



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JUNE 25-26, 2024, 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), approve 50% seeding for bracketing men's and women's tennis (see Action Item 2-b) and approve implementing a penalty at selection for exceeding legislated countable contests (see Action Item 2-c).

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
2. **Bracketing with 50% seeding.** The committee requests approval to use the 50% seeding bracketing policies. (See Action Item 2-b.)
3. **Penalty for exceeding countable contests at selection.** The committee requests approval of a new penalty at selection for teams that exceed the legislated countable contests limit. (See Action Item 2-c.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic bids for the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships (30 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; Coastal 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); 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. 2024-25 academic year.

- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. The Big South, Conference USA and the WAC will enter the second year of grace period for the 2024-25 season for men's tennis. The Northeast Conference will enter the first year of grace period for the 2024-25 season for women's tennis. The Pac-12 Conference no longer has automatic qualifiers for men's and women's tennis.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Bracketing with 50% seeding.

- (1) Recommendation. Add Division I men's and women's tennis to the championships eligible for the 50% seeding bracketing policies established for women's volleyball and women's soccer.
- (2) Effective date. 2024-25 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The committee supports the 50% bracketing pilot recently tested and formalized by women's soccer and women's volleyball. The Division I tennis membership is dissatisfied with the current bracketing policies and continues to advocate for tennis to enjoy the new policies. The formalization of the pilot for those sports emphasizes that the policies are well-received and supported by the membership. Expansion to other sports is the next logical step. 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 institutions that fly. It is estimated there could be a few additional flights. The committee notes the smaller travel parties for tennis (13), as well as just one round of travel as having a small impact on institutional budgets in exchange for a significant impact on the integrity of the bracket. Anecdotal feedback to the committee reveals some teams are flying anyway, even though they are within driving distance, due to the ease and comfort of air travel.
- (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 in some instances.

c. Selection penalty for exceeding countable contest limits.

- (1) Recommendation. Implement a penalty to a team at selection for exceeding the legislated countable contest limits. The proposed penalty is to remove the highest ITA ranked win per match exceeding the limit (and replace with its next best ranked win) and assess a fine per match exceeding the limit.
- (2) Effective date. 2024-25 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The selection process for Division I tennis is a highly transparent and objective process based on the defined selection criteria – ITA rankings, head-to-head results, wins vs. in and results vs. common opponents. With a mathematical and objective selection, coaches have figured out how to calculate the impact of a win or loss on their team's position in relation to selection.

During this recent season, a team was reported to have exceeded the legislated number of countable contests for Division I tennis. For Division I, this is an enforcement issue with no impact on selection that provides for a penalty to be carried out next season. In the other two divisions, there are penalties (nullification) that directly impact selection to stand as a deterrent. In the case of Division I tennis, a team can exceed the number of countable contests to gain an advantage at selection with no enforceable penalty for the season the advantage is gained.

The committee notes this is a serious issue that can negatively impact teams that play by the rules by potentially being left out of selection or having their seeding impacted. The proposed penalty of removing the violating team's highest-ranked ITA win from its resume (replacing it with its next best ranked win) would be a serious deterrent with a measurable impact. A fine would also demonstrate the seriousness of the infraction. The committee also emphasizes that the penalty should impact only the team that exceeded the limit and not the teams that played the offending team. For example, if the offending team had a final ITA ranking of 25 but the penalty of removing its highest-ranked win dropped its ranking to 32, the teams that played the offending team would still be credited with beating the number 25 ranked team.

The committee expects this process to continue operating through the enforcement staff, as it does in the other two divisions. An issue would need to be reported to the enforcement staff as usual, not to the championship staff. The penalty would be

calculated manually by the ITA staff who manages the selection data and rankings once the enforcement staff has made a decision.

The challenge to this is timing of any such report before selection. The committee would implement an attestation at the start of each conference tournament for each head coach to confirm that they did not exceed the countable contest limit. Failure to complete the attestation would result in a \$500 fine. Inaccurate reporting of the attestation would result in a \$1,500 fine per match exceeding the limit (i.e., the coach attests the team did not exceed but is subsequently found to have exceeded).

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will help deter a team from exceeding the countable contest limit to gain an advantage at selection and thus ensuring the integrity of selection process.

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 2023 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. 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. **Review of 2024 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 reviewed the selection criteria and made no changes. The committee supported continuing the recent change to the evaluation of common opponents.

(3) **Bracketing policies.** The committee continues to hear feedback on the current Division I bracketing policies and requested the 50% seeding bracketing policies used by women's soccer and women's volleyball, noting that there is no cost to the NCAA since first- and second-round travel is not reimbursed. (See Action Item 2-b.)

b. **Impact of countable contests on selection.** See Action Item 2-c.

c. **Preliminary-round and finals site evaluations.** The committee reviewed participant, host, officials and site representative feedback from the preliminary-round and finals sites. The committee recognized the excellent hosting efforts of the staff at Oklahoma State University at the finals site.

d. **Preliminary-round match times and order.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round match times and order and made no changes.

e. **Evaluation of new lineup challenge process and timing.** The committee reviewed the lineup challenge procedures and timeline and agreed that the recent changes from last year should continue. The committee also recognized staff for the newly automated online lineup challenge process with the Tennis Lineups application that improved efficiency.

f. **Awards.** The committee directed NCAA staff to provide an awards ceremony script to super-regional hosts for the super-regional champion trophy and noted that the non-advancing team is not required to be present for the ceremony at that round. The site representative should present the awards.

g. **All-tournament team selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and made no changes, noting it was pleased with the changes from last year to include results from all rounds in the evaluation.

h. **Credentials.** The committee reviewed the credential policies and made no changes, noting the success of the recent additions to the team credential allotment. The committee will educate coaches on credential access for team personnel during the administrative meeting.

i. **Hotels.** The committee reviewed feedback from the preliminary rounds and finals site.

- j. **Inclement weather.** The 2024 championships experienced inclement weather at numerous sites throughout the preliminary rounds. The committee was pleased with staff management of inclement weather policies and procedures throughout the tournament.
 - k. **Practice requirements.** The committee reviewed positive host feedback from preliminary rounds on the recent emphasis to prohibit visiting teams from practicing on the match courts more than two days before competition at all rounds of the tournament. The committee agreed to continue this policy.
 - l. **Broadcast and web stream.** NCAA broadcast staff met with the committee to review preliminary-round and finals site coverage with Cracked Racquets and ESPN+, as well as improvements to the selection show. Broadcast staff noted the 2024-25 season marks the beginning of the Division I Tennis Championships (team championships) inclusion in the ESPN broadcast agreement for the next eight years. The committee and broadcast staff will also work on coverage for the singles and doubles championships. The committee's priority is to continue to improve the streaming and broadcast coverage of the championships.
 - m. **Merchandise sales.** The committee reviewed the merchandise sales reports from the championships as informational.
 - n. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee will review the committee responsibilities document at a future meeting in the next academic year.
6. **2025 championships action plan.**
- a. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed and approved the applications for automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
 - b. **Schedule of events.** The committee discussed the championships schedule of events and supported maintaining the consecutive match schedule for the team championships with start times of 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. for quarterfinals and semifinals and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. for finals. The three hours between match times will help the event stay closer to schedule. The committee will be flexible based on any potential broadcast opportunities.
 - c. **Preliminary-round prematch timing.** The committee will review proposals related to memorializing preliminary-round prematch timing for the host operations manuals at a future meeting. The goal is to provide better guidance to host tournament managers and site representatives on commonly asked questions.
 - d. **Adherence to practice court assignments policy.** Based on repeated incidents at the finals site over recent years, the committee voted to implement strict penalties for non-

adherence to practice time and court assignments during the team championships. Practices that begin or end after the allotted time and/or that take place on courts other than those assigned by the committee will result in a misconduct for the head coach, a \$500 fine, a letter to the director of athletics and a 10-minute reduction to the team's next practice. All penalties will be applied per offense.

- e. **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. During the two-year fall singles and doubles championship pilot, the committee will reinstate the singles and doubles banquet with required attendance and will work with the host to provide a memorable experience.
- f. **Championship experience.** The committee will review and discuss championship experience elements for the 2024-25 championships at a future meeting.
- g. **Fall individual championships.** The committee discussed plans for the fall singles and doubles championships in Waco, Texas, including the fall timeline, qualifying pathway tournaments, finals site schedule of events, the student-athlete banquet and streaming. The committee and staff will continue to work collaboratively with the ITA staff and host staff at Baylor University in preparation for the first fall singles and doubles championships.
- h. **Officials' fees.** The committee reviewed the officials' fees for 2024-25 and made no changes, noting recent increases the past two seasons. The committee will continue to focus on efforts to increase the fees as budget allows.
- i. **2024-25 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed a draft of the 2024-25 committee calendar. The 2025 annual meeting will take place June 24-25 in Indianapolis.
- j. **Manuals.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make the necessary updates to the prechampionships, committee operations, site representative, participant and host operations manuals.

7. Future sites.

- a. **2024-25 and 2025-26 sites.** The committee noted its currently selected sites for the next two years. Baylor will host the 2024 singles and doubles championships in the fall and the 2025 team championships in the spring. The University of Central Florida and the USTA will host the 2025 singles and doubles championships in the fall. The University of Georgia will host the 2026 team championships in the spring.

- b. Officiating update.** The committee met with the finals-site head referee who provided a review of officiating throughout the championships and updates on planning for next year with the fall singles and doubles pilot.

12. Other business. The committee reviewed a potential misconduct from the 2024 championships.

Committee Chair: Mike Penner, The Ohio State University, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaisons: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee June 25-26, 2024, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Vince Baldemor, University of Hawaii, Manoa.	
Jimmy Borendame, Middle Tennessee State University.	
Sofia Hiort-Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University.	
George Husack, University of Alabama.	
Cristina Moros, University of South Florida.	
Courtney Nagle, University of Oregon.	
Mike Penner, The Ohio State University.	
Peter Pilling, Columbia University-Barnard College.	
Cathy Rossi, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.	
Chris Young, Oklahoma State University.	
Absentees:	
Patric DeBois, Northwestern State University.	
Paul Wardlaw, University of Denver.	
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).	