



REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SKIING COMMITTEE
JUNE 2-3, 2020, MEETING

Action and Information Items: The Division I Competition Oversight Committee will receive an update on key items from the Men's and Women's Skiing Committee annual meeting and will be asked to approve recommended host sites for the 2021 regionals and a new committee chair.

KEY ITEMS.

1. **2021 regional site selections.** The committee recommended regional sites for the 2021 championships, following recommendations made within each of the three skiing regions. These sites are selected annually by each of the region institutions on a rotating basis (see Action Item 2a).
2. **Committee chair recommendation.** The committee recommended a new committee chair; approval from the COC will be needed as the recommendation is for a coach to serve in this role (see Action Item 2b).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **2021 regional site selections.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the 2021 West Region Championships be held at Alyeska Resort, February 25-27 and hosted by the University of Alaska Anchorage; that the 2021 East Region Championships be held at Sunday River and Black Mountain on February 26-27 and hosted by Bates College; and that the 2021 Central Region Championships be held at Michigan Tech Trails on February 27-28 and hosted by Michigan Technological University.
- (2) Effective date. 2021 championships.

- (3) Rationale. The regionals are selected on a rotating basis by each of the region institutions, and these were the only bids received. In addition, there is no formal budget process, as the host institutions receive a set stipend for hosting. These institutions have all hosted successful events previously.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The stipend is \$3,500 per region.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Each of the venues will provide a top-caliber facility and experience for the competing student-athletes.

b. Committee chair recommendation.

- (1) Recommendation. That Peter Dodge, head men's Alpine coach at Dartmouth College, be appointed chair. The committee is seeking a waiver from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to allow a head coach to serve as the chair of the men's and women's skiing committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2020.
- (3) Rationale. Current policy does not permit an active head coach to chair a sport committee, through a waiver is available for sports sponsored by fewer than 60 percent of the membership eligible to participate in the championship, which would apply for men's and women's skiing. Mr. Dodge is a veteran committee member and has served as the head men's Alpine coach at Dartmouth for thirty-one seasons. Mr. Dodge has the unanimous support of the committee in assuming this position.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the annual meeting agenda and schedule.
- 2. Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed and made appropriate adjustments to the NCAA Skiing strategic plan.
- 3. Approval of 2019 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2019 meeting report as presented, with two clarifying edits.

- 4. Review of 2020 championships.** The committee discussed the 2020 championships hosted by Montana State University, Bozeman, which was cancelled after two days of competition due to COVID-19. NCAA staff discussed the cancellation decision with the committee, highlighting the work done by the COVID-19 advisory panel and the decision to cancel all 2020 winter and spring championships across the association.

The committee noted that the championships went well prior to the point of cancellation. The committee also noted the difficult weather conditions during the Giant Slalom and at the Nordic venue during training and competition. The committee reiterated that the safety of all participants should be at the forefront of all decision-making during future championships.

Committee members noted that they would like to see improvements made for future championships regarding waxing facilities for visiting teams, both in terms of on-site waxing options at the Nordic venue and off-site options for all participants, including Alpine.

Additionally, committee members noted the need for the following items at future Nordic sites during official training: more consistent grooming throughout the course, proper markings and a clear stadium setup.

- 5. 2021 championships updates.** The committee discussed the 2021 championships, which will be hosted by Middlebury College at the Rikert Nordic Center and Middlebury Snow Bowl. Committee members discussed the draft schedule of events for the championship, noting that there will be no championship banquet in 2021.

The committee also reaffirmed the championship policy regarding unofficial Alpine training, as outlined below:

On the day immediately preceding the first day of official training, no Alpine training will be permitted anywhere on the host mountain(s). Free skiing on the Alpine mountain(s) and/or on the race hill is permitted, provided that the trail is open to the public or approval is granted by the race organizers.

Two days prior to the first day of official training, only the host institution will be permitted to train on the host mountain(s). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis to other institutions who use the host mountain(s) for training, if an undue burden is caused by restricting access.

In planning for on-site meetings during the championships, committee members noted that all essential officials for the following day's races should be present at daily committee and coaches' meetings. Host head coaches should also be part of these meetings, when schedules permit. NCAA staff will work with future hosts to accomplish this.

- 6. Qualification/selection process.** As the 2020 championships were not completed due to COVID-19, the committee made no adjustments to the championship allocations from the prior year. The championship allocations for Alpine will be split evenly between the East and West regions for both men and women in 2021, with each region being allotted 17 spots per gender. Nordic allocations for 2021 will be as follows: Central region men: 8 spots; Central region women: 7 spots; East region men: 15 spots; East region women: 16 spots; West region men: 17 spots; West region women: 17 spots.

Additionally, committee members noted the revised process for international student-athletes to obtain USSA licenses and confirmed that unlicensed student-athletes will not be permitted to compete in the championships.

- 7. Membership proposals.** The committee reviewed four proposals from the membership. The committee took action on a proposal clarifying Alpine training parameters. No action was taken on the other three proposals.
- 8. FIS-Uni age rule discussion.** The committee discussed the FIS-Uni age rule and the new policies that are in place for domestic and foreign student-athletes.
- 9. 2020-21 sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the most recent sport sponsorship listings and noted that University of Alaska Fairbanks should be listed on sponsorship reports as a member of the West Region, rather than the Central Region. Additionally, the committee noted that Brown recently dropped its women's Alpine program.
- 10. Regional information.** The committee discussed recent regional meetings for the Central, East and West Regions and committee members gave relevant updates from those regional discussions.

The committee also engaged in a brief discussion regarding the possibility of a split site for future championships, as the Central Region institutions have expressed a desire to host the Nordic portion of the championships but currently do not have the proper facilities necessary to host the Alpine events.

- 11. Future dates and sites.** The committee reviewed bids that were submitted as part of the 2022-26 site selection process. The committee discussed the merits of each bid and made recommendations for the host sites for the 2023-26 skiing championships. Those site recommendations will move forward as part of the site selection process.
- 12. Webcast review.** The committee discussed the webcast of the championships and suggested improvements for future years including better communication and prioritization from on-site producers during initial setup, the need for camera operators to be better positioned for optimal

coverage of the events, and the desire for on-site production staff members to meet with local liaisons at the beginning of the championship week.

- 13. Rules discussion.** The committee met with Ben Brownlee, assistant director of playing rules and officiating, to review and discuss relevant modifications to the NCAA Skiing Rules Modifications document, which was used for the first time during the 2019-20 academic year after replacing the NCAA Skiing Rules Book. Mr. Brownlee and Fredrik Landstedt, NCAA Skiing Rules Interpreter, discussed needed updates to the modifications with the committee.

Discussion also followed regarding the cancellation of the 2020 championships and the need for more clarification in NCAA skiing publications to specify the discontinuance rules in place for regular-season competition and how those differ for the championships.

Edits to championship manuals and publications were suggested, including clarification of the discontinuance rule, confirmation that the entire Alpine field will be flipped for the second run of a given event, and confirmation that FIS rules will be followed for the championships.

- 14. National committee composition.** The committee noted that there will be one new member next year replacing Kevin Francis, whose term expires in August 2020. The committee noted that Eliska Albrigtsen, head Nordic skiing coach at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, has been named to the committee to replace Mr. Francis.

The committee also briefly discussed the composition of the committee and the desire for equal committee representation with regard to disciplines and regions.

- 15. Review committee timeline.** The committee discussed the 2019-20 timeline and staff will update with key dates for the 2020-21 academic year.

- 16. Manual review.** Each member of the committee volunteered to review and recommend appropriate updates to one of the following manuals: committee operations, host operations, participant and pre-championships manuals.

- 17. 2021 annual meeting dates.** The committee determined that its 2021 annual meeting dates will be June 2-3.

- 18. Other business.** The committee discussed the set of recommendations forwarded by the Championships Finance Working Group review, which included an initial recommendation to reduce the number of participants at the skiing championship by 60 student-athletes, from 148 to 88. The committee expressed disappointment with the recommendation and concern that it may cause unintended consequences with member institutions, including the possibility of institutions eliminating their skiing programs with fewer championship opportunities available to student-athletes. The committee also began discussions of how this recommendation could

impact the championship qualification process and championship structure. The committee will work together to develop a response to the feedback survey by the July 10 deadline.

Committee Chair: Kevin Francis, Montana State University, Bozeman, Big Sky Conference
Staff Liaison(s): John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Skiing Committee June 2-3, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Brian Blank, University of New Hampshire.	
Kim Bownes, Plymouth State University.	
Peter Dodge, Dartmouth College.	
Sten Fjeldheim, Northern Michigan University.	
Kevin Francis, Montana State University, Bozeman.	
Fredrik Landstedt, University of Utah.	
Jana Weinberger, University of Colorado, Boulder.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.	
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.	
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.	