



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL
JANUARY 11, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEM.

- **Federated playing rules.** The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved a recommendation directing the divisional governance bodies to pursue the appropriate legislative action to eliminate the requirement that playing rules shall be common for all divisions of the Association. PROP noted that there should continue to be a multi-divisional panel to maintain oversight of the playing rules process and determine which playing rules are federated.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Legislation – Playing Rules Oversight Panel and Rules Committees – Duties – Elimination of Common Rules Requirement.**

(1) Recommendation. Adopt legislation to eliminate the requirement that playing rules shall be common for all divisions of the Association.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The new NCAA constitution, which was adopted by the membership in January 2022 and was effective August 1, 2022, includes a provision that provides for flexibility at the divisional level in establishing rules for sports competitions and participation. Current legislation in the three divisions conflicts with the constitution and must be amended immediately to permit the flexibility with playing rules as required by the constitution. Rules committees and committees with both playing rules and championship administration responsibilities will be maintained as common committees, requiring members from each applicable division.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

[Note: The process for recommending divisional differences in the playing rules will be determined by each division. PROP will still have the authority to determine whether a rule change would harm the image of the games, create an unsafe environment for student-athletes or place an unreasonable burden on the membership of a particular division.]

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Tiffany Daniels, chair of PROP, welcomed the panel. New and outgoing committee members were recognized.
2. **Approval of September 8, 2022, videoconference report.** PROP approved the report as written.
3. **Review of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel policies and procedures manual.** PROP reviewed its duties, the NCAA Conflict of Interest Statement and the 2014 directive to rules committees regarding the delayed implementation of rules changes with financial and/or facility impact.
4. **Review summary of significant, historical PROP actions.** PROP reviewed a document summarizing significant actions the panel has taken since 2003.
5. **Review and discuss legislation allowing for federated playing rules.** PROP heard an update from NCAA staff regarding playing rules flexibility and the new NCAA Constitution. The new NCAA Constitution, which was adopted by the membership in January 2022 and was effective August 1, 2022, includes a provision that provides for flexibility at the divisional level in establishing rules for sports competition and participation. Current legislation in the three divisions conflicts with the constitution and must be amended to permit the flexibility with playing rules as required by the constitution. The process for recommending divisional differences in the playing rules would be determined by each division. PROP would still have the authority to not approve recommendations that the panel determines would harm the image of the games, create an unsafe environment for student-athletes or place an unreasonable financial burden on the membership of a particular division. PROP approved a recommendation directing the divisional governance bodies to pursue the appropriate legislative actions to eliminate the requirement that playing rules shall be common for all divisions of the Association. PROP noted that it will continue, as a multi-divisional panel, to oversee all rules committees and the playing rules process for the divisions. As such, PROP will retain oversight for rules changes to ensure consistency in determining whether a rule change would harm the image of the games, create an unsafe environment for student-athletes or place an unreasonable burden on the membership of a particular division.
6. **Report from NCAA general counsel.** Jared Tidemann, NCAA director of legal affairs and senior counsel of government relations and sports administration, updated PROP on several NCAA-related legal issues and provided an overview of guidance provided to staff regarding playing rules waivers, equipment standards and accommodation requests.
7. **Report from the NCAA Sport Science Institute and chief medical officer.** PROP heard an update from Dr. Brian Hainline, NCAA chief medical officer, and John Parsons, NCAA managing director of the Sport Science Institute, which included an overview of the process by the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports to review

playing rules proposals and provide feedback to rules committees on health and safety related proposals.

- 8. Discuss Division II Bylaw 12.5.4 – Use of Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel.** PROP heard an update from NCAA staff regarding a recommendation from the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee to remove Bylaw 12.5.4 (Use of Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel) from the Division II Manual and move the language into the playing rules. This concept will be further discussed by the Division II Legislation Committee in March. PROP noted that Bylaw 12.5.4 should not be moved to the playing rules and expressed concerns that removing the language from the bylaws would diminish the importance of the rules and restrictions surrounding manufacturer logos.
- 9. Review and discuss the use of playing rules in nontraditional/nonchampionship seasons.** PROP reviewed and discussed the use of playing rules during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season. Currently, the use of playing rules during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season is not explicitly required by playing rules or bylaws, with the exception of softball. Historically, sports have not been consistent in whether playing rules must be used during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season. PROP requested each rules committee with a nontraditional/nonchampionship season to contemplate this topic and then provide a recommendation on the use of playing rules during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season for PROP to review and consider.
- 10. Uniform discussion – institutional names/nicknames on jerseys, messaging on equipment and apparel and maintaining consistency among sports.** PROP heard a presentation from NCAA staff detailing current uniform trends in all sports, and more specifically football and men's and women's basketball. PROP confirmed its support for a sport-by-sport approach to the game uniform regulations but noted the importance of being able to differentiate between teams and clearly seeing player numbers. PROP's position to support social justice messaging on uniforms also was reaffirmed. NCAA staff noted the continued communication with uniform and equipment manufacturers, which PROP supported.
- 11. Update on officiating services platform and background check vendor.** PROP heard an update on the officiating services platform and background check vendors. The NCAA transitioned to RefQuest (RQ+) and Sterling Volunteers, respectively, beginning with the 2022-23 winter and spring sports.
- 12. Planning for 2023.** PROP reviewed and approved sport assignments and videoconference dates for 2023.
- 13. Other business.** PROP re-elected Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference, as chair for 2023.
- 14. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m. Central time, Wednesday, January 11.

Report of the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel

January 11, 2023, Annual Meeting

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Committee Chair: Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Ben Brownlee, 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
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*

NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel January 11, 2023, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Joseph D'Antonio, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Robert Davenport, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.	
David Hicks, King University.	
Matt Kilcullen, Mercy College.	
Scott Musa, Shenandoah University.	
Emily Parkins, Patriot League.	
Joe Schaly, Thiel College.	
Ed Scott, University of Virginia.	
Brad Walker, America East Conference.	
Absentees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee, Jay Fitzwater, Ashlee Follis, Ty Halpin, Rachel Seewald and Andy Supergan.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dr. Brian Hainline, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, John Parsons, Stephanie Quigg, Bri Rigney and Jared Tidemann.	