REPORT OF THE
NCAA PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL
JANUARY 17, 2018, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and opening remarks. The chair welcomed the panel, giving a special welcome to the relatively new members Jen Heppel, Dave Roach, Angie Torain, Ronda Seagraves, Gary Williams and Matt Wilson. The chair thanked them for their time and commitment to the panel.

2. Review of September 13, 2017, teleconference report; and email vote reports of August 3, August 31 and December 18, 2017. The panel approved the reports as written.

   a. Duties. The panel reviewed the list of duties, noting the specific responsibilities of reviewing rule recommendations pertaining to safety, finances and image of the game. The panel was reminded of the importance of reviewing rules proposals from the rules committees from a big picture perspective.
   b. Conflict of interest. The panel also reviewed the standard NCAA Committee Conflict of Interest Statement.
   c. Use of playing rules in exhibition games. The staff noted that the membership occasionally asks if it is a requirement to use playing rules during exhibition contests. The staff advised the panel that Divisions I and II require playing rules to be used in all intercollegiate competition, including exhibition games, but not scrimmages or other forms of practice with outside competition. The staff noted, however, that for Division III, NCAA Bylaw 17.30 stipulates that it is not mandatory for NCAA playing rules to be used in scrimmages, exhibitions or other forms of practice with outside competition.
   d. Review of experimental rules. The panel reviewed a document prepared by staff that outlines the general guidance for the use of experimental rules. A few key items were reaffirmed by the panel:

   1) Consideration should be given to including experimental rules proposals as part of the comment period, but this is not a required policy. When the experimental rules are part of a non-traditional season, the comment period is not required.

   2) The use of experimental rules (approved by the appropriate rules committee) in postseason events, including NCAA championships, is subject to approval by a sport
committee’s governing body (e.g., Division I Competition Oversight Committee) or postseason event’s board (e.g., National Invitation Tournament).

3) The panel reviewed feedback from each rules committee noting the deadlines for experimental rules requests to be accepted. These deadlines could be waived in extenuating circumstances, but generally the panel agreed with having some structure to the process.

4. **Review of significant, historical PROP actions.** The panel reviewed a document summarizing significant actions the panel has taken since 2003.

5. **Review of PROP February 2014 directive to playing rules committees regarding financial/facility rules changes.** The panel reviewed the February 21, 2014, memorandum that PROP sent to all NCAA playing rules committees directing the committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay before implementing any rules changes that have financial or facility implications to provide institutions with notice and the opportunity to comply. The panel reaffirmed its support of this policy, including the provision that any rules changes affecting student-athlete safety, regardless of whether the rules change has a financial or facility impact, may continue to be proposed and implemented without delay.

6. **Review of NCAA bylaw requiring same playing rules for all three divisions.** The panel reviewed the current legislation (Bylaw 21.3.1.3) that requires playing rules to be the same for each division except for division-specific playing rules developed to address significant financial impact, and approved by the divisions and PROP. The panel noted that two important benefits of this bylaw are that it preserves the opportunity for competition between divisions, as well as prevents officials from having to learn more than one set of rules for their sport.

7. **Review of secretary-rules editor term limits.** The panel reviewed the current legislation (Bylaw 21.3.1.1.1) and history of dealing with the secretary-rules editor term limits. Staff requested guidance on this policy as several secretary-rules editor terms will be expiring in the next few years. The panel discussed this issue and agreed to the following guidance:

   a. The panel continues to believe the maximum term of 12 years is appropriate.

   b. The panel considers “extenuating circumstances” to be a secretary-rules editor who is performing at a high level and, with membership backing, the rules committee requests an extension. In these cases, the rules committee would need to provide support of the high level of performance through surveys, examples, etc. The panel would consider these requests before the final year of a secretary-rules editor’s term and, if approved by PROP, the committee would not be required to conduct a formal search process. In these cases, the additional term would be for a maximum of four years (as noted in the bylaw), but the extension could be for fewer than four years if requested.
c. The panel directed each committee to conduct an annual review of each secretary-rules editor and provide feedback for improvement and to point out successes. Committees may choose to hold an executive session to discuss and then provide feedback.

8. **Review of summary of waivers issued by rules committees.** The panel reviewed a document summarizing all waivers (e.g., equipment, uniforms, accommodations for student-athletes with disabilities) approved during the 2016-17 academic year.

9. **Review of technology trends.** The staff provided a brief overview of a document that summarized the research compiled by the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Competition Committee relative to the use of technology for coaching purposes in the bench area during competition to track game statistics and student-athlete health and safety developments. The panel was advised that soccer and women’s volleyball are the only NCAA sports that currently allow technology to be used for coaching purposes in the bench area during competition; however, other sports continue to discuss this topic.

10. **Report from the NCAA office of legal affairs.** Chris Termini, NCAA associate general counsel, updated the panel on several NCAA-related legal issues, and on the importance of playing rules committees continued accommodation of the needs of student-athletes with disabilities within the parameters the panel approved at its January 2015 annual meeting.

11. **Report from the NCAA chief medical officer.** Brian Hainline, NCAA chief medical officer, provided an update on recent research developments on concussions.

12. **Review of men’s basketball annual rules process request.** The panel was advised that the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee has decided to not request the panel reconsider allowing men’s basketball to move to an annual rules cycle (rather than the traditional two-year rules cycle). The panel was reminded that the two-year rules cycle was a policy implemented in 2009 and that the panel had the authority to change the policy if it was deemed appropriate. It was noted that no other rules committees expressed an interest in an annual rules cycle.

13. **Planning for 2018.** The panel reviewed the teleconference schedule for 2018, the playing rules committees’ annual meeting dates and the sport assignments for each panel member.

*Committee Chair:* Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference  
*Staff Liaisons:*  
  - Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating  
  - Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating  
  - Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating  
  - Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating  
  - Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating  
  - Andy Supergan, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating
### Attendees:
- Pat Britz, South Atlantic Conference.
- Jen Heppel, Patriot League.
- Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference.
- Julie Johnson, Ripon College.
- Dave Roach, Fordham University.
- Chris Schneider, Big East Conference.
- Larry Scott, Pac-12 Conference.
- Ronda Seagraves, Concordia University Texas.
- Angie Torain, University of Notre Dame.
- Kevin White, Truman State University.
- Gary Williams, Wittenberg University.
- Matt Wilson, Gulf South Conference.

### NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
- Ben Brownlee, Dan Calandro, Ashlee Follis, Ty Halpin, Ron Prettyman, Rachel Seewald, Andy Supergan.

### Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
- Stanley Broaden, Joni Comstock, LaGwyn Durden, Brian Hainline, Greg Johnson, John Parsons, Chris Termini.