

REPORT OF THE NCAA PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL JANUARY 22, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **1. Welcome and opening remarks.** Keith Gill, chair of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, welcomed the panel and outlined the meeting schedule.
- **2. Approval of September 6, 2024, and November 13, 2024, email reports.** PROP approved the September 6, 2024, and November 13, 2024, email reports as written.
- 3. Review of excerpts from the NCAA 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 various legal matters.
- 6. Report from the NCAA Sport Science Institute. LaGwyn Durden, NCAA director of sports medicine, provided an overview of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee, the injury surveillance program, and the performance technology summit that will be held in April 2025.
- 7. NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee annual meeting report. PROP reviewed and approved one experimental rule submitted by the Women's Volleyball Rules Committee to allow the head coach to request a challenge by forming a "C" with either hand instead of holding up the green challenge card. The experimental rule is effective during the 2025 women's volleyball championship season for conference matches only.
- **8. Review Division III federated playing rules process.** PROP reviewed the Division III federated playing rules process, which included legislation adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention that establishes a process by which Division III may consider federating sport-specific playing rules that have either a financial or philosophical impact for Division III institutions. [NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-4 (federated playing rules exemptions).] PROP recommended that one of its Division III members participate in meetings with the

Division III Management Council if it is considering exempting the division from a playing rule that has been approved by PROP.

- **9.** Review and discuss commercial logo rules for uniforms and playing surfaces. PROP reviewed a summary of playing rules regarding commercial logos on uniforms and playing surfaces and determined that it would begin a comprehensive, deliberate review to consider potential amendments or adjustments to these rules. PROP agreed that a delineation should be made between uniforms and playing surfaces, and to solicit feedback from various constituent groups as it facilitates a review of these rules in the coming months.
- 10. Review of sports using non-NCAA rules sources. NCAA staff provided an overview of the 13 sports that currently do not have an NCAA published playing rules book or an NCAA playing rules committee. It was noted that PROP conducted a similar review in 2019, and that the rules process for these 13 sports mirrors the process used by the sports with playing rules committees. It was further noted that there is an exception to the process in that sport committees (the committees responsible for administering the sport's championship) have the authority to make modifications to the governing body's playing rules, which must be approved by PROP. This process includes a call for proposals, rules surveys, comment periods, and NCAA membership committees voting on rules modifications. PROP agreed that this process is working well and is consistent with sports that have a rules committee. PROP agreed that a review of sports using non-NCAA rules sources occur every three years and that these sports have a central hub for educating and training officials.
- 11. Review of penalties for illegal participation by suspended players and coaches. PROP reviewed a summary of playing rules regarding forfeits, appeals, protests, suspensions, and penalties for illegal participation by suspended players and coaches. There are only two sports, soccer and softball, that currently have penalties for illegal participation by suspended players or coaches. PROP agreed that all playing rules should include a penalty for this type of illegal participation, and directed all rules committees to review, and add a penalty to, its playing rules regarding suspensions to address illegal participation by suspended players and coaches.
- **12. Update on NCAA officiating initiatives.** Ben Brownlee, NCAA associate director of officiating, provided an update on NCAA officiating initiatives, including the following: the "Become an Official" toolkit; the officiating reform initiative through RefQuest (RQ+); the NCAA umpire prospect camp; the NCAA "Elevate Respect" learning modules; and the alliance with RefReps to provide a comprehensive sports officiating education curriculum, training materials, and resources for 15 sports to be taught in the collegiate classroom.
- **13. Planning for 2025.** PROP reviewed and approved sport assignments and videoconference dates for 2025.
- 14. Other business. PROP did not have other business.
- **15. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m. Eastern time.

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Committee Chair: Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference

Staff Liaisons: Stanley Broaden, 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

Connor Lancashire, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

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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 Incarnate Word.

Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.

Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.

Andrew Goodrich, Gardner-Webb University.

Korinth Patterson, Mid-American Conference.

Joe Schaly, Thiel College.

Lexie Vernon, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

Brad Walker, America East Conference.

Absentees:

None.

Guests in Attendance:

None.

NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:

Stanley Broaden, Jay Fitzwater, Ashlee Follis, Ty Halpin, Connor Lancashire and Rachel Seewald.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Ben Brownlee, LaGwyn Durden, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Stephanie Quigg and Jared Tidemann.