

# PLAYING RULES & DIVISION III

November 2024

## What is a playing rule?

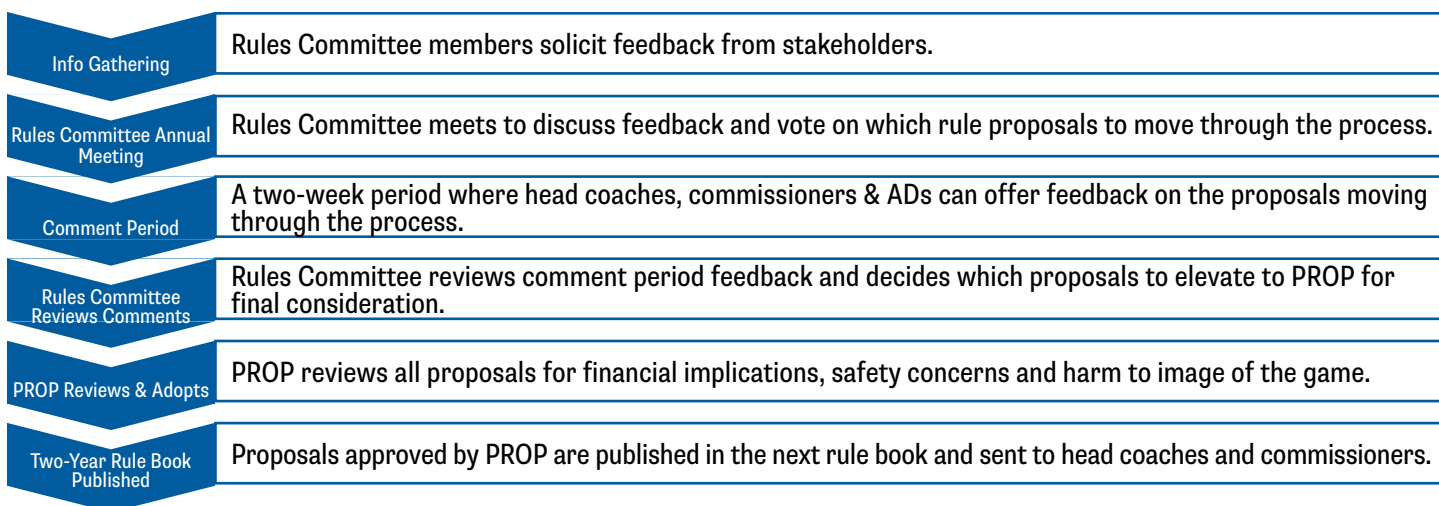
Playing rules are what happens on the field, court, pool, pitch, mat, rink, lane, track or slope when an opponent and officials are present. Playing rules are not what happens during recruiting or practicing, or while working on compliance issues or NCAA championship policies.

## What is the difference between a common rule and a federated rule?

A **common** rule is consistent across all three divisions, while a **federated** rule allows for differences by division.

## What is the common rule making process and who is involved?

Every two years, each sport undergoes a Playing Rules Cycle.



### Stakeholders.

Members of Division III, including coaches, commissioners and athletic administrators.

### Rules Committee.

An Association-wide committee that meets to determine which rule changes are elevated to PROP and if proposals are common or federated. DIII is represented on each committee by 2 to 4 members, depending on the sport. For sports using non-NCAA playing rules\*, a subcommittee of the DIII Sport Championship Committee serves in this role.

### Sport Championship Committee.

A DIII sport-specific committee comprised of coaches and administrators who are experts in their sport, govern each sport and are responsible for administering their respective championships, including establishing brackets and selecting teams to fill them.

### PROP.

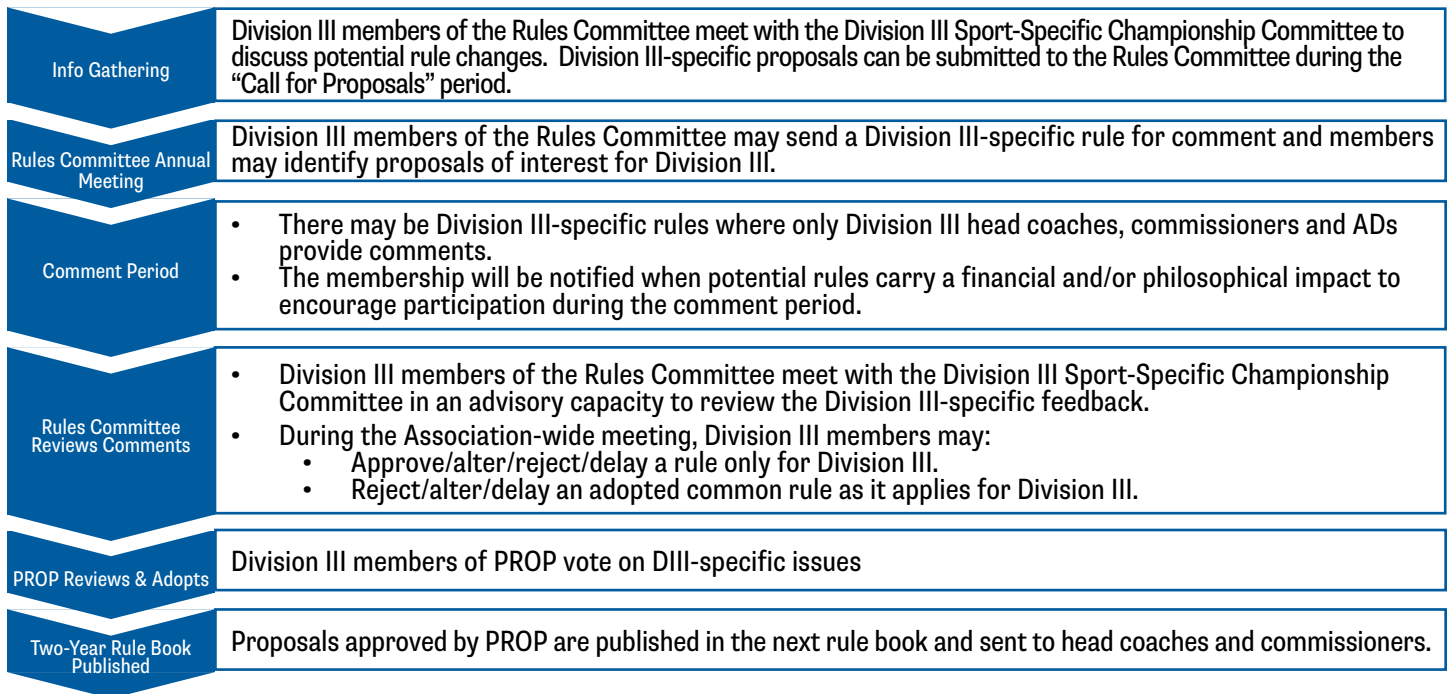
The Playing Rules Oversight Panel. An Association-wide committee that reviews playing rules proposals and playing rules issues, including implementation of playing rules proposed by rules committees. DIII representation is 3 members.

\*sports using non-NCAA playing rules: fencing, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, rifle, rowing, skiing, tennis and men's volleyball.

# PLAYING RULES & DIVISION III

November 2024

## How does the Division III federated rules process fit in the existing playing rules process?



## Are there other ways for Division III members of playing rules committees to get feedback?

Yes. In October 2024 Management Council created a subcommittee to further inform and advise the Division III members of playing rules committees and PROP regarding potential impact of rules proposals on Division III.

## Can any playing rule be federated?

While PROP has suggested that some rules areas are integral to competition and should remain common for all divisions, it has also acknowledged that there could be exceptions based on compelling reasons to federate a particular rule. Only the DIII members of PROP determine if a proposed rule that addresses one of the areas, below, has compelling reasons to be federated.

PROP has suggested that the following rules areas should be *common*:

- Rules with a health and safety impact
- Field dimensions, court markings, permissible logos on the field/court
- Scoring and timing rules, including rules surrounding overtime
- Conduct/unsporting rules
- Rules addressing penalty enforcement
- Uniform rules
- Equipment rules (ball/stick specifications, player equipment)
- Technical rules (individual team sports)

PROP has suggested that the following rules areas could be *federated* or *permissive*:

- Halftime/intermission length
- Allowable substitutions
- Technology rules (instant replay, challenge review, technology on bench/sideline, etc.)
- Rules identified as administrative that can be altered by mutual consent of the institutions involved in the contest