



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISIONS II AND III PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL  
FEBRUARY 12, 2026, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and opening remarks.** Brad Duckworth, chair of the Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel, welcomed the panel and outlined the meeting schedule.
2. **Approval of Oct. 29, 2026, meeting report.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved the Oct. 29, 2026, meeting report as written.
3. **NCAA conflict of interest policy.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed the NCAA conflict of interest policy, as well as the panel's responsibility in the new NCAA governance structure.
4. **Review summary of significant, historical PROP actions.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed a document summarizing significant actions the panel has taken since 2003.
5. **NCAA Divisions II and III Women's Volleyball Rules Committee annual meeting report and comment period results.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed and approved 13 rules changes and one experimental rule submitted by the Divisions II and III Women's Volleyball Rules Committee, which included:
  - a. Permitting a maximum of two commercial or nonprofit logos on the playing court within the boundary lines.
  - b. Requiring all individual misconduct sanctions to remain in force for the entire match and be recorded on the score sheet.
  - c. Implementing a two-match suspension to a disqualified player and head coach if the disqualified player doesn't sit out the next match as required. If a disqualified coach doesn't sit out the next match as required, the head coach will be required to serve a two-match suspension.
  - d. Removing limitations on jewelry worn above the chin. No jewelry is allowed to be worn below the chin.
  - e. Allowing referees to consult the official match statistics and/or the challenge review system (CRS) to resolve a scoring discrepancy. A coach would not be required to lodge a protest in these instances.

- f. Requiring teams to only change sides of the court at the end of the second set. At the coin toss prior to the fifth set, the team that wins the toss may choose to serve, receive or side of the court. Teams will remain on their respective side of the court for the fifth set.
  - g. Adding an alternative timeout protocol for a technical timeout.
  - h. Increasing the number of substitutions per set from 15 to 18.
  - i. Disallowing any player on the serving team from raising their hands above the head during service until the ball has passed beyond the net.
  - j. Allowing a ball to be played back to a teammate that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone over or outside the antenna after a team's first contact or block, provided the pursuing player does not cross under the net, net cable or referee platform.
  - k. Ruling a violation for completely crossing the center line with the foot or feet and adding center line to the categories of reviewable decisions.
  - l. Requiring head coaches to request a challenge by forming a "C" with their hands.
  - m. Requiring a challenge to be requested immediately after the play in which the challengeable action occurred and before a timeout is initiated.
  - n. Allowing conferences to experiment during the 2026 season with the electronic transmission of live statistical data and/or live video to the bench area for coaching purposes. Video transmitted to the bench may not be used to show the referee(s) a possible missed call or interpretation.
6. **Report from the NCAA Sport Science Institute.** Mallory Mickus, NCAA associate director of sports medicine, provided an overview of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee, as well as the work being done to the Key Publications website that outlines various health and safety topics such as mental health, concussion safety, and best practices for collegiate athletic departments and athletic health care providers.
7. **Report from NCAA general counsel.** Jared Tidemann, NCAA managing director of legal affairs, provided an update on the ongoing litigation the Association faces, especially as it pertains to NCAA eligibility cases. The panel was also informed of the collaboration between the NCAA office of legal affairs and the NCAA playing rules & officiating staff, along with Division I rules subcommittees and Divisions II and III rules committees as it relates to various legal concerns in playing rules.
8. **Update on bat certification process.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel received an update on the transition of policies and procedures for the NCAA standard for certifying baseball bat performance, Bat-Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR), to a USA Baseball performance certification protocol (USA Bat) with an effective date of July 1, 2027.

Current protocol for performance testing standards for NCAA baseball will be maintained through the transition unless revised. The protocol will continue to be reviewed annually.

9. **Overview of Division I legislation on commercial logos.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel received an update on the Division I commercial logo legislation taking effect Aug. 1, 2026. The panel also reviewed a Division I summary outlining each sport's placement of allowable commercial logos on uniforms and playing surfaces. The panel is recommending that each Divisions II and III rules committee move forward with determining placement of commercial logos on competition surfaces for the panel's review during upcoming videoconferences. The panel emphasized the importance of cross-sport coordination to ensure that commercial logo placements on shared competition surfaces do not create confusion, impede required lines or markings, or diminish the integrity of other sports using the same facility. In addition, the panel noted its support for the allowance of commercial logos on uniforms and apparel.
10. **Update on football technology rules.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel received an update regarding coach-to-player helmet communication for Division II football competition. In April 2025, The Division II members of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel tabled this proposal and requested additional feedback from the Division II membership. It was also requested that this proposal be reviewed by the newly formed Divisions II and III Football Rules Committee during its annual meeting Feb. 26-27. Following the rules committee's annual meeting, the Division II members of the Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel will meet to consider options to address the tabled proposal.
11. **Update on NCAA officiating initiatives.** Ben Brownlee, NCAA associate director of officiating, provided an overview of the ongoing officiating recruitment and retention initiatives the Association is facilitating to build and maintain the officiating pipeline.
12. **Planning for 2026.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel reviewed sport assignments, playing rules staff assignments, and videoconference dates for 2026.
13. **Other business.** The Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel had no other business.
14. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2 p.m. Eastern Time.

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*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*

<b>NCAA Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel February 12, 2026, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Patrick Britz, South Atlantic Conference.	
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.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Ty Halpin and Rachel Seewald.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Paden Alie, Stanley Broaden, Ben Brownlee, Jay Fitzwater, Ashlee Follis, J.D. Hamilton, Greg Johnson, Connor Lancashire, Mallory Mickus, Autumn Monaghan, Stephanie Quigg and Jared Tidemann.	