



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA FOOTBALL RULES COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2, 8 AND 12, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

Continued Collaboration. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA Football Rules Committee continued to enhance its management of the sport's playing rules by collaborating with the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee and National Football League's competition committee during its virtual meeting sessions. These discussions continue to be meaningful and helpful as the Football Rules Committee deliberates potential adjustments.

ACTION ITEMS.

Nonlegislative Items. The Football Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2021 season. The Football Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items.

1. Team Area and Coaching Box (Rule 1-2-4).

- a. Recommendation. To adjust the size of the team area and coaching box to be marked from the 20-yard lines on either side of the field, instead of the 25-yard lines.
- b. Effective Date. Immediately.
- c. Rationale. Due to COVID-19 space and to allow for social distancing, the Football Rules Committee temporarily adjusted the team area to be marked at the 15-yard lines for the 2020 fall/2021 spring season. After discussion, the Football Rules Committee believes the 20-yard lines is more appropriate for the permanent change, to allow for other space considerations outside the team area.
- d. Estimated Budget Impact. None, as it is not a requirement to permanently mark the field in this area (e.g., paint, chalk, etc., may be used).
- e. Student-Athlete Impact. None.

2. Extra Periods (Rules 3-1-3-e and 3-1-3-f).

- a. Recommendation. The Football Rules Committee is proposing two changes to the overtime format below (see bold/underline):
 - (e) *Possession series.* Each team retains the ball during a possession series until it scores or fails to make a first down. The ball remains alive after a

change of team possession until it is declared dead. However, Team A may not have a first down if it regains possession after a change of team possession (A.R. 3-1-3-I-IX). Beginning with the **third** extra period, a team's possession series will be one play for a two-point try from the three-yard line, unless relocated by penalty.

- (f) *Scoring.* The team scoring the greater number of points during the regulation and extra periods shall be declared the winner. There shall be an equal number of possession series, as described in (e) above, in each extra period, unless Team B scores other than on the try. Beginning with the **second** extra period, teams scoring a touchdown must attempt a two-point try. Although not illegal, a one-point try attempt by Team A will not result in a score (A.R. 3-1-3-X).

- b. Effective Date. Immediately.
- c. Rationale. The Football Rules Committee is proposing this change to enhance student-athlete health and safety and minimize the number of additional plays in overtime games. In Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) competition during the 2020 season, overtime accounted for an average of 16.8 additional plays per overtime period in those games.
- d. Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- e. Student-Athlete Impact. This adjustment is being made to reduce the number of plays that are possible in extra periods (overtime), which will have a direct, positive impact on student-athlete safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The chair welcomed the Football Rules Committee and invited guests and noted appreciation on behalf of the NCAA for volunteering to serve. Football Rules Committee members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.
2. **Review Committee Structure, Process and Timeline.** The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. The Football Rules Committee reviewed the committee operations manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, as well as guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines.

3. **Feigning Injuries.** The Football Rules Committee was asked at its previous meeting to review this issue within the sport and raised concern with the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) leadership. The issue of feigning injuries continues to be an issue in today's game in isolated cases. Numerous rules proposals were considered, but ultimately the Football Rules Committee believes this problem must be corrected through coaching ethics and administrative actions. The Football Rules Committee directed the secretary-rules editor and staff to determine a procedure that would allow coaches to report or ask for a review of potential feigning of injuries to gain an advantage.
4. **Review of Injury Data.** The Football Rules Committee received a report from Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center regarding the injury data collected in the most recent cycle. The Football Rules Committee pledged support to help Datalys with encouraging more institutions to participate in the data collection moving forward.
5. **College Football Officiating, LLC Report.** Jon Steinbrecher provided a report from the College Football Officiating, LLC, which manages Division I football officiating and noted several key areas, including the continued emphasis on player safety and technology to advance the game in officiating. The CFO plans a continued review of instant replay procedures moving forward and will work closely with the Football Rules Committee in any way it can be helpful.
6. **National Football League Joint Session.** The Football Rules Committee met with the National Football League's competition committee and staff to share ideas and information. The meeting continues to be a productive part of the rules process.
7. **Points of Emphasis.** The Football Rules Committee conducted a broad review of the game and identified several points of emphasis for 2021. The points of emphasis are: Unsportsmanlike conduct (taunting); uniform and equipment compliance; and coaches entering the field of play to debate officiating decisions.
8. **Future Meeting Schedule.** The Football Rules Committee plans to continue the general meeting timeframe in agreed that the overlap with the National Football League combine continues to be preferred. Additionally, meeting with the NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee is important, and the Football Rules Committee agreed this should continue this engagement. Therefore, the annual meeting will be scheduled for a similar timeframe to allow for these discussions.

Committee Chair: David Shaw, Stanford University, Pacific-12 Conference.
Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Football Rules Committee March 1, 2, 8 and 12, 2021, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bill Carollo, Big Ten Conference.	
Kirsten Ford, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Stan Hodgins, Shenandoah University.	
Josh Looney, Missouri Western State University.	
Anthony Reno, Yale University.	
John Pearce, Sul Ross State University.	
Zac Selmon, University of Oklahoma.	
Steve Shaw, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
David Shaw, Stanford University, <i>chair</i> .	
Jacob Spavital, Texas State University.	
Demario Warren, Southern Utah University.	
Doug Zipp, Ohio Wesleyan.	
Bill Zwaan, West Chester University (Pennsylvania).	
Guests in Attendance:	
Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.	
Dean Blandino, CFO.	
Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center.	
Bob Colgate, National Federation of State High School Associations.	
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference, Playing Rules Oversight Panel.	
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin.	
Other NCAA Staff in Attendance:	
Geoff Bentzel, Amanda Conklin, LaGwyn Durden, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, John Parsons and Kris Richardson.	