



Sport Rules – COVID-19 Modifications UPDATED AUGUST 20th, 2020

Below are modifications to NCAA **game rules** which are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing. These have been approved by the NAIA Administrative Council. Please note that the NCAA could issue other rule modifications before or during the fall season.

Football Rule Modification

1-2 Team Area and Coaching Box *ARTICLE 4. a. On each side of the field, a team area in back of the limit line and between the 25-yard lines shall be marked for the exclusive use of substitutes, athletics trainers and other persons affiliated with the team.*

Modification – Extend the bench area to the 15 yard-line.

11 - SECTION 1. Jurisdiction *ARTICLE 1. The officials' jurisdiction begins 90 minutes before the scheduled kickoff and ends when the referee declares the score final [S14]. It is expected that a minimum of three officials will take the field at 90 minutes before kickoff. All officials will be on the field at 40 minutes prior to kickoff.*

Modification – Continue with the 60-minute jurisdiction that has been used in past years.

Volleyball Rule Modification

9.2.2 Location of Team Area *Team members occupy the bench located on the side of the net opposite the first referee and adjacent to their playing area. Substitutes are seated on their team's bench or are in their team's warm-up area, except for medical necessity*

Modification – allow teams to distance 3 to 6 feet even if they are out of the team area.

9.2.4 Change of Team Areas between Sets or Deciding set

Modification – Do not change benches or sides of the court during a match. The home team determines the assignment of bench areas.

Soccer Rule Modification

1.12.2 *Each coaching and team area shall be marked parallel to the touch line and situated at least 5 feet from the touch line and extending 20 yards from the five-yard neutral zone measured from the halfway line in both directions*

1.12.3 *Coaches, players and bench personnel shall remain inside their respective coaching and team areas. Exceptions: (1) Players warming up in preparation to enter the field of play are permitted to use the area that extends beyond the respective area nearest their bench and opposite their opponent's areas*

Modification – extend team bench areas to the top of penalty box. (18 yards from end line)



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The question was posed if a host school did not have or could not provide ball handlers for a match is there a rule that covers this situation. The answer is yes, the Referee has discretionary power to start and stop the clock as needed.

Rule 5.6 Discretionary Power with the primary reference 5.6.1 which allows the referee to suspend the game (stop the clock) for ANY reason. The referee has discretionary power to: **5.6.1 Suspend the game whenever, because of the elements, interference by spectators, or other cause, such action is deemed necessary.**

STATEMENT

Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses, and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.

UPDATES AS OF AUGUST 20th

Football Rule 3-1-1 to limit the coin toss to two officials and one captain from each team. Previous Rule: Up to four game captains are permitted and additional personnel (e.g., ceremonial coin toss, media members, etc.) are not restricted.

Soccer (12.7.4.2, 12.7.4.8.2 and 12.8.1.1) enhance the spitting at an opponent penalty to a two-game suspension and categorize it as a violent behavior II red card. All ejection and suspension rules related to violent behavior II will apply. Previous Rule: One-game suspension.

Soccer (5.5.2) if using a paper official NCAA box score, allow the referee to visually/verbally verify the information is correct rather than requiring a signature (this is the same process for electronic box scores). Previous Rule: The referee shall sign the official NCAA box score (or verify the electronic version).

NAIA rule modification has been approved that allows coaches to use electronic devices during contests to access or receive in-game statistical information. Devices may not be used to access video streams or any other video capabilities.

This is an **OPTION** for schools that currently use a paper distribution of stats to coaches' in-game or postgame for the sports of volleyball, soccer, football, men's basketball, women's basketball, softball, and baseball.

Game day Administration including, Athletic Director, Athletic Communication Staff, and Game Day Supervisors will communicate to teams how this will be done. Officials will not arbitrate on this issue.



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PLAYING RULES CHANGES RELATED TO COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL UNIFORM PATCHES SUPPORTING RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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, the NAC reviewed the current uniform rules across all sports. Although the rules currently vary from sport-to-sport, the NAC 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