



MEMORANDUM

July 29, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II, and III Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics and Head Coaches.

FROM: Jeff Hurd, chair
NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

SUBJECT: Update on Playing Rules Changes and Commemorative/Memorial Uniform Patches.

During its July 22 videoconference, the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel acted on the following items:

Playing Rules Changes for Men's Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Men's Lacrosse and Softball

As part of the two-year playing rules process, PROP approved rules changes in these sports effective with the 2020-21 seasons. Click the links below to access these rules changes by sport.

- [Men's Gymnastics](#)
- [Ice Hockey](#)
- [Men's Lacrosse](#)
- [Softball](#)

Playing Rules Changes and Waivers Related to COVID-19 for 2020 Fall Sports of Field Hockey, Football, Soccer, Water Polo and Women's Volleyball

Due to challenges resulting from COVID-19, PROP approved rules changes and expressed support for waivers for several sports for the 2020 fall season. Click [here](#) to access the approved rules changes and waivers found under "Playing Rules Resources" on the Playing Rules page on ncaa.org. The rules changes and waivers are consistent with the guidance included in the NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition document. In this regard, PROP will continue to monitor any additional developments and make adjustments as appropriate.

PROP will consider potential playing rules changes that are COVID-19 related for winter sports in September and for spring sports in January 2021.

Playing Rules Changes Related to Commemorative/Memorial Uniform Patches

In an effort to allow student-athletes the opportunity to use the uniform to voice their opinions and/or express support of racial and social justice, PROP reviewed the current uniform rules across

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all sports. Although the rules currently vary from sport-to-sport, PROP voted to direct all playing rules committees to implement the following policies for all sports effective with the 2020-21 seasons:

- As authorized by the institution or conference, allow a commemorative/memorial patch (e.g., names, mascots, nicknames, logos, and marks intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes).
- The patch must not exceed 2¼-square inches and must be placed on the front or sleeve of the uniform and may not interfere with any required markings.
- While not all team members are required to wear the patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch.
- As authorized by the institution or conference, allow other names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back of the jersey/uniform where the player name is traditionally located. The names/words may vary by team member.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Dan Calandro, Director of NCAA Playing Rules and Officiating (dcalandro@ncaa.org; 317-917-6604).

JH:bh

cc: NCAA Registered Officials
NCAA Rules Committees
Selected NCAA Staff Members