



**Executive Summary of the
NCAA Football Data Task Force
February 26-27, 2018, Meeting**

- 1. Overview.** The Football Data Task Force was held February 26-27, 2018, at the NCAA national office. The purpose of the meeting was to: 1) review emerging information from the NCAA-DoD CARE Consortium, The Datalys Center and the Ivy League Conference regarding concussion and repetitive head impact exposure in football, and; 2) facilitate dialogue around how the emerging information may impact and help shape college football rules, policies and procedures going forward. Attendees included at least one representative from each NCAA Division I Autonomy 5 conference, one representative for the non-Autonomy 5 Football Bowl Subdivision conferences, football coaches, scientists and representatives from the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee, NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee, football officials, NCAA Football Rules Committee and other stakeholders from the membership. The meeting was co-chaired by Bob Bowlsby, commissioner of the Big 12 Conference, and Brian Hainline, NCAA chief medical officer.
- 2. Welcome and introduction.** Hainline welcomed the attendees and gave an overview of collaborative concussion projects within the NCAA, particularly for the sport of football.
- 3. The importance of data to the sport of college football.** Bowlsby welcomed attendees and spoke on the importance of data to the sport of college football and how supports data-driven decisions, policy and rules that may improve the safety of football.
- 4. Summary of changes to the 2017 football preseason.** NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs Director Kris Richardson summarized pre-season practice changes that were implemented across all three NCAA divisions prior to the 2017 football preseason.
- 5. Presentations.** The following presentations were given to the task force. Many of the presentations included emerging and other confidential pre-publication data and information.

 - a. *Overview of the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program and Football.* Datalys President Christine Collins and Datalys Director Erin Wasserman shared an overview of the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program and participation rates among the three divisions.
 - b. *The NCAA-Department of Defense CARE Consortium.* Tom McAllister, co-principal investigator of CARE, provided an overview and update on the multi-site study, currently being conducted at 30 NCAA schools, as well as with all cadets at the military service

academies. Hainline summarized the structure of the data review and spoke on the key questions the study is working to answer.

- c. *Preseason Injury and Concussion Rates.* Steve Broglio, CARE co-Principal Investigator, and Collins discussed emerging information related to preseason football injury data from both CARE and the NCAA ISP.
 - d. *The Ivy League -- Analyzing Football Data to Reduce Concussions.* Ivy League Deputy Executive Director Carolyn Campbell-McGovern discussed data related to certain football practice modifications that were implemented in the Ivy League, beginning June 2011.
 - e. *Injury and Concussion Rates: In-Season and Post-Season.* Broglio and Wasserman reviewed data collected from the CARE Consortium and the NCAA ISP during the 2017 football in-season and post-season.
 - f. *CARE Head Impact Measurement Data Across Season.* Michael McCrae, Medical College of Wisconsin professor; Stefan Duma, Virginia Tech professor; Medical College of Wisconsin professor Brian Stemper shared data related to daily head impacts that were recorded and reported during the 2017 football in-season.
 - g. *Comparative Data: NCAA 1999-2001 vs. CARE 2014-2016.* McCrae analyzed and compared data related to concussion recovery and return-to-play in college football players from the original NCAA Concussion Study (1999-2001) and the more recent CARE Consortium.
 - h. *Overview of All Injuries in Football.* Wasserman and Collins reviewed 2017 in-season football injury data from all three divisions, including specific injury data for varying body parts.
 - i. *Special Topics in Football.* Wasserman addressed specific topics of interest to the task force, including kickoffs, pace of play and the targeting rule.
- 6. Closing comments and next steps.** Bowlsby and Hainline thanked the attendees for their participation, as several attendees were also going to be attending the Division I Football Oversight Committee meetings in the next days. Key takeaways from the meeting included an emphasis on the need for high quality data and higher participation in the NCAA ISP as well as enhancing common data elements that are football specific. It was agreed that the current preseason policy in place for 2018-19 does not need to be altered based on the emerging

information that was shared during the task force. Bowsby suggested that the kickoff should be studied further in light of the emerging data reflecting overrepresentation of concussion and other injuries during this play. Additionally, this task force will likely occur on yearly basis, possibly in conjunction with the American Football Coaches Association annual meeting.