ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

   a. Field Markings (Rule 1.3).
      
      (1) Recommendation. Permit the following as approved markings on the field provided they do not obscure any of the required field markings and are not in the penalty area:
         1. NCAA, team or conference logos, names or abbreviations.
         2. Two commercial logos (one in each half of the field), not larger than 15’ by 15’ square.
         3. Noncommercial, commemorative logos (e.g., players’ names or numbers for senior day).
      
      (2) Effective date. Immediately.
      
      (3) Rationale. To provide recognition opportunities for the institutions, as well as advertising and commercial funding opportunities.
      
      (4) Estimated budget impact. Since this rules change is not required, the only budget impact would be if an institution elected to place additional markings on its field.
      
      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

   b. Coaching Area (Rule 1.12.2).
      
      (1) Recommendation. Expand the coaching area to within 5 feet from the touch line.
      
      (2) Effective date. Immediately.
      
      (3) Rationale. To allow coaches better access to observe the game.
      
      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
      
      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
c. Ball Pressure (Rule 2.1).

(1) **Recommendation.** The pressure of the ball must be within 8.5 to 15.6 psi.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** To align with FIFA’s ball pressure requirements.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

d. Defective Ball (Rule 2.3).

(1) **Recommendation.** Permit a retake of a penalty kick in the event the ball becomes defective.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** To align with FIFA Laws of the Game and correct an unfair rule which may cause a team to lose possession due to a defective ball.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

e. Uniforms (Rule 4.1).

(1) **Recommendation.** Permit an institutional and conference logo/patch and the national flag of the institution on the front or sleeve of the jersey. The logo/patch/flag may not exceed 2¼ square inches.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** To provide recognition opportunities for the institution and conference and align with other NCAA sports.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
f. **Goalkeeper Stockings (Rule 4.2.2).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Goalkeepers must wear stockings which distinguish them only from opponent’s field players.

   (2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

   (3) **Rationale.** Change the rule which required goalkeepers to wear stockings which were different than the opposing goalkeeper.

   (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

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g. **Referee’s Timekeeping Responsibilities (New Rule 5.4.4 and Rule 6.3).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Require the referee to be the official timekeeper and keep time on the field. The scoreboard clock will be advisory only and should count up whenever possible.

   (2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

   (3) **Rationale.** To align with FIFA Laws of the Game and the current expectations of the soccer community, and eliminate contentious issues involving end of period timing.

   (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

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h. **Referee’s Pregame Duties (New Rule 5.5.1.10).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Add to the referee’s pregame duties the responsibility of determining whether video review will be used in the match.

   (2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

   (3) **Rationale.** Referees will have the sole authority to determine whether video review will be used during the match. If video review is available, it should be used and the head coaches no longer have to agree to use it.

   (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

i. Bands and Artificial Noisemakers (Rule 5.6.9).

(1) Recommendation. Permit bands to play and the use of musical instruments/artificial noisemakers at anytime during the game.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To promote game atmosphere.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

j. Video Review (Rule 5.7).

(1) Recommendation. Add violent behavior to situations which can be considered for video review.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. “Violent behavior” may be against anyone not competing for the ball and may be on or off the field of play. Additionally, the ball may be in or out of play. This behavior is frequently not readily seen by the officials and video review will help identify when this type of misconduct has occurred.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

k. Other Officials’ Timekeeping Responsibilities (New Rule 6.1.6 and Rule 6.2).

(1) Recommendation. Require assistant referees and alternate officials to also keep time.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. With the referee now being required to be the official timekeeper, this will serve as a backup for the referee.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.
(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

l. Kickoff (Rule 8.2).

(1) Recommendation. Stipulate an “own” goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To align with FIFA Laws of the Game and the recent rule change permitting the kickoff to go in any direction.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

m. Ejected Personnel (Rule 12.7.3).

(1) Recommendation. Require an ejected player, coach or other bench personnel to leave the venue and be out of sight and sound. Exception: The athletic trainer is permitted to be in a designated spectator area if he/she is ejected.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Currently, ejected personnel are permitted to be in the designated spectator area. Altering this rule reduces potential situations which can exacerbate issues involving misconduct.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

n. Game Suspension – Player (Rule 12.8.1).

(1) Recommendation. Permit a player serving a game suspension to be in the team area, provided he/she is not in uniform.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This rule allows the coaching staff to adequately supervise a suspended player.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

### o. Game Suspension – Coach (Rule 12.8.1).

(1) **Recommendation.** Prohibit a coach serving a game suspension from appearing in the venue from 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the game until 30 minutes after the game ends. The coach shall remain in an area out of sight and sound.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** To provide an additional deterrent to illegal actions and reduce the potential for further misconduct.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

### p. Illegal Participation – Player/Assistant Coach/Bench Personnel (Rule 12.8.1).

(1) **Recommendation.** Double the period of suspension for the head coach when a player, assistant coach or other bench personnel participates in a game while suspended.

Example: A player receives a red card (1 game suspension) and illegally participates in the next regularly scheduled game. Penalty: The term of suspension for the player shall be doubled resulting in the player being suspended for the next two (2) games. Additionally, the head coach shall be suspended for double the enhanced suspension imposed on the player resulting in the head coach being suspended for the next four (4) games.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Extends the period of suspension for a head coach when an illegal (card-suspended) player, assistant coach or bench personnel participates in a game to serve as a deterrent for illegally using suspended personnel.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
q. Illegal Participation – Head Coach (Rule 12.8.1).

   (1) Recommendation. Extend the period of suspension to four (4) games for the head coach when he/she participates in a game while suspended.

   Example: A head coach receives a red card (1 game suspension) and illegally participates in the next regularly scheduled game. Penalty: The head coach will be suspended for the next four (4) games.

   (2) Effective date. Immediately.

   (3) Rationale. Extends the period of suspension for a head coach when he/she illegally participates in a game to serve as a deterrent for participating while suspended.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

r. Indirect Free Kick (Rule 13.2).

   (1) Recommendation. Require an indirect free kick to be retaken if the referee fails to signal that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal.

   (2) Effective date. Immediately.

   (3) Rationale. Clarification to be consistent with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome, introductions and announcements. The chair welcomed the committee and thanked them for their time. Committee members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.

2. Review schedule, agenda and committee operations manual. The committee reviewed the meeting schedule, agenda and the committee operations manual. The operations manual included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines.
3. **Approval of the September 6, 2017, teleconference report.** The committee approved the September 6, 2017, teleconference report as written.

4. **Review reports.**

   a. **Injury Surveillance Program.** The committee reviewed the men’s and women’s soccer injury data provided by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention. Of particular interest to the committee was the data provided on injuries during overtime. Injury rates in overtime are lower than both the first half and second half. The injury rate is, however, significantly higher in games following overtime games in men’s soccer. There is no statistical difference in women’s soccer. Ms. Wasserman briefly discussed the ongoing periodization study that is being led by the University of Connecticut. This study is focused on the influence of multi-week game clustering on injury rates, performance and wellness. The results from this study will be available for men’s soccer this summer and women’s soccer in 2019. The rules committee is interested in the results from this study and will re-evaluate the elimination of overtime during regular season games after this data is available.

   b. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).** The committee reviewed the report from PROP’s annual meeting in January. Topics of interest included the use of playing rules during exhibition games, experimental rules process, secretary-rules editor term limits and the request of men’s basketball to move to an annual rules process.

   c. **Secretary-rules editor – interpretations and protest logs.** The committee reviewed a summary on the 597 formal inquiries received by the secretary-rules editor during the season. The majority of the inquiries were on Rules 5 (video review/protest) and 12 (ejections/suspensions). The committee also reviewed the 55 protests received this season. Seven of the 55 protests were granted. After discussing the number of protests received each season, the committee re-emphasized to the secretary-rules editor that he should develop a standard response denying protests based on referee judgment. The committee also agreed the language in the rules book outlining protests based on referee judgment will not be considered should be included on the protest form in bold and underlined font, and non-protestable examples should also be included on the form. The secretary-rules editor reviewed the major areas for discussion and requested the committee review these during the discussion on the proposals.

   d. **National coordinator of officials.** The committee heard a recap of the 2017 season from the national coordinator of officials. The national coordinator gave a detailed explanation of the soccer officiating program, including personnel, the postseason assigning process, education efforts and the NCAA-sponsored officiating clinics.
e. Statistical trends and red card data. The committee reviewed the statistical trends, which included year-to-year comparative data on goals, assists, overtime/tie games, yellow and red cards, and fouls. The committee was pleased that the percentage of red cards being reported through the NCAA Red Card Depository has continued to increase since it was first implemented in 2013. During the 2017 season, 96 percent of red cards reported through NCAA statistics were also reported through the Depository. This is up from 91 percent in 2016.

5. Review of 2018 rules survey. The committee reviewed the 2018 rules survey and was pleased with the number of respondents and results. Seventy percent of head coaches responded, which was up from 66 percent last year. All new rules changes from last year were supported with the exception of allowing a medical re-entry exception which the majority of the membership thought this change had no impact on the game. The committee reviewed the survey results for the new topics of discussion in conjunction with the corresponding proposal(s).

6. Review of rules proposals and feedback. The committee reviewed and considered 68 rules proposals, and approved 18 major rules changes for the 2018 and 2019 seasons, as noted above in the Action Items section. The major rules changes included requiring referees keep time on the field, allowing additional markings on the field, adding violent behavior to the situations which can be considered for video review, and clarifying where ejected and suspended personnel are permitted. As part of the rules discussion, the committee spent an extensive amount of time discussing the forfeit rule. Rule 12.8.1 states, “If a suspended player or coach illegally participates in any game, the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team.” Rule 7.4 states, “All statistics count if a game is forfeited after the game has concluded, and the team that won the game on the field still gets the victory, while the team that lost on the field still gets the loss.” During the 2017 season, there were three instances of illegal participation, which resulted in the game being forfeited to the opposing team. However, those forfeits were not recognized since Rule 7.4 stipulates statistics remain the same in a game forfeited after it has concluded. Since these two rules are in conflict, NCAA staff has been working since Fall 2017 to find a suitable penalty for this type of rules violation. The consensus of NCAA championships and statistics staffs was the forfeit is not a feasible penalty because of the implications on the RPI/strength of schedule and integrity of the statistics. The NCAA staff recommended to the rules committee it reconsider Rule 12.8.1 and change the penalty for this type of rules violation. The rules committee reviewed the membership feedback on this topic, which showed overwhelming support of enforcing the forfeit as a true forfeit (reversing the winner and loser if the offending team won the game on the field), and considered the NCAA staff’s recommendation. Because of the uniqueness of soccer with the high number of suspensions over the course of a season (approximately 1,400 during the 2017 season), the committee expressed strong support for enforcing the current postgame forfeit rule to potentially serve as a deterrent for teams not serving suspensions appropriately. The rules committee understood the effect on the championship selection process when assessing a postgame forfeit (e.g., how a postgame forfeit impacts the RPI and strength of schedule of not
only the involved teams, but potentially other teams as well), but also noted teams that violate the suspension rule and are not required to forfeit the game could potentially gain an advantage in the selection process. NCAA staff and a representative from the rules committee will meet with various NCAA committees over the next year to present the issue and gather additional information. The committee expects to make a recommendation to PROP on this topic in 2019. In the interim, the committee did agree to extend the suspension period for head coaches when they, or their players, assistant coaches or other bench personnel, participate in a game while suspended to serve as a deterrent for this type of behavior.

7. Invited guests.

a. Theresia Wynns – Director of Sports and Officiating, National Federation of State High School Associations. The committee heard a report from Ms. Wynns on the nine rules changes approved by the rules committee and NFHS Board of Directors. The rules changes focused on implementing changes made by the other national governing bodies the previous year.

b. Rob Kehoe – College Programs Director, United Soccer Coaches. The rules committee heard a report from Mr. Kehoe, which included encouraging the committee to continue the discussion on eliminating overtime during the regular season and allowing Division I men to experiment with no re-entry in the second half. Mr. Kehoe

8. Future teleconference and meeting dates. The committee agreed to conduct a teleconference Monday, April 16, to discuss the comment period results. The committee scheduled its 2019 annual meeting for March 12-13 in Indianapolis.

9. Selection of chair. The committee re-elected John Trask, head men’s soccer coach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as chair for the 2018-19 academic year.

10. Other business. The committee had no other business.

11. Adjournment. The committee adjourned Wednesday, March 21, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: John Trask, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating

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<td>Ken Andres, secretary-rules editor.</td>
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<td>Alex Balog, Montana State University Billings; Great Northwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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Tiffany Christian, College of William & Mary; Colonial Athletic Conference.
Adam Hertz, Swarthmore College; Centennial Conference.
Michael Kemp, University of Nebraska Omaha; The Summit League.
Brian Lee, Louisiana State University; Southeastern Conference.
Sarah Rountree, Conference Carolinas.
Michael Singleton, Washington and Lee University; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
John Trask, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Big Ten Conference.

**Absentees:**
None.

**Guests in Attendance:**
Todd Abraham, active official.
Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of officials.
Rob Kehoe, United Soccer Coaches.
Erin Wasserman, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.
Theresia Wynns, National Federation of State High School Associations.

**NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:**
Ashlee Follis.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Randy Buhr, Dan Calandro, LaGwyn Durden, Matt Holmes, Greg Johnson and Ryan Tressel.