



**NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM
REPLACEMENT POLICY**
Updated November 4, 2022

The Division II Championships Committee approved the team replacement policy considering the possibility of unforeseen circumstances impacting championship fields. The policy will be implemented in accordance with the terms set forth below when, despite its best efforts, a team within the championship field is impeded or hindered from participating in the championship for reasons beyond its control.

The following tenets are fundamental to implementation of the Team Replacement Policy:

- Once the brackets are finalized and released, the championships will not be reseeded, nor will the brackets change.
- A reasonable effort will be made to ensure full fields are in place before the start of the championships. No replacement teams will be introduced after the championships begin.
- Every eligible automatic qualifying conference should have the opportunity for at least one team in the championship field.
- Beyond the goal of having at least one team from every conference, replacement teams must be among the best teams being considered for an at-large bid.

Due to the time needed to coordinate travel and other participation logistics, the following provisions constitute the team replacement policy:

1. Before to the announcement of the championship fields and brackets.

- a. Should an automatic qualifier, as determined by each conference, be unable to participate in its first game of the championship, the conference may designate a replacement team, as determined by its declared AQ policy submitted prior to the start of its conference tournament or final weekend to designate its AQ.
- b. The replacement AQ team shall be appropriately seeded and placed into the bracket prior to announcement of the championship fields and brackets.
- c. Any potential at-large team that is determined by the institution to be unable to participate in its first game of the championship must notify the respective sport committee prior to announcement of the bracket.

2. After the announcement of the championship fields and brackets.

- a. Conferences may replace its AQ, if it is unable to participate, with the conference's preapproved contingency replacement team. The replacement team from the conference will take the place of its fellow conference member in the same place on the bracket.

b. For any at-large team unable to participate, the policy for replacing that team is as follows:

- (1) The top teams not selected as at-large teams for the original field shall be considered a potential replacement team.
- (2) The replacement team will be placed in the bracket based on the final rankings compared to the teams in the field. For example, if the eight seed in the region was an automatic qualifier and the replacement team was ranked higher, the replacement team would be placed in the bracket as the seven seed.

The deadline for consideration of replacing a team unable to participate is within 24 hours after the selection announcement. No replacement teams will be introduced into the NCAA championship bracket after this deadline.

Once the tournament/championship has begun, no team will replace a team that can no longer participate in the championship. Its opponent would advance to the next round via the NCAA's no-contest rule.

If a team must withdraw once competition has begun, opponents would advance to the next round via the NCAA's no-contest rule.

In the event one or both teams do not have enough players to compete in the final of a championship, the following policy would take effect:

- If one team is unable to compete in the final, the sport committee will declare the competition as a no-contest and the available team will be the champion.
- If both teams are unable to compete in the final, the competition will be declared a no-contest and the two teams will be declared co-champions.