



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL
JANUARY 10, 2024, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and opening remarks.** Keith Gill, commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, served as chair for the meeting and welcomed the panel. New and outgoing committee members were recognized and thanked for their service.
2. **Approval of August 10, 2023, videoconference report.** PROP approved the August 10, 2023, report as written.
3. **Review of exerts from 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. In addition, PROP reviewed the two-year rules process, which included reasons for considering rules changes in the off year.
4. **Review summary of significant, historical PROP actions.** PROP reviewed a document summarizing significant actions the panel has taken since 2003.
5. **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.
6. **Review recommendation from NCAA Division III Management Council – sportsmanship and ethical conduct responsibilities.** PROP reviewed a request from the NCAA Division III Management Council asking that it consider adding sportsmanship and ethical conduct as part of its responsibilities. While PROP noted the importance of sportsmanship in intercollegiate athletics, it denied the request to add sportsmanship and ethical conduct to its duties and responsibilities, based on the following:
 - From a playing rules standpoint, in-game sportsmanship is addressed by each rules committee as there are rules and penalties in every sport that cover unsporting behavior, misconduct, bench decorum, etc.;
 - Sportsmanship in general is the responsibility of the entire membership and should not be confined to the playing rules/PROP for oversight;
 - Fan behavior is not the officials' responsibility, but instead the responsibility of host institutions and game management; and

- The request was too broad and unclear as to what specific responsibilities PROP should oversee regarding sportsmanship and ethical conduct.

After further discussion, PROP approved issuing a directive to all rules committees to review its rules surrounding sportsmanship and reaffirm that those rules adequately address the unsporting behavior occurring during competition. In addition, PROP directed each rules committee to consider adopting the following language from the Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Books if similar language does not already exist:

Issuing a penalty/technical foul for the following:

- *Using profanity or vulgarity; taunting, baiting, or ridiculing another player or bench personnel; or pointing a finger at or making obscene gestures toward another player or bench personnel.*
- *Making profane, threatening, vulgar, or derogatory remarks or personal comments relating to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.*

Finally, it was noted that the new standardized ejection reporting system implemented by the playing rules staff for the 2023-24 academic year will allow institutions and conferences to better track their coaches and players who are ejected from contests and issue penalties appropriately.

- 7. Federated playing rules discussion – review integral rules and divisional processes.** PROP reviewed and approved the following playing rules topics that were identified by each rules committee as being integral to the competition and, as a result, should remain common for all three NCAA divisions:

- a. Rules with a health and safety impact;
- b. Field dimensions, court markings, permissible logos on the field/court;
- c. Scoring and timing rules, including rules surrounding overtime;
- d. Conduct/unsporting rules;
- e. Rules addressing penalty enforcement;
- f. Uniform rules;
- g. Equipment rules (ball/stick specifications, player equipment); and
- h. Technical rules (individual team sports).

Additionally, PROP approved the following rules topics to be federated or permissive:

- a. Halftime/intermission length;
- b. Allowable substitutions;
- c. Technology rules (instant replay, challenge review, technology on bench/sideline, etc.); and

- d. Rules identified as administrative that can be altered by mutual consent of the institutions involved in the contest.

PROP noted that these rules topics should be used as a framework by rules committees when considering whether to federate a playing rule, and acknowledged that there could be exceptions based on compelling reasons to federate a particular rule. Finally, PROP noted its concerns with the impact of federated rules on officiating.

- 8. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee videoconference reports.** PROP approved two experimental rules requests from the Southeastern Conference for conference play only during the 2024 season. The panel indicated that if other conferences would like to use these specific experimental rules in conference play, the request would be met favorably:

- a. The batter is required to be in the batter's box and alert to the pitcher with eight seconds remaining on the 20-second action clock. The current playing rule requires the batter be in the batter's box and alert to the pitcher with 10 seconds remaining.
- b. Permit a pitcher or relief pitcher an unlimited number of warmup pitches during the time between innings or during a pitching change. The current playing rules limit the number of warmup pitches between innings to five for pitchers who were in the game the previous inning and eight when a relief pitcher enters the game.

- 9. **Review appeal from Division III commissioners to delay requirement for visible clock in baseball.** PROP reviewed the request from a group of 28 Division III commissioners to delay the effective date of the required visible action clock in baseball from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026. The Division III PROP members voted to reject the waiver request, noting that the opportunity to federate the playing rule during the regular rules process is available to the membership if the full membership desires. The full panel expressed concerns regarding the required use of the clock at non-institutionally owned facilities and requested the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee take this into consideration during future discussions regarding the rule.

- 10. **Review and discuss the use of playing rules in nontraditional seasons.** PROP reviewed feedback from each rules committee on the use of playing rules during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season. PROP agreed that unless specified by the rules committee, there should not be a requirement to use playing rules during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season. However, it was noted that in general, playing rules are being followed, and that coaches should mutually agree before the competition on the rules that will be used.

- 11. **Report from the NCAA Sport Science Institute.** PROP received an update from Dr. Brian Hainline, NCAA chief medical officer, John Parsons, NCAA managing director of the Sport Science Institute, and Anne Rohlman, NCAA 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 Prevention and Performance Subcommittee to review playing rules proposals and provide feedback to rules committees on health and safety related proposals.

- 12. Discussion on secretary-rules editors serving as active officials.** PROP reviewed its decision from 2011 to not allow secretary-rules editors to serve as active game officials for the sport in which they serve as secretary-rules editor. While it was noted that there is a shortage of officials and lack of quality candidate pools for the secretary-rules editor positions, PROP reaffirmed its decision, expressing concerns with perception and credibility issues if secretary-rules editors were allowed to officiate.
- 13. Update on standardized ejection reporting system.** PROP received an update on the NCAA Sports Ejection Reporting system. This system standardizes how ejections are reported by officials to the NCAA and membership. When an official submits a report of an ejection issued to a player or coach, an automated email notification is sent to the conference commissioner, conference sport administrator, conference coordinator/assignor of officials, director of athletics and head coach. This system is in use for 15 sports.
- 14. Planning for 2024.** PROP reviewed and approved sport assignments and videoconference dates for 2024.
- 15. Other business.** PROP elected Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference, as chair for a one-year term beginning September 1, 2024. The 2025 annual meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 16. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Mountain time.

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 10, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Joseph D'Antonio, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Robert Davenport, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.	
Karen Haag, The College of Saint Rose.	

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Scott Musa, Wilkes University.
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.
Emily Parkins, Patriot League.
Joe Schaly, Thiel College.
Ed Scott, University of Virginia.
Lexie Vernon, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
Brad Walker, America East Conference.
Absentees:
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.
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:
Brian Hainline, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Connor Lancashire, John Parsons, Anne Rohlman and Jared Tidemann.