



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE  
JULY 8-9, 2019, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic bids for the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships (31 conferences for the women's championships and 30 for the men's): American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference (women's only); Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

(2) Effective date. 2019-20 academic year.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Committee chair.**

(1) Recommendation. That Steve Rodecap, director of tennis at Marquette University, be appointed chair for 2019-20. The committee is seeking a waiver from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to allow a head coach to serve as the chair.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.

(3) Rationale. Mr. Rodecap will replace Elizabeth Schmidt, head women's tennis coach at Rice University, whose term on the committee ends. Mr. Rodecap has served as chair of the men's subcommittee for the 2018-19 season and has the unanimous support of the committee. The committee is requesting this waiver because they believe his experience as the men's subcommittee chair has prepared him well for this role.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Men's and Women's Tennis Rules Subcommittee.**

(1) Recommendation. That an eight-member Men's and Women's Tennis Rules Subcommittee (from within the existing Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees) be appointed to oversee the playing rules modifications for all three divisions. The NCAA would continue to follow the Intercollegiate Tennis Association playing rules; however, the subcommittee would be charged with collaborating with the ITA on potential rules changes and/or recommending rules modifications to the ITA rules. The subcommittee composition would be four representatives from Division I (50%), two from Division II (25%) and two from Division III (25%), which is consistent with other Association-wide playing rules committees/subcommittees. More information is included below under Informational Item No. 11.

(2) Effective date. January 1, 2020, to coincide with the ITA rules-making process.

(3) Rationale. In response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees discussed whether the sport would benefit from having an NCAA playing rules book and/or NCAA playing rules committee/subcommittee to be more involved in the rules-making process for tennis. Currently, the NCAA adheres to the ITA rules. In recent years, the ITA implemented several division-specific playing rules even though NCAA Bylaws 21 and 31 require playing rules and playing rules modifications to be the same for all three divisions. The subcommittee would work alongside the ITA Rules Committee to improve the communication and collaboration during the rules-making process and ensure playing rules are common for all divisions moving forward. After two years, the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees would evaluate the effectiveness of the subcommittee to determine if the subcommittee structure should continue or if a stand-alone tennis playing rules committee would be more beneficial.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None during the two-year evaluation period. Business would be conducted via teleconference.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and schedule for the meeting.
- 2. Report from previous meeting.** The committee approved the report from the 2018 meeting as distributed.
- 3. Review of NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Competition Oversight Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year.
- 4. Review of 2019 championships.**
  - a. Selection show.** The committee welcomed the added head coach and student-athlete interviews to the selection show this year. The members encouraged NCAA staff to increase the quality and consistency of the interviews next year and explore adding analysis from a tennis expert.
  - b. Preliminary-rounds evaluations.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-rounds evaluations from participants, tournament directors and site representatives. The administrative meeting time for all rounds is flexible and host institutions should determine it based on team travel and practice schedules.
    - **Match times and order.** The committee reviewed the match schedule for the second-round and super-regional competition. For both rounds, the match must start by 9 a.m. local time in the event of inclement weather.

The committee added an indoor backup site requirement to the bid specifications for all preliminary-round sites. A site may submit a waiver request to the committee should indoor courts not be available.

The committee established 10 p.m. local time as a guideline for the latest time a match should start for any round of the championships.

- c. Finals site evaluations.** The committee congratulated the United States Tennis Association, the University of Central Florida and the Greater Orlando Sports Commission

for creating a tremendous championship atmosphere in Orlando, Florida. The survey results for the site were positive with a few suggested enhancements for the 2021 championship at the USTA National Campus, including adding shade for spectators and enhanced scoreboards.

- d. Finals web stream/television broadcast.** The Tennis Channel provided 55 hours of championships coverage this year, which was a vast improvement from previous years. The committee commended the USTA and NCAA staff for their work on the television agreement and the commitment to grow and showcase the championships.
- e. Banquet.** The team banquet was more interactive this year, which the participating teams welcomed. The individual banquet was outside, and the weather was too warm for participants. NCAA staff will use this feedback to assist future hosts.
- f. Officials.** The committee met with the co-head referees and thanked them for their work. There were no significant on-court issues during the championships. The new process of assigning super-regional officials was well received and the committee thanked the co-head referees for the additional time spent on this process.

Carole Cox has retired from her duties as co-head referee and the committee directed NCAA staff to create a replacement plan for her position. The committee supports a model with one head referee and two deputy referees for next year's championships.

## **5. 2020 championships.**

### **a. Team and individual selection criteria and procedures.**

- (1) Single-day match limit.** The committee discussed the ITA rule that allows only two matches to be played in one day. The committee will look to adopt this rule along with Division II and Division III. It would replace the current selection policy that states that teams are limited to counting only the first two dual matches in a single day as that is not feasible from a rankings and statistics perspective.
- (2) Review worksheet/weighting of categories.** The committee edited the selections worksheet to reflect that two points can be awarded for defeating the same opponent one or more times.
- (3) Rating Percentage Index.** NCAA staff provided tennis-specific RPI information to the committee for review and discussion. The committee will explore the possibility of using the RPI as a part of the selection process in the future.

- b. Lineup challenge procedures and timeline.** Next year the committee teleconference will be scheduled Wednesday night so that final lineups are available before the administrative meetings.
  - c. Broadcast update.** NCAA broadcast services staff met with the committee to discuss and seek feedback on potential options for the 2020 coverage at Oklahoma State University. The committee prioritized coverage of the finals, semifinals and then quarterfinals for both the team and individual championships.
  - d. Manuals.** The committee asked staff to make the necessary edits to all manuals.
  - e. Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the requests for automatic qualification. (See Action Item No. 2-a.)
- 6. Individual championships discussion.** The committee formed a subcommittee to create a strategic plan for the tennis championships. The committee directed this subcommittee to include the singles and doubles championships format in its discussion. It was suggested to begin with developing a survey to gain initial feedback from coaches.
  - 7. ITA updates.** ITA leadership met with the committee to discuss sportsmanship, the role of professional tennis in the college game, officiating, ITA rankings, and the future of the singles and doubles championships.
  - 8. Tennis committee composition.** Steve Rodecap was selected as the committee chair. (See Action Item No. 2-b.) Katy McNay, associate athletics director at Davidson College, was selected as the women's subcommittee chair.
  - 9. 2019-20 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed a draft of the 2019-20 committee calendar.
  - 10. 2023-2026 bid specifications review.** The committee made edits to the bid specifications including requiring six indoor courts, electronic scoreboards for each court and one large scoreboard for each set of six courts.
  - 11. Tennis playing rules and officiating.** As noted in the Action Items section above, in response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, the Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees discussed whether the sport would benefit from having an NCAA playing rules book and/or NCAA playing rules committee/subcommittee. Currently, the NCAA is responsible for the playing rules for 15 sports. However, there are 14 sports (including men's and women's tennis) in which the NCAA relies on an outside organization to manage the playing rules. Tennis relies on the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for the playing rules.

During its review of this issue, the committees noted:

- There is value in continuing to adhere to the playing rules developed by the ITA; however, the NCAA should be more involved in the rules-making process for tennis.
- NCAA Bylaws 21 and 31 stipulate that the playing rules and playing rules modifications in all sports must be the same across all three divisions (unless division-specific playing rules are warranted to address significant financial impact issues). There currently are 19 rules in the ITA rules book that are not the same for all three divisions.
- During its August 14 teleconference, PROP will consider allowing tennis to “grandfather in” these rules differences with the caveat that moving forward any rules changes must apply to all three divisions as required by Bylaws 21 and 31.
- Appointing a subcommittee has been used in the past in other sports. For example, the sports of swimming and diving, track and field, and wrestling previously had playing rules subcommittees before the NCAA membership approved stand-alone playing rules committees in 2012. The NCAA currently has a rules subcommittee in the sport of water polo.
- If appropriate, the NCAA would consider hiring a rules interpreter as an independent contractor to serve as a tennis rules expert. The rules interpreter would be a non-voting member of the subcommittee and the liaison between the ITA Rules Committee and the NCAA Tennis Rules Subcommittee. [Note: The NCAA currently has 16 secretary-rules editors who serve as the rules experts to the respective rules committee. The NCAA also currently has three rules interpreters who serve as the rules experts in the respective sport in which the NCAA does not write the playing rules or has a rules committee (field hockey, women’s gymnastics and rifle).]

*Committee Chair:* Elizabeth Schmidt, Rice University; Conference USA  
*Staff Liaisons:* John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances  
 Kelsey Jones, Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Tennis Committee July 8-9, 2019, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Devon Hendricks, University of Texas at Austin.	
Glenn Layendecker, West Coast Conference.	
D. Curtis Lawson, North Carolina Central University.	
Katy McNay, Davidson College.	
Jamie Mitchell, Colgate University.	
Brian Nester, Northern Kentucky University.	
Daniel Oosterhous, U.S. Air Force Academy.	

Steve Rodecap, Marquette University.
Eric Roedl, University of Oregon.
John Ruppert, Bryant University.
Elizabeth Schmidt, Rice University.
Maria Swanson, Big 12 Conference.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Cory Brooks, ITA. (via teleconference)
Carole Cox, Head Referee. (via teleconference)
Anthony Montero, Head Referee. (via teleconference)
Tim Russell, ITA. (via teleconference)
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Kelsey Jones, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Ashlee Follis, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Dan Calandro, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances.
Candace Martin, Championships and Alliances.