

# Division III March Webinar

Division III Playing Rules Process

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# Background



# Federated Rules Principles

- Appropriate Division III input into the establishment of playing rules.
- The process should encourage common rules while allowing for flexibility when deemed necessary by Division III.
- The process should be incorporated into the existing framework of the rules making process to support efficiency, understanding and application of the rules.



### Core Tenets of the Federated Process

- Only Division III members of the playing rules committees and PROP vote on Division III specific playing rules.
- When proposed playing rules have a significant financial or philosophical impact, NCAA staff will provide notice to the membership. (Rationale: To alert the membership to key issues and to spur more survey responses.)
- The Division III sport championship committee will provide guidance to the DIII members of the rules committee. (Rationale: To directly incorporate more DIII perspectives into the process.)
- The Federated Playing Rules subcommittee of Management Council may help provide guidance as well. (Rationale: The Council may provide a broader perspective on the impact of the proposed rule.)



## Can Any Rule Be Federated?

- Any Rule that does not impact a student-athlete's health and safety may be federated.
- PROP Identified the following rules that warrant heightened scrutiny when considering federating:
  - Scoring and timing rules.
  - Field dimensions, court markings, etc.
  - Conduct/unsporting rules.
  - o Uniform rules.
  - o Equipment rules.
  - o Penalty enforcement.



# What can the DIII Members of the Playing Rules Committee Do?

They have the authority to federate rules for Division III. Specifically, they may:

- Reconsider, delay implementation or alter a Division III specific proposal.
- Reconsider, delay implementation or alter a common rule as it applies to Division III.
- For Division III, reconsider, delay implementation or alter proposed common rules that were not ultimately approved by the playing rules committee.



# What is Management Council's Authority with respect to Playing Rules?

- Establish and monitor the federated playing rules process for the division.
- A subcommittee of Management Council was formed to serve in an advisory capacity at any point in the process.
- If a common playing rule is adopted that has a significant budget impact or is against a Division III philosophical principle, then Management Council can consider exempting the Division III membership from following that rule.



### **How Does the Process Work?**



## Who's involved?

#### Stakeholders.

Members of Division III, including coaches, commissioners and athletic administrators.

#### Rules Committee.

An Association-wide committee that meets to determine which rule changes are elevated to PROP and if proposals are common or federated. DIII is represented on each committee by 2 to 4 members, depending on the sport. For sports using non-NCAA playing rules\*, a subcommittee of the DIII Sport Championship Committee serves in this role.

#### Sport Championship Committee.

A DIII sport-specific committee comprised of coaches and administrators who are experts in their sport, govern each sport and are responsible for administering their respective championships, including establishing brackets and selecting teams to fill them.

#### PROP.

The Playing Rules Oversight Panel. An Associationwide committee that reviews playing rules proposals and playing rules issues, including implementation of playing rules proposed by rules committees. DIII representation is 3 members.

\*sports using non-NCAA playing rules: fencing, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, rifle, rowing, skiing, tennis and men's volleyball.

\* With the adoption of the legislation and the subcommittee, Management Council is also an active participant in this process.



# Common rule making process.

Rules Committee members solicit feedback from stakeholders. Info Gathering Rules Committee meets to discuss feedback and vote on which rule proposals to move through the process. Rules Committee Annual Meeting A two-week period where head coaches, commissioners & ADs can offer feedback on the proposals moving through the process. Comment Period Rules Committee reviews comment period feedback and decides which proposals to elevate to PROP for Rules Committee Reviews Comments final consideration. PROP reviews all proposals for financial implications, safety concerns and harm to image of the game. PROP Reviews & Adopts Proposals approved by PROP are published in the next rule book and sent to head coaches and commissioners. Two-Year Rule Book



# How does the Division III federated rules process fit in the existing playing rules process?

Division III members of the Rules Committee meet with the Division III Sport-Specific Championship Committee to discuss potential rule changes. Division III-specific proposals can be submitted to the Rules Committee during the Info Gathering "Call for Proposals" period." Division III members of the Rules Committee may send a Division III-specific rule for comment and members Rules Committee Annual may identify proposals of interest for Division III. Meeting There may be Division III-specific rules where only Division III head coaches, commissioners and ADs provide comments. Comment Period The membership will be notified when potential rules carry a financial and/or philosophical impact to encourage participation during the comment period. Division III members of the Rules Committee meet with the Division III Sport-Specific Championship Committee in an advisory capacity to review the Division III-specific feedback. Rules Committee During the Association-wide meeting, Division III members may:
 Approve/alter/reject/delay a rule only for Division III.
 Reject/alter/delay an adopted common rule as it applies for Division III. Reviews Comments

PROP Reviews & Adopts

Division III members of PROP vote on DIII-specific issues

Two-Year Rule Book Published Proposals approved by PROP are published in the next rule book and sent to head coaches and commissioners.



## **Annual Playing Rules Committee Meeting**

- <u>Before the meeting</u>: The Division III members of the rules committee will meet with the members of the relevant Division III sports championship committee to provide additional Division III perspectives on the proposals being considered. (The Federated Rules Subcommittee of Management Council may also attend this meeting to provide its perspective.)
- At the meeting: The Division III members of the rules committee may federate rules for Division III.



### **Comment Period**

- In addition to all common proposals, Division III specific proposals are sent to Division III for feedback;
- NCAA Division III staff will notify NADIIIAA and D3CA of any proposals (common or federated) that are going out for comment that:
  - Have a financial impact whether that is a direct impact, impacts personnel or requires additional resources; or
  - Could be construed to impact a fundamental Division III principle (e.g., student-athlete participation opportunities).



# Playing Rules Committee Meeting to Review Comments

- <u>Before the Meeting</u>: The Division III members of the rules committee will meet with the members of the relevant Division III sports championship committee to review the specific Division III comments. (The Federated Rules Subcommittee of Management Council may also attend this meeting to provide its perspective.)
- At the meeting: The Division III members of the rules committee may federate rules for Division III.



### **Before PROP's Review**

 The Federated Rules Subcommittee of Management Council may meet before PROP's final review of proposals to discuss any proposals of concern.

 Any position of this subcommittee will be forwarded to the Division III members of PROP.



### PROP's Review

- Only the Division III members of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel vote on Division III specific proposals.
- If a common rules proposal is not supported by the full PROP, the Division III members of the panel may vote to determine whether the proposal is approved for Division III.
- The Division III members may also vote to remand a common rule back to the playing rules committee for Division III only.



# **Questions?**

