



REPORT OF THE
NCAA PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL
AUGUST 13, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Brad Walker, vice-chair of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, welcomed the panel.
2. **Duties and conflict of interest.** PROP reviewed its duties and the NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy.
3. **Approval of July 17, 2025, and July 21, 2025, meeting reports.** PROP approved the July 17, 2025, and the July 21, 2025, meeting reports as written.
4. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee annual meeting report.** PROP reviewed the annual meeting report submitted by the Baseball Rules Committee. No rules changes were proposed during the non-rules change year.
5. **NCAA Softball Rules Committee annual meeting report, comment period results and videoconference report.** PROP reviewed and approved 11 rules changes submitted by the Softball Rules Committee, which included:
 - a. Requiring the use of the double base at first base beginning with the 2026 season for Division I and the 2027 season for Divisions II and III.
 - b. Allowing players to wear their signal arm band/device on their arm, belt, in their pocket, etc.
 - c. Allowing an exclusively one-way electronic communication device to be used on offense and for signals to be transmitted from the dugout of coaches' boxes on the field.
 - d. Allowing coaches to retain their video review challenge if ruling is changed.
 - e. Revising video review plays subject to review.
 - f. Allowing teams to congregate during a video review without being charged with a conference.
 - g. Requiring all protests to be resolved during the game.

- h. Expanding the current concussion reentry rules to include any medical condition with the potential to cause catastrophic injury or illness, as determined by a primary athletics health care provider.
 - i. Clarifying obstruction.
 - j. Requiring the batter and catcher to be in their respective boxes within 12 seconds.
 - k. Allowing an unlimited number of replays on the in-venue scoreboard/videoboard, at any speed, while a play is under video review by the umpires.
6. **NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee annual meeting report and comment period results.** PROP reviewed and approved four rules changes submitted by the Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee, which included:
- a. Including game misconduct penalties in the group of penalties that a conference may request for review by the NCAA secretary-rules editor and national coordinator of officials for possible adjustment.
 - b. Adjusting the facemask rule's penalty structure to include more penalty options for officials.
 - c. Clarifying the high-sticking rule implemented last season.
 - d. Adjusting the rules governing the potential enforcement of major penalties when video replay is available.
7. **NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee annual meeting report, comment period results and videoconference report.** PROP reviewed and approved 18 rules changes submitted by the Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee, which included:
- a. Clarifying that the goal net may be of any solid color, while also providing clarification surrounding the use of commercial logos on the goal nets.
 - b. Specifying that no holes or gaps in the net may exceed the diameter of a game ball or be large enough to allow a ball to pass through.
 - c. Changing the procedure for managing a broken stick to require that any player not in possession of the ball must immediately leave the field upon their stick breaking, regardless of their location on the field.
 - d. Clarifying that a coach must be present on the sideline to commence or continue play and that if a coach is not present on the sideline, the team must forfeit.

- e. Effective with the 2027 season, requiring that all officials utilize headsets during games to facilitate improved communication and game management. (Note: The rules committee encourages the use of headsets beginning with the 2026 season.)
- f. Stopping the game and possession clock for all fouls in the critical scoring area during the last minute of each quarter and overtime period. The game clock will run on all free positions in the critical scoring area except in the last minute of a quarter or overtime period.
- g. Revising the overtime procedures such that when the score is tied at the end of regulation, teams will have a two-minute rest period followed by a five-minute sudden-victory overtime period. If no winner is determined after the first overtime period, an additional two-minute rest period will occur, followed by an additional five-minute overtime period.
- h. Implementing a 30-second shot clock beginning with the signal of a goal and concluding at the start of the administration of the draw.
- i. Providing the allowance of any team that has possession at the end of a quarter to retain possession at the start of the subsequent quarter, regardless of any numerical advantage.
- j. Eliminating the requirement and/or option for officials to issue warnings prior to administering applicable penalties.
- k. Aligning the definition of stick length used by officials when determining both shooting space and three seconds to be the combined length of the defender's stick and arm.
- l. Prohibiting the switching of sticks on the field. Anytime a player needs to switch a stick, that player must enter and exit the field through the substitution area.
- m. Unless otherwise specified by rule, requiring that all fouls be administered at the spot of the foul. If administering the foul at that spot would disadvantage the non-offending team, the foul shall instead be administered at the spot of the ball.
- n. Administering 8-meter free positions only from the hashes directly adjacent to the center hash. The hash used will be determined by the half of the critical scoring area in which the foul occurred.
- o. Permitting the use of the slow whistle (flag) for shooting space, as well as for fouls that occur outside the critical scoring area when the ball is inside the critical scoring area.

- p. Requiring a one-game suspension for any individual who fails to serve the required next-game suspension resulting from a red card. Additionally, imposing a one-game suspension on the team's head coach if a player required to serve such a suspension fails to do so.
 - q. Restructuring the penalty categorization and administration to simplify the current categorization, procedures and administrative duties for officials, while enhancing consistency in game management.
 - r. Amending the video review rule for more consistent, fair and efficient administration, while also expanding opportunities for teams to challenge specific on-field calls, or no-calls, through the use of video review.
8. **NCAA National Collegiate and Division III Men's Volleyball Committees annual meeting report and comment period results.** PROP reviewed and approved one rule modification submitted by the National Collegiate and Division III Men's Volleyball Committees, as well as two additional rules modifications submitted by the Division III Men's Volleyball Committee, which included:
- a. Allowing the following decision(s) to be reviewed if the challenge equipment provides a clear view of the center line:
 - (1) Whether or not a player's foot/feet or other body part completely crossed the line resulting in interference with the opponent's play, or:
 - (2) Whether the encroachment presented a safety hazard to opponents.
 - b. Additionally for Division III competition only, the panel approved two modifications:
 - (1) Adopting the Challenge Review System modifications for Division III men's volleyball as approved for National Collegiate men's volleyball in 2024.
 - (2) When a team decides to designate two liberos, allowing for the switching of libero designations between sets.
9. **NCAA National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Committee annual meeting report and comment period results.** PROP reviewed and approved one rule modification submitted by the National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Committee, which included:
- Allowing for coaching, including instruction, between rallies.

10. NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee annual meeting report and comment period results. PROP reviewed and approved eight rules modifications submitted by the Men's Gymnastics Committee, which included:

- a. Removing the NCAA element groups modification to align with the FIG Code of Points.
- b. Amending the use of jewelry to permit gymnasts to be able to wear stud piercings.
- c. Aligning with the FIG for colors of pants used during competition. (Note: Implementation delayed until the 2026-27 academic year.)
- d. Clarifying broken grips during the one-touch warm-up.
- e. Clarifying the use of additional matting during competitions.
- f. Amending the inquiry/protest system clarification process.
- g. Clarifying two touch warmup modifications that may be permitted by conference rule or mutual agreement.

11. NCAA Women's Bowling Committee annual meeting report and comment period results. PROP reviewed and approved one rule change submitted by the Women's Bowling Committee which included:

- Issuing the initial warning of the Enforcement Protocol of the six-ball limit during the pre-competition coaches meeting.

12. Football secretary-rules editor term extension request. The panel approved a request by the Football Rules Committee to extend Steve Shaw's term as secretary-rules editor for four years through August 31, 2029. Data collected regarding Steve Shaw's performance was reviewed and the panel noted the high level of positive feedback.

13. Other business. NCAA staff updated the panel on the new Division I governance structure, noted that this was its last meeting due to the new structure, and thanked the panel for its time and service to the Association.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel August 13, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Joseph D’Antonio, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Robert Davenport, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Brad Duckworth, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.	
Richard Duran, University of the Incarnate Word.	
Korinth Patterson, Mid-American Conference.	
Joe Schaly, Thiel College.	
Brad Walker, America East Conference.	
Absentees:	
Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.	
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.	
Lexie Vernon, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Guests in Attendance :	
Stefanie Sparks Smith, NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Secretary-Rules Editor.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin and Rachel Seewald.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden, Ben Brownlee, Jay Fitzwater, Ashlee Follis, J.D. Hamilton, Greg Johnson, Connor Lancashire and Stephanie Quigg.	