



2020-21 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP PROPOSAL FOR TEAM REPLACEMENT POLICY

The Division I Men's Basketball Committee developed the team replacement policy in light of the possibility of the championship field being impacted due to the pandemic. The following tenets are fundamental to the committee decision.

- Once the bracket is finalized and released, teams will not be reseeded, nor will the bracket change.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure a full field is in place before the start of the championship. No replacement teams will be introduced after the championship begins.
- Every participating 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 necessary time needed to coordinate travel and successfully follow NCAA Championships medical protocols, including COVID-19 testing requirements before departure from campus and upon arrival at the competition location, the following are the replacement team policies for the Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

1. Before the announcement of the championship field and bracket:
 - a. Should an automatic qualifier, as determined by each conference, be unable to meet the medical protocols and participate in its first game of the championship (March 18, 19 or 20), the conference may designate a replacement team, as determined by its AQ policy submitted by the Feb. 26 deadline.
 - b. The replacement AQ team shall be appropriately seeded and placed into the bracket before the announcement of the championship field and bracket.
 - c. Any potential at-large team that is determined by the institution to be unable to meet the medical protocols and participate in its first game of the championship (March 18, 19 or 20) must notify the Division I Men's Basketball Committee by 11 p.m. local time Saturday, March 13.
2. After the announcement of the championship field and bracket:
 - a. For any single-bid conference, the league may replace its AQ if it is unable to participate due to COVID-19 with the league's preapproved contingency replacement team if that team can produce seven consecutive daily negative tests. 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 multibid conference that has a team, at-large or AQ, unable to participate due to COVID-19, the policy for replacing that team is as follows:
 - i. The last four teams not selected as at-large teams for the original field shall be designated as replacement teams, if they choose to be considered as such.
 - ii. The four replacement teams will be ranked 1-4. The first team in the ranking will be the first replacement team, the second-ranked team will be the second replacement team, etc.
 - iii. The replacement team shall be placed in the bracket in the position left vacant by the withdrawing team.
 - iv. Since all four replacement teams would have been seeded as a First Four team had they initially been selected as an at-large team, it is assured that their first-round opponent will not be put at a competitive disadvantage because the replacement team would be either a comparable or lower-seeded team.
 - v. The four replacement teams will remain on their campuses and continue the COVID-19 testing protocol until such time as needed to travel to Indianapolis as a replacement team.
 - vi. Any of the four replacement teams that does not make it into the NCAA championship would still be a No. 1 seed in the NIT and compete in the first round of that tournament March 17-20.

The deadline for consideration of replacing a team unable to participate due to COVID-19 is Tuesday, March 16, at 6 p.m. Eastern time. No replacement teams will be introduced into the NCAA championship bracket after the deadline.

Once the tournament has begun, no team will replace a team that has a COVID-19 issue and can no longer participate in the championship. Its opponent would advance to the next round via the no-contest rule.