



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 27, 2025, MEETING

**ACTION ITEM.**

- **Adjustments to singles and doubles championships pilot.**

(1) Recommendation.

- To require that doubles players who have already qualified for the NCAA doubles championships via the ITA All-American Championships or the ITA Regional Championships forfeit any previously earned doubles qualifying spot in order to play doubles at the ITA Sectionals Championships with a different partner.
- To end the ITA Sectionals Championships at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds (conclusion of quarterfinals and quarterfinal playoff for singles and conclusion of the semifinals and third-place playoff for doubles).
- To move the selection meeting from Sunday to Monday after the conclusion of the ITA Sectionals Championships and ITA Conference Masters Championships; the selection announcement date remains Monday with the time changing from noon Eastern time to 5 p.m. Eastern time.

(2) Effective date. 2025-26 academic year.

(3) Rationale. Requiring doubles players to forfeit previously earned doubles qualifying spots will bring the doubles championships in line with a similar policy prohibiting singles players from playing in the ITA Sectionals Championships if already qualified through another pathway event. The purpose of the ITA Sectionals Championships is the last qualifying pathway opportunity for the NCAA championships. There is no need to compete in the tournament if already qualified via another pathway tournament, which would take a spot in the draw from a deserving doubles team that still needs to qualify.

Similarly, as the purpose of the tournament is the last qualifying opportunity, there is no need to complete the tournament after the qualifying rounds. Singles players and doubles teams withdrew after qualifying to avoid the risk of further injury and to rest ahead of the NCAA championships. Feedback from the coaches supported this, which will decrease expenses on the participating institutions and reduce missed class time. There is no past history or prestige to winning this event like the ITA Regionals, ITA All-American or ITA Conference Masters.

Lastly, based on experience from year one, the committee will now meet Monday morning instead of Sunday evening to confirm the participants and to seed the draws and alternate lists. The ITA staff provides the data to the committee and is also operating the pathway tournaments that conclude Sunday. The additional time will help the ITA staff to confirm the results and data before the committee meets. Moving the announcement back a few hours should have no impact on travel plans for those participating as they already know they have qualified.

The committee made the recommendations after reviewing survey feedback from head coaches and responses shared by ITA staff from their feedback sessions with head coaches. The ITA collaborated to propose these recommendations to the committee to make improvements for year two of the pilot based on feedback and experience from year one.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Shortening the ITA Sectionals will provide some savings to those participating.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. These recommended changes will provide more opportunities for those seeking to qualify to the NCAA championships at the ITA Sectionals and will reduce some missed class time with a shorter tournament.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Singles and doubles championships.** The committee reviewed and discussed the recommendations from the ITA regarding changes for year two of the singles and doubles championships pilot. The committee supported the changes noted in the Action Item above.

The committee did not support a proposal to prohibit singles players from participating in the ITA Regional Championships if already qualified via the ITA All-American Championships. While similar to prohibiting participation in the ITA Sectionals Championships if already qualified, the committee differed here because the ITA Regionals are long-standing tournaments with a higher level of play. Coaches would have to split their teams to provide different tournaments for their players with potentially lower quality competition. Competition in the ITA Regionals will still assist the player for their individual ranking for seeding. In addition, in instances where an already qualified player makes it to the qualifying round (the championship match), the ITA Regional should host a third and fourth place match for singles to produce a qualifier to replace the already qualified finalist. If both finalists are qualifiers, the third and fourth place match participants would be the qualifiers from that region. There are already measures in place to account for this scenario.

The committee also discussed a recommendation to use an average of the unpublished ITA rankings and World Tennis Number to seed the draws. The committee tabled this for further discussion after consultation with NCAA statistics staff.

2. **Selection.** The committee conducted the selection and bracketing process for the team championships.
3. **Annual meeting.** The committee's annual meeting will be conducted virtually June 24.

*Committee Chair:* Chris Young, Oklahoma State University, Big 12 Conference  
*Staff Liaisons:* John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee April 27, 2025, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Vince Baldemor, University of Hawaii, Manoa.	
Jimmy Borendame, Middle Tennessee State University.	
Chad Camper, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.	
Leslie Chang, University of the Pacific.	
George Husack, University of Alabama.	
Rochelle Houston, Florida A&M University.	
Courtney Nagle, University of Oregon.	
Peter Pilling, Columbia University-Barnard College.	
Alison Silverio, University of Notre Dame.	
Taylor Stapleton, DePaul University.	
Chris Young, Oklahoma State University.	
Paul Wardlaw, University of Denver.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Liz Bothwell, Intercollegiate Tennis Association.	
Cody Johnson, Intercollegiate Tennis Association.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.	
Kelsi Mahoney, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Antonio Cannavaro, Kerstin Hunter and Micaela Liddane.	