



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Informational Item: The Division I Men's Soccer Committee did not support an automatic qualification waiver request from The Summit League. (See Informational Item.)
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ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **Automatic qualification waiver request.** The committee reviewed but ultimately chose not to support a request from The Summit League to maintain its automatic qualification for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons with fewer than six active Division I member institutions sponsoring the sport.

In the coming academic year, 2024-25, the conference will have four active Division I members and one reclassifying member, which is two members shy of the threshold for automatic qualification and one member short for the two-year grace period. The committee noted that the conference consistently demonstrates having an at-large candidate for selection to the field. Accordingly, were the conference to maintain its AQ as a four-team league, an upset in the conference tournament could mean that 50% of its members could be represented in the championship field. The committee values access by conference and has concerns of disproportionate representation from a conference that falls below the automatic qualification requirements.

The committee feels strongly that withholding automatic qualification from a conference under the appropriate threshold does not eliminate conference or student-athlete access to the championship, as there is always the pathway to the championship via at-large selection.

The committee also values the entire body of work from the regular season and may support an AQ based on regular season performance as opposed to a two-game tournament. Committee members recognize that other conferences have two-game tournaments, but qualification for those tournaments is based on a regular season with at least six conference teams.

In sum, the committee did not support granting two years of grace for the conference to maintain its automatic qualification with fewer than six eligible institutions. Per NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.3.3, "a conference shall remain eligible for automatic qualification for two years following the date of the withdrawal of the institution(s) that causes the conference's membership to fall below six institutions that sponsor the sport and conduct conference competition together, provided the conference maintains at least five Division I members." The committee believes that approval could set an undesired precedent for other Division I automatic qualification requests and would disincentivize conferences from maintaining six members to maintain their automatic qualification status by continually seeking waivers.

Committee Chair: Tanya Vogel, George Washington University, Atlantic 10
Staff Liaisons: Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee February 16, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Tim Bernal, University of Kentucky.	
Sybil Blalock, Mercer University.	
Bob Butehorn, University of South Florida.	
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Bo Oshoniyi, Dartmouth College.	
Michael Seabolt, Missouri State University.	
Carlos Somono, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Tanya Vogel, George Washington University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	
Jerry Vaughn, Division I Governance.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	