



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 21-22, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING**

**Action Items:** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will be asked to approve the automatic qualifying conferences (see Action Item 2-a) and to restrict any matches played outside of a conference tournament by a conference member from counting for selection purposes once the conference tournament begins (see Action Item 2-b).

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
2. **Regular-season matches after the start of conference tournaments.** The committee requests approval to restrict any matches played outside of a conference tournament by a conference member from counting for selection purposes once the conference tournament begins. (See Action Item 2-b.)
3. **Fall individual championships.** The committee will seek membership feedback on a proposal to move the individual singles and doubles championships from the spring to the fall.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic bids for the 2023 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships (31 conferences for the women's championships and 29 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 (women's only); 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. 2022-23 academic year.

- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. The committee noted that the Ohio Valley Conference will enter the first year of its grace period for the 2022-23 season with only five conference members for women's tennis. The Horizon League and Southland Conference have added the requisite number of members in men's tennis to exit the grace period after two years and one year, respectively. The Ohio Valley Conference no longer has an automatic qualifier for men's tennis for the 2022-23 academic year.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Regular-season matches after the start of conference tournaments.**

- (1) Recommendation. That once a conference tournament begins, any matches played outside of the tournament by a member of that conference shall no longer be counted for purposes of selection to the NCAA Division I Men's or Women's Tennis Championships.
- (2) Effective date. 2022-23 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. As the selections for the Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships are primarily driven by the ITA ranking algorithm, there is a concern that teams on the bubble for selections that have been eliminated from their conference tournament or have completed their conference tournament could add a match in order to improve their ITA ranking for championships selection. The committee feels strongly that the regular season should end at the start of a team's conference tournament. It should be noted the committee is not against teams wishing to play additional non-tournament matches after the start of their conference tournament, but believes those results should not be included in the ITA rankings calculations or other selection criteria. When this scenario happened in 2021, the committee received negative feedback from the membership, and it was requested that the committee find a solution. The committee notes the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee, which has a similar mathematics-based selection, had submitted a proposal anticipating this scenario. Given the tennis committee has experienced this scenario, in which a team had the opportunity to add a match after its elimination from its conference tournament and was subsequently selected into the NCAA championship field over another team that did not have that opportunity, it believes this is a fair and equitable solution.
- (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 2021 annual meeting report as written.
3. **Review of NCAA Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Division I Council and Competition Oversight Committee took at its recent meeting.
4. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the strategic plan that guides its actions in the coming years and revised its goals to better reflect the changing landscape and focus of the Division I tennis membership. Specifically, the committee added bracketing integrity policies, student-athlete experience enhancements, and officiating logistics and payment as new goals. The committee will annually review and update the document.
5. **Fall individual championships.** A year ago, the USTA and ITA staff presented a joint proposal to move the singles and doubles championships from the spring to the fall with a November championship. The committee formed a subcommittee and met frequently to vet and refine the proposal in collaboration with the ITA and USTA. The ITA formed a task force of member coaches to further refine the selection process over the last few months with feedback from the committee.

The committee reviewed and discussed the recent work of the ITA task force and asked the ITA staff questions. The committee modified the allocated spots to the ITA All-American tournament and the ITA Masters tournament.

The committee now has enough information to seek membership feedback and develop a survey to send to all head coaches to provide feedback to the committee before its final vote in August. The committee will collaborate with the ITA staff on the survey with a goal to send it in early July.

6. **Review of 2022 championships.**
  - a. **Team and individual selection criteria and procedures.**
    - (1) **Review worksheet/weighting of categories.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and modified the "Wins vs. Teams (or Individuals) Already Selected at Time

of Consideration” criterion as follows (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added): “A one-point margin ~~may be~~ **is** sufficient to win the category. The committee will award ~~a maximum of~~ one point for **each win over** ~~defeating~~ the same opponent ~~multiple times~~. Defeating the same ranked opponent multiple times should be credited as a unique ranked win and not discounted.”

- (2) **Selection criteria – team and individual.** The committee discussed the current selection criteria and made no additional modifications. The committee asked NCAA staff to run the rating percentage index with data from the 2021-22 season to compare to the RPI data from the 2018-19 season.
  - (3) **Team tournament bracketing policies.** The committee reviewed membership feedback regarding dissatisfaction with the current Division I championships bracketing policies and agreed that a change is necessary. The current policies prioritize geographic proximity over bracket integrity. The committee learned about the recent action taken by the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to run a pilot for two fall sports that prioritizes bracket integrity for the top 50% of the bracket. The committee supports this pilot and is interested in being included in any modifications to the bracketing policies that would prioritize bracket integrity.
  - (4) **Individual tournament bracketing policies.** The committee discussed different models for the individual tournament draws and directed the court scheduler and head official to run some examples of the individual singles draw adding the 17-32 seeds and the 8-16 seeds in the doubles draw to the current block seeding model. The committee will evaluate and review before determining if a recommendation is appropriate.
- b. **Preliminary-round and finals site evaluations and review.** The committee reviewed participant, host, officials and site representative feedback from the preliminary-round and finals sites and noted comments on hotels, inclement weather, the draw, the banquet and streaming.
  - c. **Preliminary-rounds and finals web stream on TennisONE.** NCAA broadcast staff met with the committee to review viewership metrics from the TennisONE app. The 2022 championships marked the second year of a partnership with TennisONE and the first time all matches throughout the team and individual tournament were streamed on one platform providing 536,000 hours of live streams across 27 different sites. The committee applauded TennisONE for providing exemplary championship coverage. The committee's priority is to continue to grow the streaming and broadcast coverage of the championships.
  - d. **Social media metrics.** The committee commended the NCAA social media team for its efforts to enhance the championships coverage with features on student-athletes and

coaches, along with spotlighting the Elite 90 winners with a short video and ncaa.com article. The student-athletes and coaches appreciated the efforts. In addition, the committee appreciated the efforts of the TennisONE social media team providing content throughout the championships to highlight the achievements of the participating teams. The committee supports these enhanced efforts and hopes they continue going forward.

- e. **Preliminary-rounds match times and order.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round match times and order document and discussed feedback from hosts that would like to choose whether to play the first or second match. The committee determined it would maintain the current policy of the host competing in the second match to avoid gamesmanship and for attendance purposes. The committee was pleased with the first year without 9 a.m. match times at preliminary rounds.
- f. **Individual and team tournament practice and match times.** The committee affirmed that team practice times are predetermined and assigned based on match times, and a team cannot move their assigned practice time. The committee received negative feedback on the individual tournament practice scheduling and will examine the possibility of hiring a practice court scheduler who would be consistent each year and familiar with the scheduling policies. It is too important and complex a role and process for an inexperienced individual to manage appropriately. The committee also noted the individual who fulfills this role in Orlando, Florida, had success in 2019 and 2021 and should be considered for the role. The committee also noted feedback from the head official that the individual match times were within 20 minutes of their scheduled time, which is excellent compared to other tournaments.
- g. **Lineup challenge procedures and timeline.** The committee reviewed the lineup challenge procedures, form and timeline and recommended no changes. The committee noted the success of the reminder from the ITA sent to all coaches about the lineup submission deadline before selection.
- h. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the new committee responsibilities document after its first year. The committee will review this document before the championships and the committee chairs and staff will assign specific responsibilities to committee members. Committee members will be assigned to specific teams to serve as team liaisons on-site to better communicate with the coaches.
- i. **Inclement weather.** The 2022 championships experienced inclement weather at numerous sites throughout all rounds of the event. The committee reviewed the various weather rules in the ITA Rulebook, along with a review of decisions made throughout the tournament. The committee will continue to discuss and prepare for the 2023 championships. In particular, the committee noted the participant and host manuals will specify that the

NCAA and hosts will use all available resources, not just weather.com, to help with inclement weather decisions during the tournament.

- j. **Hotels.** The committee reviewed feedback from the preliminary rounds and final site on hotels. Specifically, the committee noted the challenges to smaller market final sites and will add weight to hotel level and inventory in the review of future bids.
- k. **Merchandise sales.** The committee reviewed the merchandise sales reports from the championships as informational. The committee noted inclement weather at many sites throughout the tournament negatively impacted sales.

**7. 2023 championships action plan.**

- a. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the applications for automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
- b. **Regular-season matches after the start of conference tournaments.** (See Action Item 2-b.)
- c. **Team and individual banquets.** The committee discussed feedback on the banquets and noted the call for an interactive element or brief program. NCAA staff will reach out to the ITA on any interest in presenting student-athlete awards at the individual banquet as has been done previously. The committee will reinforce that the banquets are required. The committee and staff will work with the USTA to improve the banquet experience for 2023.
- d. **Officials fees.** The committee reviewed feedback from tournament officials and the head referee noting the low pay for the NCAA championships in comparison to regular-season competition. The committee voted to increase the officials fees for preliminary-round sites from \$114 per match to \$150 per match for chair umpires and from \$158 per match to \$175 per match for head referees. The host stipends will be increased to accommodate this as follows:

Round	2021-22 Stipend	2022-23 Stipend
First- and Second-Round Single-Gender Host	\$5,100	\$5,800
First- and Second-Round Dual-Gender Host	\$9,200	\$10,600
Super-Regional Single-Gender Host	\$2,500	\$2,800
Super-Regional Dual-Gender Host	\$4,500	\$5,000

- e. **All-tournament team selection criteria.** The committee added the super-regional round results for teams at the final site to the criteria for all-tournament team selection citing the need for more results to be considered.
  - f. **2022-23 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed a draft of the 2022-23 committee calendar. The 2023 annual meeting will take place June 27-28 in Indianapolis.
  - g. **Manuals.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make the necessary updates to the pre-championships, committee operations, site representative, participant and host operations manuals.
8. **Future sites.**
- a. **2023 joint championship schedule and logistics.** The committee reviewed the proposed schedule of events in Orlando and emphasized the importance of keeping the paired matches as close to each other as possible.
  - b. **Championship format review.** The committee discussed membership feedback on the super-regional round and considered the pros and cons of this format after its second year. The committee members determined they will continue to accept feedback from the membership but recommended no changes at this time. The committee also discussed the merits of potential rain days to be added to the championships final site but noted the 2023 championships schedule already includes a day off between the team final and the start of the individual championships due to the joint championships format. The committee will evaluate its effectiveness.
  - c. **Preliminary-round bid specifications.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round bid questionnaire completed by prospective hosts and included questions on when the courts were last resurfaced and about live video capabilities with score overlay and ambient sound. The committee discussed other minimum standards such as the number of indoor courts but made no other changes.
  - d. **2026-30 finals site bid specifications.** The committee will work on revising the 2026-30 finals site bid specifications in preparation for a summer 2023 launch of the next bid process. The committee will add broadcast requirements to the bid specifications.
9. **ITA updates.** ITA staff met with the committee to discuss the fall individual championships proposal and answer committee members' questions related to the proposal, its development and general support from the ITA membership. ITA staff provided membership feedback on the importance of a linear broadcast agreement for the championships. Lastly, ITA staff

provided an update on the challenge to officiating numbers and reviewed their efforts to address this challenge going forward.

**10. USTA updates.** USTA staff met with the committee to review the 2022 championships and provide updates on planned improvements for the 2023 championships. The USTA recognizes the importance of linear broadcast coverage of the championships. The USTA is looking forward to hosting a celebration of college tennis with the joint championships in 2023.

**11. Tennis committee composition.**

- a. Rules subcommittee members.** The committee approved Gretchen Maloney, head women's tennis coach at Idaho State University, as a new Division I representative on the tennis rules subcommittee. The committee thanked Curtis Lawson, director of tennis at North Carolina Central University, for his service on this subcommittee.
- b. Subcommittee chairs.** The committee selected Cathy Rossi, deputy athletics director at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as the women's subcommittee chair. Devon Hendricks, assistant athletics director at the University of Texas at Austin, will continue as the men's subcommittee chair.
- c. Overall committee chair.** The committee unanimously approved Devon Hendricks as the overall committee chair.

**12. Tennis playing rules and officiating.**

- a. Rules subcommittee.** The committee reviewed the progress of the tennis rules subcommittee's work, along with the potential rules changes for 2022-23 season. The subcommittee and the ITA will continue to collaborate on the rules process for college tennis.
- b. Officiating update.** The committee met with the finals site head referee who provided a review of officiating throughout the championships, including information on average match times at the finals site, chair umpire performance, positive feedback on the match court scheduler, feedback on challenges and potential solutions with the umpire and head official assigning process for the super-regional round, and feedback on the umpire pay rate for preliminary rounds. The head official also requested feedback from the committee on different models for the singles and doubles draws.



*Committee Chair:* Glenn Layendecker, West Coast Conference  
*Staff Liaisons:* John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances  
 Michelle Perry, Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee June 21-22, 2022, Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Jason Brough, University of Portland.
Devon Hendricks, University of Texas at Austin.
Sofia Hiort-Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Glenn Layendecker, West Coast Conference.
D. Curtis Lawson, North Carolina Central University.
Gretchen Maloney, Idaho State University.
Cristina Moros, University of South Florida.
Jon Palumbo, University of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.
Mike Penner, The Ohio State University.
Peter Pilling, Columbia University-Barnard College.
Cathy Rossi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
Sonya Varnell, The University of Southern Mississippi (virtually).
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Cory Brooks, ITA (virtually).
Tim Cass, USTA (virtually).
Elissa Hill, USTA (virtually).
Anthony Montero, Head Official (virtually).
Dave Mullins, ITA (virtually).
Tim Russell, ITA (virtually).
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Michelle Perry, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Kerstin Hunter, Kristen Jacob Smith (virtually), Julie Kimmons (virtually).