



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISIONS II AND III PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL
APRIL 15, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Brad Duckworth, chair of the Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel, welcomed the panel.
2. **Duties and conflict of interest.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed the NCAA conflict of interest policy.
3. **Approval of the February 12, 2026, and March 11, 2026, meeting reports.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved the February 12, 2026, and March 11, 2026, reports as written.
4. **NCAA Divisions II and III Football Rules Committee annual meeting report and comment period results.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed and approved major rules changes submitted by the Divisions II and III Football Rules Committee, which included:
 - a. Removing the carry-over penalty for a players' first targeting foul of the season.
 - b. Updating the requirements of a scrimmage kick formation (punt plays).
 - c. Changing the penalty for offensive pass interference to 10 yards.
 - d. Freezing the play clock for replay reviews after the two-minute timeout.
 - e. Modernizing the unsportsmanlike conduct rules.
 - f. Adding an additional coaches' replay challenge.
 - g. Implementing a fair catch kick.

The Divisions II and III Football Rules Committee noted that it reviewed technology items and did not support additional experimentation with additional on-field technology (e.g., wearable communication devices). The rules committee will continue to monitor this in the future, but the addition of permissive coach-to-player helmet technology, which is effective with the 2026 season, is significant and a more measured approach to future changes is supported.

5. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee annual meeting report and comment period results.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel

reviewed and approved major rules changes submitted by the Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee, which included:

- a. Increasing the permissible maximum field width from 75 yards to 80 yards.
- b. Permitting up to four commercial logos on the field provided they are not in the penalty area and do not obscure any required field markings.
- c. Permitting substitutions at any time the clock is stopped.
- d. Permitting devices for the collection of data that may be worn on the wrist or arm provided it is properly taped down and padded.
- e. Permitting both players to remain on the field should a player from each team seek medical evaluation or is treated on the field after a penalty kick has been awarded.
- f. Permitting the following changes to video review procedures as follows: (1) Referees can initiate a review at any time for timing issues or for the ball crossing the endline; (2) All other reviews will require a coach's challenge; (3) Each team will have two challenges per match; and (4) If a team is out of challenges, the referee can initiate a review on their own during the last 10 minutes of regulation or in overtime.
- g. Permitting the addition of the following offenses by the attacking team as reviewable play situations: (1) A foul prior to the scoring of a goal; (2) A foul or an offside prior to the award of a penalty kick or the issuing of a red card for denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity; and (3) Offside prior to the scoring of a goal.
- h. During the last 15 minutes of the second half, when there is a margin of five or more goals, the clock will only stop for serious injuries and video reviews.
- i. Clarifying resumption of play for a suspended game due to inclement weather.
- j. Amending the goalkeeper delay penalty to award a corner kick to the non-offending team if the goalkeeper retains possession of the ball for longer than eight seconds.
- k. Permitting cautions to be issued to the head coach when: (1) Multiple substitutes run through the opposing team's bench area or illegally enter the field beyond the immediate vicinity of the touchline during the celebration of a goal; and (2) Misconduct punishable by a caution takes place in the coaching or team area and the individual offender cannot be located.
- l. Permitting issued cautions (yellow cards) to bench personnel during a game to be charged against the head coach for the purposes of accumulation.
- m. Permitting red card ejections to be reviewed by a select committee to determine if criteria for Violent Behavior II, Fighting and Referee Assault have been met.

- n. Permitting the following penalty for failure to serve a suspension: (1) Two-game suspension for the individual; and (2) Two-game suspension for the head coach.
- o. Permitting the red card ejection penalty to not add additional games for each subsequent ejection beyond the first.

6. NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Working Group annual meeting report and comment period results. The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed and approved major rules changes submitted by the Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Working Group, which included:

- a. Permitting the use of video review during NCAA postseason when available.
- b. Amending that each team shall consist of seven players in the water, only one of whom shall be provided goalkeeper privileges provided a goalkeeper's cap is worn.
- c. Permitting officials to determine if the entry of an excluded player would have affected whether a goal would have been scored provided the signal was given without undue delay.
- d. Clarifying resumption of play after a regular timeout following a timeout requested by the team scored upon.
- e. Clarifying the protocol to address a change of ends request prior to or during the pregame meeting.
- f. Amending acts of simulation committed by the team in possession of the ball and the team not in possession of the ball. In both cases, play shall be restarted after a timeout, and the offending player shall be assessed a minor act of misconduct but shall not be excluded.
- g. A player excluded for a minor act of misconduct during interval time may not reenter the game until 20 seconds of playing time has elapsed.
- h. Aligning the penalty for early entry to be the same regardless of the position of the excluded player, with no game exclusion assessed in either case.
- i. Team awarded a free throw on or behind the half-distance line with a new possession clock and will start play as after a goal.
- j. Clarify penalties to address failure to properly serve a game suspension, which would include an additional two-game suspension for the player and head coach.

7. Commercial logos on playing surfaces. The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed and approved rules recommendations to address commercial and/or non profits

logos and trademarks on playing surfaces. A summary of approved rules recommendations is available [here](#).

8. Future videoconference dates. The panel confirmed its next videoconference will take place at 1 p.m. Eastern time on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

9. Other business. The panel did not have any further business to discuss.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Brad Duckworth, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel April 15, 2026, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Donnie Brooks, Macalester College.	
Jessica Brown, Westminster College (Missouri).	
Kate Corcoran, Millersville University of Pennsylvania.	
Robert Davenport, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Brad Duckworth, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	
Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.	
Joe Schaly, Thiel College.	
Marie Stroman, American Rivers Conference.	
Todd Thurman, Metropolitan State University of Denver.	
Matt Wilson, Gulf South Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Rachel Seewald.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Paden Alie, Stanley Broaden, Jay Fitzwater, Ashlee Follis, J.D. Hamilton, Greg Johnson, Connor Lancashire, Autumn Monaghan, Jennifer Roe and Liz Suscha.	