



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29-30, 2024, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee approved the agenda and meeting schedule.
- 2. 2023 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 meeting report as submitted.
- 3. Review of 2023 championship.**
 - a. Preliminary-round feedback.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round feedback and was generally pleased with the survey results. The group discussed preliminary-round hosting expectations, focusing particularly on creating a more unique student-athlete experience on site. The committee also reviewed the preliminary-round pregame timing sheets to create consistency among rounds.
 - b. Video exchange review.** This was the first year of mandatory video exchange in all rounds of the postseason. This policy, in part, requires all NCAA tournament participants to share all their regular-season home matches and all conference tournament matches through the National Video Exchange provider. Following all NCAA tournament matches the host team is responsible for uploading the match by 2 p.m. local the day after the match. Failure to adhere to this policy could result in a financial penalty up to a maximum of \$1,000 per match.

The committee reviewed institutional compliance with this policy and contacted six institutions in question. The committee affirmed the importance of this policy and will continue to enforce these expectations during the 2024 championship.

- c. Men's College Cup – Louisville, Kentucky.** The committee was pleased with the overall performance of the 2023 championship. Lynn Family Stadium is a wonderful facility and is home to Louisville City FC (United Soccer League) and Racing Louisville FC (National Women's Soccer League). Because the venue is home to two professional teams, it proved to be a venue slightly too large for the crowds the men's soccer championship produces. This is something the committee will take into consideration when evaluating championship bids.

The committee brainstormed ways to continue enhancing the student-athlete banquet. Initial conversations included a notable soccer-related speaker, including interviews with coaches and/or student-athletes, and other interactive enhancements at the banquet.

The committee continues to be pleased with the additional day of rest between the championship semifinals and final.

- d. Bench decorum and team behavior.** The committee has continued to see less than ideal behavior in the bench areas and general taunting. The committee sent a reminder to all institutions competing regarding the postseason and championship expectations and has empowered the officials' group to manage these situations directly while in competition. The committee will continue to emphasize the importance of sportsmanship and ethical conduct.
 - e. Broadcast/ESPN.** The committee reviewed information from ESPN and broadcast liaisons and learned that the ratings from the 2023 championship were down from the previous year. The committee was also informed that the men's viewership was less than the women's championship. The broadcast liaisons and ESPN noted that men's viewership is largely dictated by the institutions that are competing in the College Cup.
 - f. Red and yellow card accumulation.** The committee reviewed the yellow card accumulation violation that occurred during national championship. The committee reemphasized that tracking on athlete card accumulation and understanding the postseason rules related to accumulation is the responsibility of the institution.
- 4. Officiating.** The committee met with the national coordinator of officials to review the officials selection process. The committee discussed both protecting referees and managing referees' responsibilities and has had significant discussions on playing rule recommendations to positively impact both of those areas. As it is a playing rules change year, the committee is hopeful that protentional adjustments in the playing rules can alleviate some of the burden officials are currently seeing and help them better manage certain aspects of the competition.
- 5. Selection process and evaluation of teams.**
 - a. Selection weekend.** The committee will continue to arrive for selections on Saturday. This provides the group ample prep time and monitoring of conference championships. This timeline also gives new committee members time to understand and be comfortable with the selection process in advance of Sunday.
 - b. Automatic-qualification conferences.** The automatic-qualification deadline is February 1. Because this deadline is after the annual meeting, the committee will regroup later to confirm automatic-qualification conferences for 2024.
 - c. Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and did not make any adjustments for the 2024 championship selections.
- 6. Site review/format/long-range planning.**

- a. **2024 championship in Cary, North Carolina.** The 2024 championship will be back in Cary, North Carolina. The committee is very familiar with the venue and the city of Cary and is looking forward to next year. The committee is interested in developing additional opportunities to increase attendance and engagement surrounding the championship. The women's national championship is also in Cary in 2024, which provides the opportunity to jointly promote the events occurring on consecutive weekends.
 - b. **Future championship sites.** All NCAA championships are currently working through the championship bid process. The committee will review all bids later this year and make a recommendation for the hosts of the 2026 and 2027 championships.
 - c. **Format.** The committee is interested in researching two different areas related to championship bracket and format. The bracketing principles currently require the committee to limit flights in the first round of competition. The committee is planning to examine a breakdown of first- and second-round flights from previous championship brackets to identify if additional flexibility in the first two rounds, as opposed to one, would be financial-neutral and/or beneficial. The group will also gather more information on potentially adjusting the days between the first and second rounds of competition.
7. **Pre-championship, host operations and site representative manuals.** The committee will provide staff with necessary updates. The committee to review verbiage in the host ops manual as well as other items in a subsequent meeting.
8. **Playing rules update.** The committee met with the playing rules staff and the soccer rules committee to review and discuss the rules change proposals and the federated rules process. The men's soccer committee provided additional supplements and feedback to the playing rules committee for consideration in the decision-making process.
9. **Committee.**
- a. **National and regional advisory committee composition/vacancies.** The committee reviewed upcoming committee vacancies. NCAA staff will work with conferences that have RAC members' terms expiring to nominate replacements in late summer. The committee will be reviewing the RAC makeup once the automatic-qualification conferences have been set and recommend adjustments as needed.
 - b. **Committee chair.** The committee approved Jessica Goerke, deputy athletics director, chief operating officer, and senior woman administrator at UC Santa Barbara, as the chair beginning September 1, 2024. She will replace current chair, Tanya Vogel, director of athletics at George Washington University, when Ms. Vogel's term on the committee expires August 31.

- c. **2023-24 committee calendar.** Selections for the 2024 championship will be November 16-18 in Indianapolis. The 2024 annual meeting is tentatively scheduled around January 29-30 but will be coordinated with the women's annual meeting.

Joint session. The men's and women's committees met jointly. The group discussed a variety of topics, including playing rules, future sites, and playing season updates. More information can be found in the joint committee report.

10. Other business.

- a. **21st century model.** The committee continues to be committed to the 21st century playing and practice model. Most recently, the Coaches Association in conjunction with the sport committee, resubmitted the 21st century model to the Student Athlete Experience Committee (SAEC). The proposal was not supported by SAEC. The men's soccer committee will review next steps for progress in the area of playing and practice season.

Committee Chair: Tanya Vogel, George Washington University, Atlantic 10
Staff Liaison(s): Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances

Division I Men's Soccer Committee January 29-30, 2024, Meeting	
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:	
Rob Kehoe, United Soccer Coaches Association.	
John Collins, National Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Matt Holmes, Championships and Alliances.	

Danielle Romero, Championships and Alliances.

Tommy Barrett, Championships and Alliances.
