



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 15, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative.

- None

2. Nonlegislative.

- **Division III process for playing rules.**
 - a. Recommendation. The Management and Presidents Councils ratify the Administrative Committee's action to approve a new Division III process for playing rules. [Attachment]
 - b. Effective date. Immediate.
 - c. Rationale. The new process still encourages common playing rules but allows for divisional modifications. The changes would occur within the existing rule making framework but would focus on incorporating more Division III perspectives. The Administrative Committee members noted that this process does not create additional bureaucracies and mirrors processes recently adopted/considered by the other divisions.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome.** The videoconference commenced at 10:32 a.m. Eastern. The chair welcomed the committee.
2. **April 20 report.** The committee reviewed the report from the April 20 videoconference.
3. **Federated rules process.** With guidance from an advisory group recommended by Management Council and an endorsement from Management Council during its April meeting, the Administrative Committee approved a Division III process for playing rules. [See Action item 2].
4. **Athletic Trainer Working Group.** Time did not allow for this discussion.
5. **Adjournment.** The videoconference adjourned at 11:03 a.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Jim Schmidt, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

*Staff Liaisons: Louise McCleary, Division III Governance
Bill Regan, Division III Governance
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs*

NCAA Division III Administrative Committee May 15, 2023, Videoconference
Attendees:
Lamont Repollet, Kean University.
Jim Schmidt, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.
Michelle Walsh, Vassar College.
Absent:
Jim Troha, Juniata College.
Guest in Attendance
None.
NCAA Staff in Attendance
Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan, Lisa Rogers.

Division III Administrative Committee Proposed Division III Process for Playing Rules

The proposed Division III federated playing rules process reflects three key points of emphasis: (1) The process should include more Division III input; (2) The process should encourage common rules; and (3) The process, to the extent possible, should work within the current rules making framework.

The key elements of the model are: (1) The Division III members on the playing rules committees or the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) will be the only ones to vote on Division III issues. (This includes adopting a Division III specific rule or deciding not to adopt for Division III a proposed common rule). (2) To inform this vote, the Division III members of the sport playing rules committee will meet with or seek feedback from the members of the sport championship committee prior to both the annual meeting and the comments review meeting, to discuss and provide a position on potential action. (3) This proposed process is incorporated within the current framework, for adopting playing rules.

Additionally, as proposed the process does not create additional bureaucracies and mirrors the recently adopted Division I process for voting on federated rules.

Playing rules process.

The following describes how the proposed Division III process would be incorporated into the existing playing rules process. The “existing process” would not change but rather the “proposed Division III process” would be incorporated into to the existing process.

1. Information gathering stage.
 - a. Existing process. During the non-championship and championship seasons, the secretary-rules editor and rules committee members compile hot topics from coaches, commissioners, athletics administrators, and other stakeholders (e.g., coaches associations, sport management committees, officials, etc.). A call for proposals is sent to all head coaches and conference commissioners. Topics are presented and discussed at the coaches' convention, if possible.

A rules survey is conducted to determine membership positions on certain issues.
 - b. Proposed Division III process. The model does not propose any alternatives to this step of the process.
2. Annual rules committee meeting.
 - a. Existing process. The rules committee meets to discuss and vote on rules proposals.

- b. Proposed Division III federated process. Prior to the annual meeting, the Division III members of the rules committee will meet with the members of the relevant Division III sports championship committee to provide additional Division III perspectives on the proposals for consideration.

During the annual meeting, based on the consultation with the sports championship committee and other Division III specific input/information gathered, the Division III members of the playing rules committee may recommend and vote on rules proposals that are specific to Division III. A simple majority vote of the Division III members is required to approve a proposal for the division.

If the playing rules committee adopts a rule that is not supported by the Division III members at the annual meeting, it shall still go forward as a common rule for purposes of soliciting Division III comments. The Division III members will consider whether or not the common rule should apply to Division III after the comment period.

Finally, during the annual meeting, any proposed rules that are going out for comment, that: (1) have a financial impact whether that is a direct impact, impacts personnel or requires additional resources; or (2) could be construed to impact a fundamental Division III principle (e.g., student-athlete participation opportunities) shall be communicated to Division III governance staff. The purpose of notifying governance is to raise awareness so that communication efforts can be made with NADIII AA, D3CA and other constituent groups to highlight the need for feedback during the comment period.

3. Comment period.

- a. Existing process: After the annual meeting, a list of proposals approved by the rules committee is sent to head coaches, conference commissioners and athletics directors for feedback. This comment period (no less than two weeks) allows the membership to see and respond to the final language of the proposals. Proposals that are intended to apply to all divisions are sent to all divisions for feedback.
- b. Proposed Division III federated process: Proposals that are approved for Division III by the Division III members of the rules committee are sent to Division III for feedback and may be, at the discretion of the full rules committee, sent to other divisions for feedback, noting that the proposal would apply to Division III.

4. Rules committee review of comment period results.

- a. Existing process: At the end of the comment period, the rules committee meets to review the comment period results and qualitative feedback. If needed, the committee has the option of reconsidering or altering a proposal based on the feedback received. The rules committee determines which proposals to forward to the PROP for final consideration.
- b. Proposed Division III federated process: Prior to the meeting the Division III members of the playing rules committee will meet with the relevant Division III sports championship committee to review the comments.

Based on the input from the sports committee and the comments from the Division III membership, the Division III members of the playing rules committee may do the following

- (1) Reconsider, delay implementation or alter a Division III specific proposal.
- (2) Reconsider, delay implementation or alter a common rule as it applies to Division III.
- (3) For Division III, reconsider, delay implementation or alter proposed common rules that were not ultimately approved by the playing rules committee.

The vote for any of these actions would be a simple majority of the Division III members of the playing rules committee.

5. Playing Rules Oversight Panel review of proposals.

- a. Existing process. PROP reviews all proposals the rules committee recommends and all feedback from the membership. A recommendation from a rules committee shall be considered valid unless the PROP determines that the recommendation: (1) harms the image of the games; (2) creates an unsafe environment for student-athletes; or (3) places an unreasonable financial burden on the membership. PROP may request that playing rules committee chairs and/or secretary-rules editors present their cases to PROP when proposed changes are controversial or unusually complicated.

The full PROP votes on common rules proposals.

- b. Proposed Division III federated process. The Division III members of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel vote on Division III specific proposals. In addition, if a common rules proposal is not supported by the full PROP, the Division III members of the panel may vote to determine whether the proposal is approved for Division III. The Division III members may also vote to remand a common rule back to the playing rules committee for Division III only.

The current Division III composition of the playing rules committees and the size of the Division III championship sport committees.

Playing Rules Committee [number of Division III members]	Championship Sport Committee [number of members]
Baseball [2]	Baseball [10]
Basketball (M) [3]	Basketball (M) [10]
Basketball (W) [3]	Basketball (W) [10]
Cross Country/Track and Field (M/W) [2]	Cross Country/Track and Field (M/W) [8]
Football [3]	Football [6]
Ice Hockey (M/W) [4]	IH (M) [4]
	IH (W) [5]
Lacrosse (M) [3]	Lax (M) [5]
Lacrosse (W) [3]	Lax (W) [7]
Soccer (M/W) [2]	Soc (M) [10]*
	Soc (W) [10]*
Softball [2]	Softball [10]
Swimming and Diving (M/W) [2]	Swimming and Diving (M/W) [8]
Volleyball (W) [2]	Volleyball (W) [10]
Wrestling (M) [2]	Wrestling (M)[6]

* Rather than have a committee of 22 there would be just five from each of the championship sport committees to consult with the soccer playing rules members.

Non-NCAA Playing Rules.

The proposed Division III federated playing rules process for non-NCAA playing rules modifications would, to the extent possible, be the same as the proposed process for NCAA published rules. The primary difference is that instead of a playing rules committees for these sports, there is a subgroup of the sports championships committees.

Existing process. Currently, the NCAA may adopt modifications to the non-NCAA rules. Prior to 2019 those modifications could be division specific. Modifications are proposed by the governing sports championships committees as there are not separate playing rules committees for these sports. The current process involves a subgroup of the divisional championship sport committees based on the same structure as the playing rules committees (i.e., 50% Division I; 25% Div. II; 25% Div. III) to determine whether to propose modifications. Those modifications are similarly subject to membership comments and final PROP approval.

Proposed Division III federated process. The process would apply the same to the sports championship subgroups as it does for the playing rules committees in those sports the NCAA publishes rules. The full divisional sports championship committee would meet to discuss proposals and offer a position to the Division III representatives on the subgroup before that Association wide subgroup meets. All voting processes would remain the same as the proposed process for NCAA published rules.

The following are the sports in which NCAA uses non-NCAA playing rules.

Division III Sport Championship Committee [size of committee]	Non-NCAA rules
Field Hockey [6]	International Field Hockey Rules
Golf: (M) [7]; (W) [5]	U.S. Golf Association Rules
Rowing [6]	U.S. Rowing Rules
Tennis (M) [8]; (W) [8]	U.S. Tennis Association Rules
Volleyball (M) [4]	U.S. Volleyball Association Rules



Playing Rules Cycle - Overview

WHAT ARE PLAYING RULES?

Playing rules are what happens on the field, court, pool, pitch, mat, rink, lane, track or slope when an opponent and officials are present. Playing rules are the same for regular season and championship competition.

INFORMATION GATHERING STAGE

During the non-traditional and regular seasons, the secretary-rules editor and rules committee members compile hot topics from coaches, commissioners, athletics administrators and other stakeholders (i.e., coaches associations, Oversight Committees, officials, etc.). A Call for Proposals is sent to all head coaches and conference commissioners. Topics are presented and discussed at the coach's convention, if possible. A rules survey is conducted to determine how the membership feels about certain issues.



ANNUAL MEETING

The rules committee meets to discuss and vote on rules proposals to improve the game.



COMMENT PERIOD

After the annual meeting, a list of proposals approved by the rules committee is sent to head coaches, conference commissioners and athletics directors for feedback. This two-week comment period allows the membership to see and respond to the final language of the proposals.



RULES COMMITTEE REVIEW OF COMMENT PERIOD RESULTS

At the end of the two-week comment period, the rules committee meets to review the comment period results and qualitative feedback. The respective PROP representative participates in this meeting. The rules committee determines which proposals to send forward to PROP for final consideration.



PROP REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

The Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) reviews all proposals the rules committee recommends and all feedback from the membership during the two-week comment period. PROP's charge is to review all proposals for financial implications, safety concerns and harm to the image of the game. Items approved by PROP are final and incorporated into the next edition of the rules book.



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Division III Federated Process

Before Annual Meeting:

- Advisory Meeting.
 - The Division III members of the playing rules committee will meet with the Division III sport championship committee to discuss potential rules.
 - Purpose:
 - Increase Division III perspectives regarding potential rules.
 - Better inform the members of the playing rules committee.
 - Better understanding of the rules process for the sport championship committee.



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Division III Federated Process

Annual Meeting:

- Common rules process – no change.
- New: Division III members of the rules committee may send a Division III specific rule forward for comment.
- New: Division III members may identify proposals of interest.
 - Financial impact.
 - Fundamental Division III principle.
 - Purpose: Initiates governance communication efforts to inform the membership of the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback



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Comment period:

- New: There may be Division III specific rules where only Division III (coaches, commissioners, ADs) provide comments.



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Division III Federated Process

Rules committee review of comments:

- New: Before the meeting, Division III members again meet with the members of the sport championship committee to review Division III comments.
- New: During the meeting Division III playing rules members.
 - May approve, alter, reject, or delay a rule only for Division III.
 - May reject, alter, or delay an adopted common rule as it applies to Division III.



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Division III Federated Process

PROP review of proposals:

- New: Division III members would vote on Division III specific issues.
- The Division III members would apply the same standard of review that the entire panel does for common rules.