



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Division III March Webinar

Division III Playing Rules Process

Jeff Myers and Bill Regan

Background



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.)



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.
 - Uniform rules.
 - Equipment rules.
 - Penalty enforcement.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

How Does the Process Work?



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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 Association-wide committee that reviews playing rules proposals and playing rules issues, including implementation of playing rules proposed by rules committees. DIII representation is 3 members.

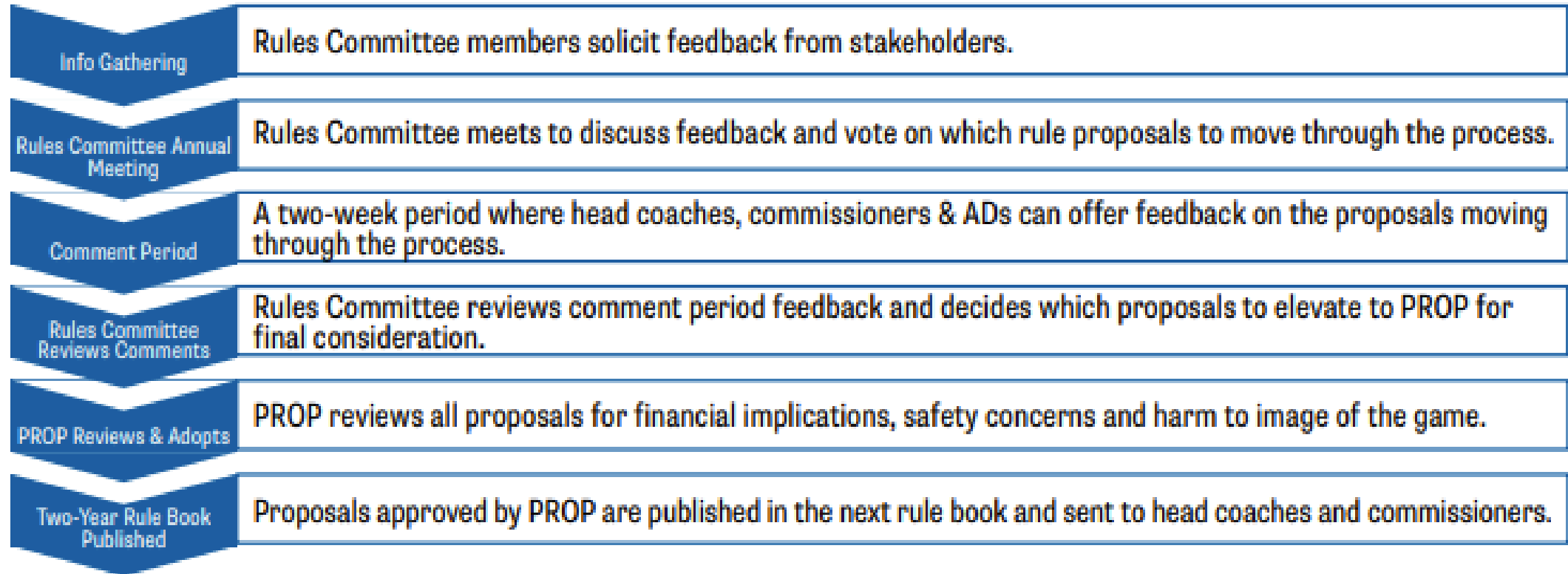
* With the adoption of the legislation and the subcommittee, Management Council is also an active participant in this process.

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



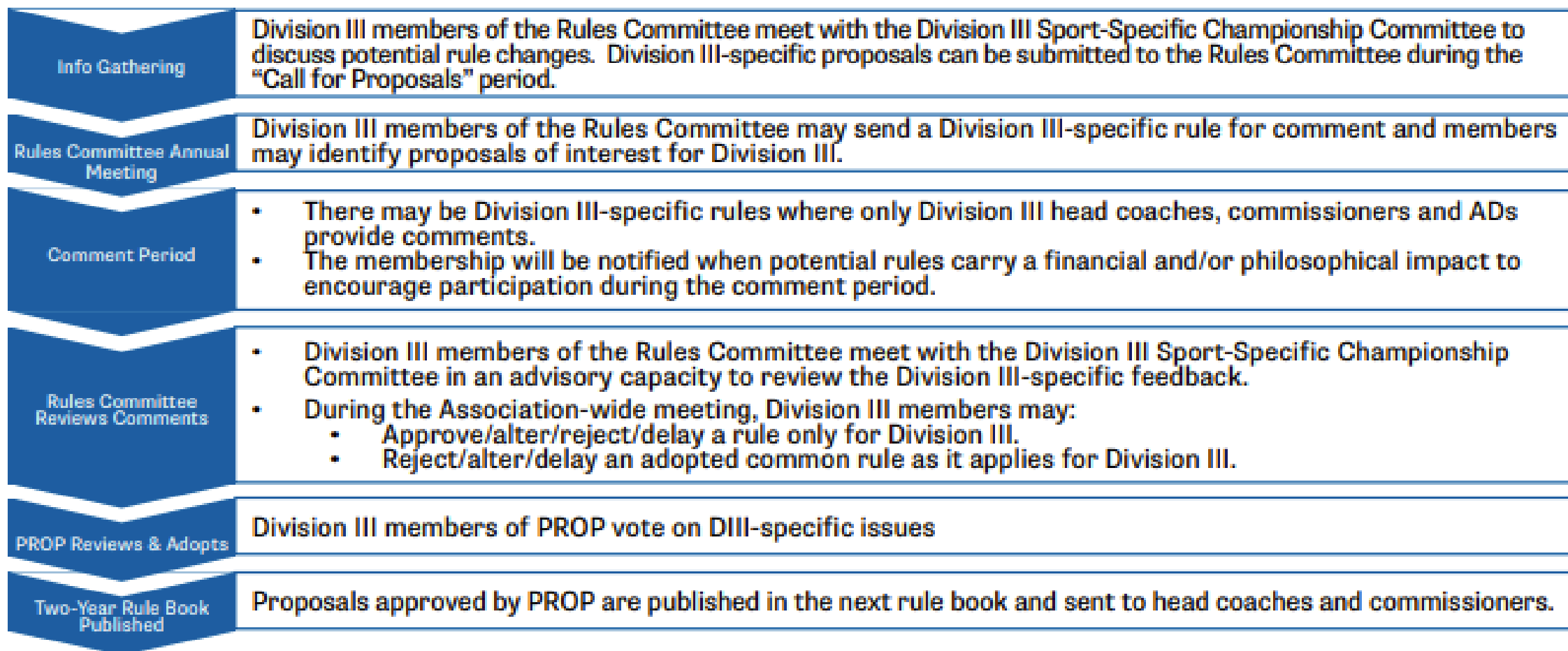
DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Common rule making process.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Annual Playing Rules Committee Meeting

- **Before the meeting:** 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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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 NADIII AA 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).



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Playing Rules Committee Meeting to Review Comments

- **Before the Meeting:** 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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Questions?



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE