



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL
JANUARY 22, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and opening remarks.** The chair welcomed the panel, including the three new committee members (Steve Card, Keith Gill and David Hicks), and had all attendees introduce themselves. The schedule was reviewed.
2. **Approval of September 11, 2019, teleconference report and November 14 and November 26, 2019, email vote reports.** The panel approved the reports as written.
3. **Review of the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel policies and procedures manual.**
 - a. **Duties.** The panel reviewed the list of duties, noting the specific responsibilities of reviewing rule recommendations pertaining to safety, finances and image of the game. The panel was reminded of the importance of reviewing rules proposals from a big picture perspective.
 - b. **Conflict of interest.** The panel also reviewed the NCAA Conflict of Interest Statement.
 - c. **Review of PROP February 2014 directive regarding financial/facility rules changes.** The panel reviewed the February 21, 2014, memorandum that PROP sent to all NCAA playing rules committees directing the committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay before implementing any rules changes that have financial or facility implications to provide institutions with notice and the opportunity to comply.
4. **Review of significant, historical PROP actions.** The panel reviewed a document summarizing significant actions the panel has taken since 2003.
5. **Review of summary of waivers issued by rules committees.** The panel reviewed a document summarizing the waivers (e.g., equipment, uniforms, accommodations for student-athletes with disabilities) approved during the 2018-19 academic year as well as a chart listing the waivers for student-athletes with disabilities approved between 2013-2019.
6. **Report from NCAA General Counsel.** NCAA general counsel updated the panel on several NCAA-related legal issues and provided an overview of the process for reviewing and considering accommodation requests.

7. **Report from the NCAA Sports Science Institute.** The panel received an update from the managing director of the Sports Science Institute staff, including a discussion about the challenges that were encountered this past year during the approval process and implementation of a recent rule change relative to a chest protector device for the sports of men's lacrosse, baseball and women's lacrosse. All agreed that to enhance the timeliness and effectiveness of implementing a playing rule that is health and safety related, continued communication and collaboration between the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports and the applicable playing rules committee is important.
8. **Update on review of selected sports without NCAA playing rules committees.** The panel received an update from staff on its request from the 2019 annual meeting that the sports of field hockey, tennis and men's volleyball explore whether these sports would benefit from having either an NCAA playing rules book and/or an NCAA playing rules committee. Regarding tennis, the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees agreed to appoint an eight-member Men's and Women's Tennis Subcommittee (from within the existing sport committees) to oversee the playing rules modifications for all three divisions. This was approved by the respective championships committees, effective January 1, 2020. In field hockey, during the February 2019 joint meeting of the divisional field hockey committees there was a preliminary discussion of this issue. The committees will continue the discussion during the annual meeting on February 4, 2020. In men's volleyball, the National Collegiate and NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committees agreed to maintain the current rules process of using the USA Volleyball and International Volleyball Federation rules as a guide to maintain the sport's connection to Olympic and international play.
9. **NCAA bylaw requiring same playing rules for all three divisions.** Staff noted that the executive directors of various coaches associations conducted a call with staff recently to express an interest in altering NCAA Bylaw 21.3.1.3, which requires playing rules to be the same for all three divisions (except for division-specific playing rules developed to address significant financial impact and approved by PROP and each division). It was noted that in recent years various playing rules committees had discussed the concept of allowing different rules by division (e.g., some Division III members having expressed an interest in allowing more liberal substitution rules in various sports to allow for more student-athlete participation). The panel reaffirmed its support for the current bylaw primarily for three reasons: a) preventing officials from having to learn more than one set of rules; b) preserving opportunities for competition between divisions, and c) avoiding potential confusion for fans.

The panel noted that additional discussion may be warranted in determining if certain playing rules might be considered "administrative" in nature (e.g., the length of halftime) and therefore, permissible by division when appropriate. The panel also encouraged playing rules committees to continue to look for ways to make rules "permissive in nature" in order to allow for flexibility when appropriate (e.g., the use of video review is permitted in several different sports, but not required in any sport).

10. Planning for 2020. The panel reviewed the 2020 teleconference schedule, the playing rules committees' annual meeting dates and the sport assignments for each panel member.

11. Other business. The panel reviewed the list of Division I nominees to replace Chris Schneider (when his term on the panel ends in August 2020) and identified two nominees to recommend to the NCAA Division I Nominating Committee.

Committee Chair: Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference

Staff Liaisons: Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Jay Fitzwater, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
Andy Supergan, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

Playing Rules Oversight Panel January 22, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Steve Card, Western Washington University.	
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.	
David Hicks, King University.	
Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference.	
Dave Roach, Fordham University.	
Chris Schneider, Big East Conference.	
Ronda Seagraves, Concordia University Texas.	
Angie Torain, University of Notre Dame.	
Gary Williams, Wittenberg University.	
Matt Wilson, Gulf South Conference.	
Absentees:	
Brad Bankston, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
Jen Heppel, Patriot League.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee, Dan Calandro, Jay Fitzwater, Ashlee Follis, Barb Hallam, Rachel Seewald and Andy Supergan.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Candace Martin (by teleconference), John Parsons and Jared Tidemann.	