



NCAA Update

AEMA | June 5, 2019

Introduction

- ▶ Assistant Director

Championships and Alliances, playing rules and officiating.



Agenda

- ▶ Overview of NCAA and the playing rules process.
- ▶ Health and safety rules issues.
- ▶ New uniform and equipment rules.
- ▶ New uniform and equipment approval process.
- ▶ Questions.



General NCAA Information

- ▶ Governance.
 - ▶ Divisional oversight as a whole.
- ▶ Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA)
 - ▶ NCAA bylaw questions – i.e. playing and practice seasons, eligibility, financial aid, sport sponsorship.
 - ▶ NCAA compliance audits.
- ▶ Championships.
 - ▶ Oversight of 90 NCAA championship events.
 - ▶ Oversight of statistic and media coordination.
 - ▶ Oversight of playing rules and officiating programs.
- ▶ Enforcement.
 - ▶ Initial review of non-playing rules (NCAA bylaw) infractions.
- ▶ Eligibility Center.
 - ▶ Review of issues pertaining to incoming student-athlete eligibility.



- If your institution has questions regarding NCAA Bylaws, NCAA compliance audits, NCAA Bylaw infractions or prospective or enrolled student-athlete eligibility, your institutional compliance staff should work with your conference to contact the appropriate NCAA department to assist with those questions.
- There are multiple areas of NCAA championship staff.
 - Championships operations.
 - Media coordination and statistics.
 - Marketing and fan engagement.
 - Playing rules and officiating.

Overview of NCAA Playing Rules Process

Playing Rules and Officiating (PRO) is NOT about:

- ▶ Recruiting.
- ▶ Scrimmages.
- ▶ Practices.
- ▶ Compliance issues.
- ▶ NCAA championship policies.



Playing rules and officiating oversees the rules of the game, specifically for competition. NCAA playing rules staff cannot speak specifically to areas of recruiting, practices or scrimmages, NCAA compliance issues or to non-competition NCAA championship policies (travel limits, regional structure).

Overview of NCAA Playing Rules Process

PRO – The Basics

Playing Rules and Officiating serves NCAA student-athlete, coaches, athletic conferences and sport officials by developing and interpreting rules for intercollegiate sport to enhance the student-athlete experience and ensure fair, safe and equitable competition.

- ▶ Emphasize student-athlete safety.
- ▶ Create playing rules that are enforceable.
- ▶ Develop educational resources for officials.
- ▶ Contribute to sport growth.
- ▶ Preserve sport traditions and integrity.
- ▶ Playing rules are the same for the regular season and postseason.
- ▶ Playing rules are Association-wide.
- ▶ www.NCAA.org/playing-rules



You can find specific sport playing rules information at www.ncaa.org/playing-rules. This will allow you to find information regarding recent rules changes, information regarding officials' education and playing rules committees meeting schedules for the year.

PRO – The Rules Cycle

INFORMATION GATHERING STAGE

Gather comments, questions and proposals about issues for committee consideration.

ANNUAL MEETING

The committee meets in person to discuss and/or approve proposals to improve the game.

COMMENT PERIOD

Committee-approved proposals are sent to the membership for feedback. This comment period allows the membership to see and respond to the exact language of the proposals before they are finalized.

PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL (PROP) APPROVAL

PROP reviews the proposals and the membership's comments and approved items are incorporated into the rules book.



The playing rules process for NCAA sports is a two-year process.

- In both years, the staff and the rules committee gather information through survey's and requests for proposals to evaluated potential rules changes.
- In a non-rules change year, the committee will discuss potential changes and continue to develop clear, concise and enforceable rules proposals to be considered in the rules change year.
- During the rules change year, at the committee annual meeting, the committee discusses the research associated with the proposed changes and takes action.
- Following the annual meeting, the membership is given the opportunity to provide feedback in a two-week comment period.
- Following the comment period the proposed changes and the feedback are reviewed by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for approval.

Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP)

- ▶ Made up of representatives from all three divisions, with members being often being athletic directors, conference commissioners.
 - ▶ Rules committees have a similar construction of divisional representation for the membership.
- ▶ Each member has playing rules experience, (for example: coached, served on a rules committee or dealt with conference officials).
- ▶ PROP reviews proposals from the rules committees for:
 - ▶ Student-athlete safety;
 - ▶ Financial impact; and
 - ▶ Negative impact on the image of the game.



PROP is made up of athletic directors and conference commissioners with rules making experience. Their role is to review the actions of the sports rules committee to ensure that proposed changes meet the three criteria of ensuring student-athlete safety, do not cause an undo significant financial impact and do not create an negative impact on the image of the game.

Recent Health and Safety Rules Changes

- ▶ Men's and women's soccer.
 - ▶ Hydration break requirement.
- ▶ Baseball and lacrosse
 - ▶ Chest protector NOCSAE certification proposals.



Recent rules changes by sport rules committees include:

- Men's and women's soccer requiring two hydration breaks of no less than 2-minutes when the WetBulb Globe Temperature is at or greater than 86 degrees Fahrenheit. The breaks should occur between the 25-30 minute mark in the first half and between the 70-75 minute mark in the second half.
- The NCAA committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS) has recommended requiring chest protectors for the sports of baseball and men's and women's lacrosse to require NOCSAE certification for protection from potential commotio cordis. These sport committees have not taken action on the recommendation, at this time, as the committees have not held their annual meetings. If action is taken the membership will be notified.

New Uniform Rules

- ▶ Restriction on non-profit organization logos.
- ▶ Skirts/shorts/kilts in women's lacrosse and field hockey.
- ▶ Basketball arced logo.
- ▶ Women's volleyball libero jersey and number colors.
- ▶ Proposed rules changes.



Playing rules committees have taken action recently with playing rules focusing on uniform regulations.

- PROP reaffirmed its position on the prohibited use of non-profit organization logos (United Way, Jimmy V Foundation etc.) on game uniforms.
- Field hockey has approved, and women's lacrosse is currently discussing, playing rules that will permit these sport athletes to compete in uniform bottoms that are consistent in color and design, but not require the entire team to wear a single type of uniform bottoms.
- Both men's and women's basketball approved, on June 5, 2019, the ability for logos above the number of the jersey to be arched. The first and last letters must be on the same horizontal plane and must remain above the top of the numbers.
- Volleyball number, regardless of the color of trim, must be of a contrasting color to the jersey color.
- Playing rules committee predominantly meet during the summer months, if other playing rules are proposed, information will be provided to the membership following each rules meeting.

New Equipment Rules

- ▶ In May 2018, the limit of 20 headsets on the sideline during competition was approved by PROP and is now in effect.
- ▶ Baseball will require regular season baseball bat barrel compression testing being with the 2020 season from Division I and 2021 season for Divisions II and III.
- ▶ Softball ASA certification mark on bats.
- ▶ Use of technology during competition.



- The number of headsets permitted on the sideline during football is limited to a total of 20 headset.
- Baseball will require regular season baseball bat barrel compression testing beginning in 2020 for Division I and in 2021 for Divisions II and III. This rules change was approved by PROP in August of 2017 with a delayed effective date.
- Baseball also will require that the predominant color of the baseball bat barrel be contrasting to the color of the baseball. This is essentially the elimination of white barrels in NCAA competition.
- ASA has changed its bat certification mark and new bats to the market must have the new ASA certification mark.
- Rules committees do receive requests for approval of new technology. If manufacturers contact you or your coach regarding wearable or useable technology or other new pieces of equipment, please contact the NCAA to confirm whether the equipment is permitted in NCAA competition.

New Uniform and Equipment Approval Process

Uniform Approval

- ▶ Submit a product review or uniform review form to the following email address, productreview@ncaa.org, this form is routed to the appropriate playing rules liaison.
- ▶ Work with equipment and uniform manufacturers to complete the form to get rendering of uniform prior to submission for playing rules compliance/approval.

Equipment Approval

- ▶ New equipment should be submitted by the manufacturer for playing rules committee approval.



- If you have questions about uniform designs – regarding numbers, logos, etc. – please go to the playing rules website and get the uniform submission form and submit it to staff for review.
- This is the same process for new equipment. The playing rules committee will review questions about existing equipment and new equipment requests during its annual meeting.
- Both the uniform and equipment forms can be submitted to productreview@ncaa.org.

Questions



THANK YOU

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