



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 15, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Western Athletic Conference automatic qualification waiver request.**

(1) Recommendation. That the Western Athletic Conference be granted automatic qualification to the 2026 NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championships despite having only four members sponsoring the sport during the 2025-26 academic year.

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

(3) Rationale. As a result of conference realignment, the Western Athletic Conference will have only four eligible institutions in women's tennis for the 2025-26 academic year with the departures of Grand Canyon University and Seattle University as of July 2025. The timing of the announcement does not provide the conference with adequate time to get back to five institutions, thus negatively impacting championship access for their student-athletes.

The committee supports granting relief for one year and still would consider the 2025-26 season the first year of its two-year grace period. The conference would need to have five eligible institutions for 2026-27 or lose its automatic qualification. The conference would need to have six eligible institutions for 2027-28 or lose its automatic qualification. Should the conference have fewer than five eligible institutions in 2026-27 and/or fewer than six eligible institutions for 2027-28, no additional waiver will be granted.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This provides an opportunity for the Western Athletic Conference women's tennis student-athletes to qualify for the NCAA championships.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Broadcast update.** NCAA staff provided an update on broadcast plans for the team championships in the spring. Quarterfinals, semifinals and finals will be on ESPN+. ESPN is investigating if any linear windows exist. ESPN selected the packager to produce the semifinals

and finals. NCAA staff and Baylor University staff will work together on a production plan for the quarterfinals. The committee also emphasized the importance of a solution for international viewing.

2. **Sports Oversight Committee update.** NCAA staff provided an update on the recent Sports Oversight Committee meeting conducted in January. The new SOC approved the tennis committee's recommendation to implement a penalty at selection for the 2025 NCAA Division I Mens and Women's Tennis Championships for any team that exceeds the legislative countable contest limits. See the committee's October 2024 report for more information. NCAA staff will work on communication to the membership.
3. **Preliminary-round hotel waiver request.** The committee reviewed a waiver request from an institution regarding the distance of hotels exceeding the 30-minute/30-mile standard. NCAA staff will communicate the decision with the institution directly.
4. **Fall individual championships.**
  - a. **Participant evaluations.** The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from the fall singles and doubles championships. Feedback focused on scoreboards, practice and attendance.
  - b. **Coaches survey.** The committee reviewed the draft of a head coach survey to elicit feedback on the fall singles and doubles championships pilot with a focus on any adjustments to be made for year two of the pilot. The committee worked on the survey in collaboration with the ITA and will distribute it to coaches in the next few weeks.
5. **Baylor spring championship planning.** The committee discussed areas of focus for Baylor staff as planning continues for the spring team championships, including scoreboards and the banquet location.
6. **Equipment supplier.** NCAA staff provided an update on the equipment supplier RFP process. An announcement is expected in February.
7. **Future meetings.** The committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 12.

*Committee Chair:* Chris Young, Oklahoma State University, Big 12 Conference

*Staff Liaisons:* John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

Jennifer Mervar, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee January 15, 2024, Videoconference	
<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.
Rochelle Houston, Florida A&M University.
George Husack, University of Alabama.
Courtney Nagle, University of Oregon.
Peter Pilling, Columbia University-Barnard College.
Alison Silverio, Notre Dame University.
Paul Wardlaw, University of Denver.
Chris Young, Oklahoma State University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Taylor Stapleton, DePaul University.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Mervar, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Antonio Cannavaro, Kerstin Hunter and Kristen Jacob Smith.