, NCAA Division I Governance and Membership Services.
Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.
Kris Richardson, NCAA Division I Governance and Membership Services.

NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee February 24-25, 2026, Meeting
Attendees:
Mark Alnutt, University of Buffalo, the State University of New York; Mid-American Conference.
Craig Bohl, American Football Coaches Association.
Josh Brooks, University of Georgia; Southeastern Conference.
Shonna Brown, Pac-12 Conference.
Matthew Dennis, Wake Forest University.
Sam Edwards, Michigan State University.
A.J. Edds, Big Ten Conference (alternate).
Justin Fuente, College Football Playoff.
Travis Llewellyn, Sun Belt Conference (alternate).
Alan Green, University of Southern California.
Jeremy Hammond, Southeastern Conference (alternate).
Erick Harper, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Mountain West Conference.
Jamie Hixson, American Conference (alternate).
Clark Lea Jr., Vanderbilt University.
Bryan Maggard, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Sun Belt Conference.
Dan Radakovich, University of Miami (Florida); Atlantic Coast Conference.
Todd Stewart, Western Kentucky University; Conference USA.
Michael Strickland, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Gene Taylor, Kansas State University; Big 12 Conference.
Absentees:
Bret Bielema, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
Lisa Campos, University of Texas at San Antonio; American Conference.
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.
Chris McIntosh, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Big Ten Conference.
Invited Guests:
Steve Shaw, NCAA Football Rules Committee.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Geoff Bentzel, Jenn Fraser, Ty Halpin and Kris Richardson.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Paden Alie, DJ Brown, Amanda Conklin, Anthony Holman, Chris Howard, Leilani Hubbard, Brittney Jackson, Chris Johnson, Greg Johnson, Travis Johnston, Jackson Marcotte, Greg Pottorff and Lynda Tealer.



National Collegiate Athletic Association
Division I Football Rules Subcommittee
2026 Rules Proposals

Proposal No. 1: Targeting Penalty. *(Adopted)*

Proposed Change – Rule 9-1-3 & 9-1-4 Penalty.

- This change will be an experimental rule for 2026.
- Targeting fouls that are upheld will include a disqualification for the current game, and the rule will eliminate the carryover disqualification for fouls in the second half.
- If a player receives a second Targeting foul within the same season, disqualification for the remainder of the game and the first half of the team's next scheduled game within that season.
- -If a player receives a third or subsequent Targeting foul within the same season, disqualification for the remainder of the game and that player will receive an automatic one-game suspension in their team's next scheduled game of that season.
- If a player receives a second and/or subsequent upheld targeting fouls within the same season, the conference has the option to consult the national coordinator of football officials who would then facilitate a video review. Based on the review, if and only if the national coordinator concludes that it is clearly obvious the player should not have been disqualified on the first, second or any subsequent targeting foul, the suspension will be vacated. If the national coordinator supports the disqualification, the suspension for the next game will remain.

Proposal No. 2: Players Uniform and Enforcement. *(Defeated)*

Proposed Change – Rule 1-4-4-h.

- Leg Coverings. Game socks and/or leg coverings must cover the entire area from the top of the shoe to the bottom of the pants (no skin gap).
- All players must wear the same covering style and color (either socks and/or leg coverings) in any particular game.
- (Exceptions: Unaltered knee braces, tape or a bandage on the lower leg to protect or prevent an injury, and barefoot kickers).
- These game socks and/or leg coverings requirements will be in effect for the 2026 season for all DI Teams.

Proposed Change – Rule 1-4-8.

- If an official discovers illegal equipment, or if a player is not wearing mandatory equipment, the player must leave the game for at least one down and is not allowed to return until the equipment is made legal.
- For the 1st occurrence when the official stops the game for an equipment issue, the player(s) must leave the game, the head coach will receive a warning, and the Referee will make an announcement [S23].
- For the 2nd occurrence when the official stops the game for an equipment issue, the player must leave the game, the team will be penalized 5-yards, and the Referee will make an announcement [S23].
- For the 3rd and subsequent occurrences when the official stops the game for an equipment issue, the player must leave the game, the team will be penalized 15-yards, and the Referee will make an announcement [S23].
- The player may be allowed to return without missing a down if the team takes or is charged a team timeout, and the equipment is made legal.
- If equipment becomes illegal through play, the player is not required to leave the game for one down, but the player may not participate until the equipment is made legal.

Proposal No. 3: Numbering Exceptions - Scrimmage Kick Formation. *(Adopted)*

Proposed Change – Rule 7-1-4.

- In a scrimmage kick formation at the snap (Rule 2-16-10) Team A may have fewer than five linemen numbered 50-79, subject to the following conditions:
 - The snapper and two adjacent linemen on either side not numbered 50-79 who are lined up in (or touching) the tackle box are ineligible receivers by position and become exceptions to the numbering rule when the snapper takes his position.
 - Any and all such numbering-exception players must be clearly on the line of scrimmage, and all backs must be clearly in the backfield. Otherwise, Team A commits a foul for illegal formation.

Proposal No. 4: Offensive Pass Interference – Penalty. *(Adopted)*

Proposed Change – Rule 7-3-8-b.

- The penalty for offensive pass interference is being adjusted to 10-yards.

Proposal No. 5: Play Clock Following a Replay Review after the Two-Minute Timeout.
(Adopted)

Proposed Change – Rule 3-2-4-c-12.

- The play clock is set to 25 seconds following an Instant replay review with the following exception:
 - After the Two-Minute Timeout in the 2nd or 4th quarters, when the Replay Official stops the game for review, the play clock will be frozen at that point and will be restarted following the review when the ball is made ready for play by the Referee's signal.
 - If the play clock displays less than 10 seconds when it is frozen, it will be reset to 10 seconds and started when the ball is made ready for play by the Referee's signal.

Proposal No. 6: Modernize the Unsportsmanlike Contact Rule. *(Adopted)*

Proposed Change – Rule 9-2-1-a.

- The Rules Committee is satisfied with the solid judgement that officials are demonstrating evaluating Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
- In order to update the rule and stay in pace with the modern game, Rule 9-2-1 is being adjusted to ensure that officials will use good judgement in penalizing actions that interfere with orderly game administration, taunting actions that are directed at an opponent, and abusive, threatening, or celebratory actions that are demeaning to the game or an opponent.
- The list of automatic unsportsmanlike conduct fouls will be minimized and will be consistently penalized including:
 - Any form of gun violence including brandishing a weapon.
 - A slashing of the throat or a nose wipe signal.
 - A player removing their helmet after the ball is dead (with exceptions for timeouts and equipment adjustments).
 - Dead-ball contact fouls such as pushing, shoving, striking, etc. that occur clearly after the ball is dead and that are not part of the game action.
 - After the ball is dead, using forcible contact to push or pull an opponent off the pile.

Proposal No. 7: Game Stop – Additional Coach Replay Challenge. *(Adopted)*

Proposed Change – Rule 12-5-1-b.

- A head coach initiates a challenge by taking a team timeout before the ball is next legally put into play and informing the referee that they are challenging the ruling of the previous play.
- The head coach has two replay challenges per game. If a coach wins at least one of their first two challenges, they are awarded a third challenge. A challenge can only be made if the team has a timeout remaining and available.

Proposal No. 8: Fair Catch Kick. *(Adopted)*

Proposed Change – Rule 6-5-1-e.

- Following a fair catch, the ball shall be put in play by a snap or a Fair Catch Kick by the receiving team at the spot of the catch.
- To trigger the Fair Catch Kick, a fair catch must be completed on an opponent's scrimmage kick or free kick.
- The receiving team may choose to attempt a Fair Catch Kick from the spot of the fair catch or the succeeding spot after penalties.
- If the fair catch occurs as time expires in a half, the team is allowed to make the Fair Catch Kick as an untimed down.
- The defense must remain at least 10-yards behind the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked.
- The kick must be a field goal place kick with a holder (no tee) or a drop kick, and if the kick passes over the crossbar and through the uprights, a field goal is scored and 3 points are awarded.
- If the Fair Catch Kick is unsuccessful, all rules pertaining to scrimmage kicks and the Next Play provisions of an unsuccessful field goal apply.

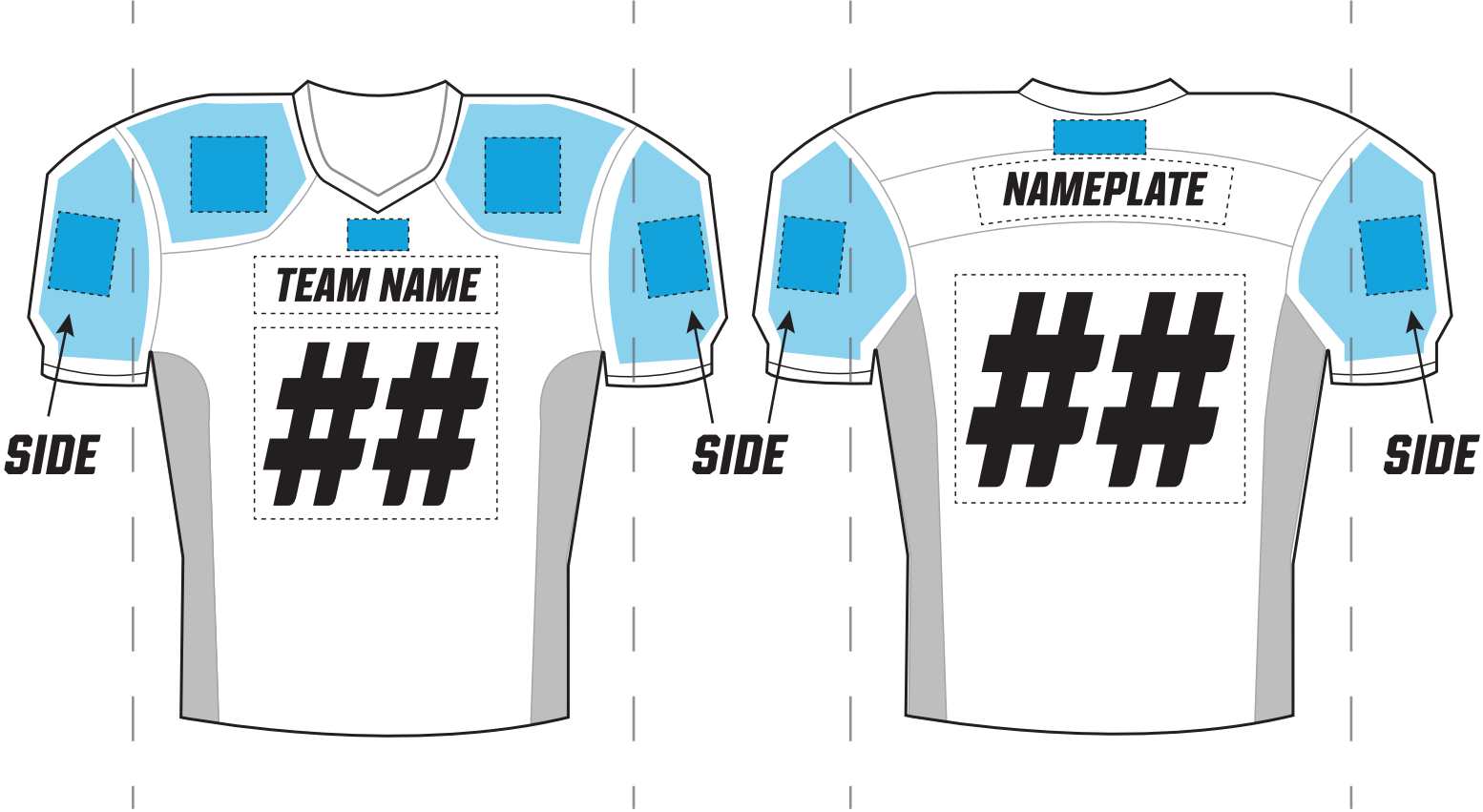
Steve Shaw
CFO National Coordinator of Football Officials
Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Football Rules Committee
February 2026



FOOTBALL

FRONT

BACK



Conference, Manufacturer, and Advertising/Commercial Logos Only

Permissive Locations for Additional Patches (e.g., flags, captain, etc.)

- NCAA Division I Football Uniform Rules**
- Up to two (2) commercial or nonprofit trademarks/logos total on the jersey.
 - The game pants may not have commercial or nonprofit trademarks.
 - One additional commercial or nonprofit trademark/logo during conference championship competition.
 - Logos may not exceed four square inches (all logos).
 - Logos may not interfere with required uniform markings (e.g., numbers).