



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JUNE 27-28, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

Action Items: The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will be asked to support a legislative proposal regarding an exemption for postseason season-ending event (see Action Item 1); approve the automatic qualifying conferences (see Action Item 2-a), approve adding men's and women's tennis to the bracketing pilot program (see Action Item 2-b), and approve Baylor University as host of the 2024 singles and doubles championships (see Action Item 2-c).

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Postseason season-ending event.** The committee requests support of a legislative proposal to expand the annual exemptions for a postseason season-ending event. (See Action Item 1.)
2. **Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
3. **Bracketing pilot.** The committee requests approval to be added to the bracketing pilot. (See Action Item 2-b.)
4. **2024 singles and doubles championships site selection.** The committee requests that Baylor University be approved as the host of the 2024 singles and doubles championships. (See Action Item 2-c.)
5. **Fall individual championships.** The committee continues to refine the details of the two-year fall singles and doubles championships pilot. (See Informational Item 5.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative item.**

- **Postseason season-ending event.**

(1) Recommendation. Ask the NCAA Division I Council to introduce legislation to amend NCAA Bylaw 17.23.5.3-b to allow a student-athlete to participate in both a postseason team event and a postseason individual event under the annual exemptions.

(2) Effective date. 2023-24 academic year.

(3) Rationale. Collegiate tennis is unique in that it offers separate team and individual championships. Currently, the NCAA bylaws allow a student-athlete to compete with their team in the NCAA Division I team championships and as a singles and/or doubles participant in the NCAA Division I individual singles and doubles championships. The proposal above expands that policy to include a non-NCAA championship event.

Additionally, the NCAA singles and doubles championships are currently populated by both NCAA team championship participants and non-NCAA team championship participants. This current legislation forces coaches to decide between playing their top players in a postseason NIT event or in the NCAA singles and/or doubles championships but not both. This places the team participating in a postseason NIT event at a distinct disadvantage if the team must participate in the event without their best players, or the coach is forced to decline an invitation to a postseason NIT event so that their top players maintain eligibility to compete in the NCAA singles and/or doubles championships. This proposal originated with and has the support of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (tennis coaches association).

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This would have a positive student-athlete impact because a student-athlete or coach would not be forced to choose between individual participation in the NCAA singles and doubles championships and playing with their team in an NIT tournament.

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 28 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 (women's only); 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. 2023-24 academic year.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. The committee noted that the Ohio Valley Conference will enter the second year of its grace period for the 2023-24 season with only five conference members for women's tennis. The Big South Conference and Western Athletic Conference will enter the first year of the grace

period for the 2023-24 season with only five conference members for men's tennis. Conference USA no longer has an automatic qualifier for men's tennis for the 2023-24 academic year with only four conference members.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Bracketing pilot.

(1) Recommendation. Add Division I men's and women's tennis to the 50% bracketing pilot program for the 2023-24 academic year.

(2) Effective date. 2023-24 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The committee supports the 50% bracketing pilot being tested by women's soccer and women's volleyball. The Division I tennis membership is dissatisfied with the current bracketing policies and supports the pilot program. The committee continues to experience challenges with the bracket with uneven distribution of team strength across sites due to geographic proximity superseding all other factors; therefore, providing more challenging pathways for some and less challenging pathways for others.

(4) Estimated budget impact. There is no impact on the NCAA national office budget since travel and per diem for first and second rounds are not reimbursed by the NCAA. The added expense will be on the institutions that fly. It is estimated that there would be additional flights.

(5) Student-athlete impact. A more equitable seeding for the top half of the bracket and assurance that each site has a team from each quadrant would provide an improved student-athlete experience. It also would help to avoid teams with limited geographic options having to play the same opponents year after year.

c. 2024 singles and doubles site selection.

(1) Recommendation. Award hosting the first year of the fall singles and doubles championship pilot to Baylor University.

(2) Effective date. 2024-25 academic year.

- (3) Rationale. Baylor was selected to host the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships as part of the 2023-2026 site selection process. With the change to the two-year fall pilot for the singles and doubles championships, the committee determined it would retain Baylor as the host after receiving confirmation from the Big 12 Conference that there would be no home football game that weekend in Waco, Texas.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. The budget impact already is accounted for in the original proposal. There may be some cost savings with using the same site for the singles and doubles and team championships in the same year.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Baylor is committed to providing an excellent student-athlete experience for the first year of the fall singles and doubles pilot.

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 2022 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 their recent meetings.
- 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 will focus on a consistent platform for championship information, execution and promotion of the fall singles and doubles championships pilot, and improved student-athlete and fan experiences throughout the championships. The committee will annually review and update the document.
- 5. Fall individual championships.** The committee reviewed the ongoing work of the collaborative effort with the ITA task force on the fall singles and doubles championships pilot planning. With the ITA's recently approved increase from 12 to 13 regions for the 2024-25 season, the committee approved a revision to the distribution of qualifying spots in singles and doubles at the four qualifying pathway tournaments as follows:

Qualifying Event	Singles Qualifiers (Original)	Singles Qualifiers (Revised)	Doubles Qualifiers (Original)	Doubles Qualifiers (Revised)
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ITA All-American Championships	8	10	4	4
ITA Regional Championships	24	26	12	13
ITA Masters Championships	8	4	4	3
ITA Super Regional Championships	24	24	12	12

The ITA added the 13th region to better balance the number of teams among regions. In the 12-region model, one region had significantly more teams than the others. This even distribution will provide a more equitable and fair opportunity for student-athletes to advance via the ITA Regional Championships pathway. To accommodate the additional region with maintaining the premise that each region will advance two singles qualifiers and one doubles qualifier to the NCAA championships, the committee redistributed two singles qualifiers and one doubles qualifier from the ITA Masters Championships to the ITA Regional Championships. In addition, the committee reallocated two singles qualifiers from the ITA Masters Championships to the ITA All-American Championships to reflect the stronger field at the ITA All-American Championships, which features a larger bracket (128 singles at All-American vs. 31 women's singles/29 men's singles at the ITA Masters Championships). The committee felt there was too much weight on the ITA Masters Championships with a significantly smaller field size (a quarter of the field could advance via one event).

The committee reviewed the qualifying parameters for the pathway events and will provide the following feedback to the ITA:

- The ITA Masters Championships field should include only one representative from each conference and no additional at-large or wildcard spots. If there are only 31 women's AQ conferences and 28 men's AQ conferences for the NCAA team championships, the ITA Masters field size will match that in a given year. The highest seeds will receive a first-round bye.
- There should be no host wildcards for the ITA Regional Championships, but the committee supports a host wildcard for the ITA Super Regional Championships hosts.

The committee agreed to continue to collaborate with the ITA task force on the following topics: qualifying pathway hosting criteria/selection, championship timeline, alternate list and seeding. The committee set a goal of late September to review the next phase.

6. Review of 2023 championships.

a. Team and individual selection criteria and procedures.

- (1) **Review worksheet/weighting of categories.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria worksheet and weighting of categories and made no changes.
- (2) **Selection criteria – team and individual.** The committee discussed the current selection criteria and modified the evaluation of the “Results vs. Common Opponents” criterion as follows (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added): ~~Other than in cases in which the common opponent analysis is evident (each team or individual has played a common opponent with one team or individual winning and one team or individual losing), the committee will look very closely at the comparison before deciding whether one team or individual has demonstrated a higher level of play versus a common opponent. This is a comparison of the results between two teams against common opponents. The team with the better winning percentage against common opponents will win the category with a maximum of one point awarded.~~

The committee changed from the current evaluation method to the aggregate method to better account for all results with common opponents, which is how many other sport committees evaluate the criterion.

The committee asked NCAA staff to provide a list of the selection criteria used by other sports committees to evaluate at a future meeting. In addition, the committee asked NCAA staff to investigate options for improving the efficiency of the selection process.

- (3) **Bracketing policies.** The committee continues to hear feedback on the current Division I bracketing policies and is interested in joining the pilot program for the 2023-24 academic year, noting that there is no cost to the NCAA since first- and second-round travel is not reimbursed. (See Action Item 2-b.)

- 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, scoreboards and live scoring and streaming.
- c. Broadcast and web stream.** NCAA broadcast staff met with the committee to review viewership metrics from the various platforms including Cracked Racquets on YouTube, NCAA.com and the Tennis Channel. The committee's priority is to continue to grow the streaming and broadcast coverage of the championships.

- d. **Preliminary-round match times and order.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round match times and order document and discussed feedback from participants regarding inclement weather decisions at dual-gender super-regional sites. There were three dual-gender super-regional sites this year, whereas there had been only one previous dual-gender site host in tournament history. The committee voted to change the dual-gender super-regional options to mandate the matches be played on separate days and that they must be played in the order of the gender that goes first at the championship in that given year, similar to what is already required at the first and second rounds.
- e. **Lineup challenge procedures and timeline.** The committee reviewed the lineup challenge procedures, form and timeline and discussed potential changes to the process, including consistency with the regular season and no longer allowing the challenger to be anonymous. The committee agreed to do some further work before any vote.
- f. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee will review the committee responsibilities document at a future meeting in the next academic year.
- g. **Inclement weather.** The 2023 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 and its priorities for decisions. The committee will continue to discuss and prepare for the 2024 championships. In particular, the committee will encourage site representatives to prioritize communication with coaches regarding weather decisions.
- h. **Hotels.** The committee reviewed feedback from the preliminary rounds and final site on hotels.
- i. **Practice requirements.** The committee reviewed host feedback from preliminary rounds and asked that visiting teams be reminded that the host is responsible for providing practice two days before competition on the match courts. The committee will add language to the host operations manuals to prohibit visiting teams from practicing on the match courts more than two days before competition at all rounds of the tournament. This is a long-standing policy at the finals site and needs reinforced at preliminary-round sites.
- j. **Merchandise sales.** The committee reviewed the merchandise sales reports from the championships as informational.

7. 2024 championships action plan.

- a. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the applications for automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)

- b. Schedule of events.** The committee discussed the championship schedule of events and supports developing a schedule with consecutive matches instead of simultaneous matches to better manage the schedule in the event of inclement weather, such as what was experienced the last two years. The committee will be flexible based on any potential broadcast opportunities.
- c. Team and individual banquets.** The committee discussed the positive feedback on the team banquet and on the student-athlete gift in lieu of an individual banquet. The committee discussed potential ideas for next year in Stillwater, Oklahoma, with the future host and will move forward with a similar model for 2024.
- d. Officials' fees.** The committee reviewed feedback from tournament officials and the head referee and noted positive feedback on the increase in pay and efficient payment for the super regionals and finals site via RefQuest. This marked the first year the NCAA national office paid the super-regional officials instead of the hosts. The committee agrees that the pay rate is still low compared to regular-season competition and voted to increase the officials' fees for preliminary-round sites from \$150 to \$155 per match for chair umpires and from \$175 to \$180 per match for head referees. The host stipends will be increased to accommodate this as follows:

Round	2022-23 Stipend	2023-24 Stipend
First- and Second-Round Single-Gender Host	\$5,800	\$5,900
First- and Second-Round Dual-Gender Host	\$10,600	\$10,800

The committee also agreed on a \$200 raise per official at the finals site as there has been no increase since 2019. The recommended increases are pending review of budget allocations for 2023-2024 with the finals site increase having priority.

- e. Credentials.** The committee agreed to add two team personnel credentials per team for the team tournament to the current allotment citing increased institutional staff traveling to the championship and the need to maintain similar experiences for the competing student-athletes as they receive during the regular season. The additional team personnel credentials provide access to the courts before and after matches but not during the matches. The additional team personnel credentials do not include travel or per diem reimbursement.
- f. All-tournament team selection criteria.** The committee added all preliminary-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 to differentiate performance.

- g. **2022-23 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed a draft of the 2023-24 committee calendar. The 2024 annual meeting will take place June 25-26 in Indianapolis.
- h. **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. **2024 and 2025 singles and doubles championships sites.** Based on interest and availability, the committee determined to award the 2024 fall singles and doubles championships to Baylor University (see Action Item 2-c). The committee agreed to contact bidders from the 2023-2026 site selection process regarding their interest in hosting the 2025 fall singles and doubles championships.
- 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 third year. The committee members determined they will continue to accept feedback from the membership but recommended no changes at this time. The committee will continue discussing ideas to improve the student-athlete experience at the super-regional round.
- c. **Preliminary-round bid specifications.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round bid specifications and made no other changes but challenged hosts to focus on and improve the student-athlete experience.
- d. **2026-30 finals site bid specifications.** The committee discussed revisions to the 2026-30 finals site bid specifications in preparation for a summer 2023 launch of the next bid cycle.

9. ITA updates. ITA staff met with the committee to provide an update on data and results collection, rankings, playing rules, sportsmanship, officiating and broadcasting. The committee also discussed and supported the ITA legislative proposal on postseason play (see Action Item 1). The committee and ITA continue to collaborate on the fall singles and doubles championship pilot.

10. United State Tennis Association updates. USTA staff met with the committee to review the 2023 joint championships hosted at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida. The committee thanked the USTA staff for their dedication and commitment to hosting a first-of-its-kind event and highlighted the many successes and positive feedback. The USTA staff and the committee discussed a few areas for improvement should the USTA host again in the future – indoor courts, shade, scoring, scoreboards. The USTA staff also provided an update on the restructured college tennis department and focus on education.

11. Tennis committee composition.

- a. **Rules subcommittee members.** The committee approved Courtney Nagle, head women's tennis coach at the University of Oregon, and Chris Young, director of tennis at Oklahoma State University, as the new Division I representatives on the tennis rules subcommittee. The committee thanked Gretchen Maloney, head women's tennis coach at Idaho State University, and Jason Brough, senior associate athletics director at the University of Portland, for their service on this subcommittee.
- b. **Overall committee chair.** The committee unanimously approved Mike Penner, executive associate athletics director at The Ohio State University, as the overall committee chair. He will remain as men's subcommittee chair. Cathy Rossi, deputy athletics director at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will remain as the women's subcommittee 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 2023-24 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 positive feedback on the RefQuest payment system, the umpire and head official assigning process for the super-regional round, and the umpire pay rate for preliminary rounds.

13. Other business. The committee reviewed a potential misconduct from the 2023 championships.

Committee Chair: Cathy Rossi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Horizon League
Staff Liaisons: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee June 27-28, 2023, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jimmy Borendame, Middle Tennessee State University.	
Jason Brough, University of Portland (virtually).	
Sofia Hiort-Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University.	
George Husack, University of Alabama.	
Gretchen Maloney, Idaho State University (virtually).	
Cristina Moros, University of South Florida.	
Courtney Nagle, University of Oregon.	
Mike Penner, The Ohio State University.	
Peter Pilling, Columbia University-Barnard College (virtually).	
Chris Young, Oklahoma State University.	
Absentees:	
Kimberly Gallow, University of New Orleans.	
Cathy Rossi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Cory Brooks, ITA (virtually).	
Elissa Hill, USTA (virtually).	
Anthony Montero, Head Referee (virtually).	
Dave Mullins, ITA (virtually).	
Andrew Rogers, Deputy Referee (virtually).	
Tim Russell, ITA (virtually).	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Antonio Cannavaro, Kerstin Hunter, Kristen Jacob Smith (virtually), Jean Merrill (virtually).	