



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JULY 7-8, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEM.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- a. **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) **Recommendation.** That the following conferences receive automatic bids for the 2021 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.** 2020-21 academic year.
- (3) **Rationale.** **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended. The committee noted that the Horizon League will enter the first year of its grace period for the 2020-21 season with only five conference members for men's tennis, while the Western Athletic Conference will enter its first year of the grace period in 2020-21 with only five conference members each for men's and women's tennis.
- (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
- (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 2019 annual meeting report as written.
- 3. Review of Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Division I Council and Competition Oversight Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year.
- 4. Strategic plan.** The committee approved its first strategic plan for the championships to guide its actions in the coming years. The committee will annually review and update the document.
- 5. COVID-19 updates.** NCAA staff provided updates on initial return to championships planning.
- 6. 2021 championships.**
 - a. Team and individual selection criteria and procedures.** The committee recognized that with an abbreviated or canceled fall season due to the pandemic, selection criteria for the individual championships may need to be adjusted. The committee will continue to monitor and will be prepared to make changes as needed.
 - (1) Single-day match limit.** The committee discussed ITA rule I.B.7, passed in August 2019, that prohibits playing more than two dual matches against Division I opponents in one day. As the ITA rule now aligns with NCAA policy, the committee will eliminate its selection policy counting only the first two dual matches in a single day.
 - (2) Review worksheet/weighting of categories.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and process for the new committee members who did not have the opportunity to take part in the process yet.
 - (3) Rating Percentage Index.** The committee reviewed the tennis-specific RPI data from the 2019 season. The members affirmed their desire to explore the possibility of using the RPI as part of the selection process in the future.
 - (4) Pairings.** The committee reviewed feedback from the membership regarding current bracketing policies along with the recent Competition Oversight Committee affirmation of the current bracketing policies.

- b. Lineup challenge procedures and timeline.** The committee reviewed the lineup challenge procedures and timeline and made no changes.
 - c. Match times and order.** Due to the cancellation of the 2020 championships, the committee voted to retain the 2020 schedule and order for the 2021 championships, with women competing before the men. Going forward, women's championships events will begin first in odd-numbered years, and during even-numbered years, the men's championships events will begin first at preliminary rounds and the final site. This is a change from the previous order but protects gender equity by providing the women with priority at the next championship opportunity.
 - d. Broadcast update.** NCAA broadcast services staff met with the committee to discuss the current broadcast agreement with the United States Tennis Association. The committee expressed support for broadcasting the championships beyond the current three-year agreement that expires after the 2021 championships.
 - e. Manuals.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make the necessary updates for the pre-championships, committee operations, site representative, participant and host operations manuals.
 - f. Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the applications for automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
- 7. 2023-2026 site selection recommendations.** The committee reviewed all submitted bids and voted on its recommendations to forward to the Competition Oversight Committee for approval.
- 8. Division I Championships Finance Review.** The committee reviewed the working group's recommendations and discussed the impact on men's and women's tennis. The committee completed a survey to provide feedback to the working group and also submitted an alternate proposal to preserve opportunities in the individual championships for the working group to consider.
- 9. ITA updates.** ITA leadership met with the committee to discuss the Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group's recommendations, the impact of the pandemic on college tennis and the joint championships bid submitted by the USTA.
- 10. Tennis committee composition.**
- a. Rules subcommittee members.** The committee approved Marco Born, Jason Brough and Jamie Mitchell as new Division I representatives on the tennis rules subcommittee. The

committee thanked Katy McNay, Steve Rodecap and John Ruppert for their service on the inaugural rules subcommittee.

- b. Subcommittee chairs.** The committee selected Jamie Mitchell, associate athletics director at Colgate University, as the men's subcommittee chair and Glenn Layendecker, senior associate commissioner at the West Coast Conference, as the women's subcommittee chair.
- c. Overall committee chair.** The committee unanimously approved Mr. Mitchell as the overall committee chair.

11. 2020-21 committee calendar. The committee reviewed a draft of the 2020-21 committee calendar. The 2021 annual meeting will take place June 29-30 via videoconference.

12. Tennis playing rules and officiating.

- a. Rules subcommittee.** NCAA playing rules staff reviewed the progress of the inaugural tennis rules subcommittee's work. The subcommittee and the ITA will continue to collaborate on the rules process for college tennis.
- b. Officiating update.** The committee met with the head referee Anthony Montero, who provided an update on recent staffing changes. Isabelle Snyder is the new co-deputy referee. In addition, the committee would like to thank Brian Garman for his 40 years of dedicated service to officiating and court scheduling for the tennis championships. Andrew Rogers is the new co-deputy referee in charge of court scheduling. Mr. Montero also reviewed upcoming rules changes, specifically highlighting the elimination of the verbal appeal.

Committee Chair: Steve Rodecap, Marquette University; Big East Conference

Staff Liaisons: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee July 7-8, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Marco Born, Lamar University.	
Jason Brough, University of Portland.	
Devon Hendricks, University of Texas at Austin.	
Glenn Layendecker, West Coast Conference.	
D. Curtis Lawson, North Carolina Central University.	
Gretchen Maloney, Idaho State University.	
Katy McNay, Davidson College.	

Jamie Mitchell, Colgate University.
Cathy Rossi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
Sonya Varnell, The University of Southern Mississippi.
Steve Rodecap, Marquette University.
John Ruppert, Bryant University.
Guests in Attendance:
Cory Brooks, ITA. (via teleconference)
Anthony Montero, Head Referee. (via teleconference)
Dave Mullins, ITA. (via teleconference)
Tim Russell, ITA. (via teleconference)
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jay Fitzwater, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.