

**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEES  
JULY 9-10, 2019, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Bench size.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the bench size for men's and women's tennis be increased from 12 to 15.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The men's and women's tennis committees believe that participating institutions often bring additional student-athletes beyond the nine on the official competition roster. Due to current bench size limits, these student-athletes are not allowed to join their teammates on empty courts and support teammates still competing. The committees believe that increasing the bench size and allowing three additional student-athletes on to the courts would increase the overall national championship experience for teams without resulting in a competitive imbalance.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This proposal will enhance the national championship experience for the student-athletes not in the competition lineup.

**b. Men's tennis automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020 championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic

Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; Upper Midwest Conference; University Athletic Association; and USA South Athletic Conference.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The 34 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.2 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. Note that pool allocations may adjust if 2019-20 sponsorship numbers change.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Women's tennis automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020 championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; American Rivers Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Great South Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference;); State University of New York Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date: September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The 39 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. Note that pool allocations may adjust if 2019-20 sponsorship numbers change.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Men's and women's tennis rules subcommittee.**

- (1) Recommendation. Appoint 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) to oversee the playing rules modifications for all three divisions. The NCAA would continue to follow the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) 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 the other Association-wide playing rules committees/subcommittees. More information is included below under Informational Item No. 6.
- (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 (PROP), 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, several division-specific playing rules have been implemented by the ITA even though NCAA Bylaws 21 and 31 require playing rules and playing rules modifications 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 playing rules committee in the sport of the tennis 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. 2018 annual meeting report.** The committees approved the 2018 annual meeting report after removing the Northern Athletics Conference from the list of men's automatic qualifiers.

2. **2019 championships review.** NCAA staff reviewed the preliminary-round hosts and the championship finals, including the banquets, evaluations, selections, protest procedures and other related items. The committees discussed best practices learned through the championship. The committees discussed continuing to select preliminary-round sites that can provide both a championship-level experience and first-rate facilities. The committees noted that while their initial reactions to the new day of rest at the finals site were generally positive, they want to collect data over a four-year period before making any final determination on its effectiveness.
3. **Planning for the 2020 championships and beyond.** The committees discussed the upcoming championships at the Dwight Davis Memorial Tennis Center in St. Louis, Missouri (hosted by Washington University in St. Louis). The committees will work with the host to develop a rain action plan prior to the start of the championship to be prepared for inclement weather.

The committees noted that the head official, Darren Potkey, did a great job at the 2019 championships. NCAA staff has contacted Mr. Potkey about serving as the head official for the 2020 championships and beyond.

4. **Rankings.** NCAA staff reviewed the vacancies on the regional advisory committees (RACs). The committees reviewed RAC rotation pairings between conferences and made adjustments to continue to increase the effectiveness of the RACs. The committees discussed the score reporting system, and NCAA staff gave an update on continued internal conversations focused on improving the accuracy and scope of the score reporting system.
5. **Selections.** The committees discussed ways to improve the official lineup/entry form and the policies/procedures associated with the official lineups. The committees want to add a column in which coaches can enter a student-athletes non-dual Division III record. Committee members also provided feedback from their experiences using the selection bracketing and balloting system.
6. **Playing rules.** As noted in Action Item 2-f, in response to a request from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP), 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 (ITA) 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 are currently 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 prior to stand-alone playing rules committees being approved by the NCAA membership 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 expert to the respective rules committee. The NCAA also currently has three rules interpreters who serve as the rules expert in the respective sport in which the NCAA does not write the playing rules or have a rules committee (field hockey, women’s gymnastics and rifle).]
7. **Regional alignment.** At the request of the Division III Championships Committee, the committees discussed regional alignment for tennis. The committees did not feel it was necessary or prudent to make changes to the regional alignment at this time.
  8. **Regional advisory committee rotation pairings.** The committees discussed updating the regional advisory committee (RAC) rotation pairings to better serve the sport. No changes have been made at this time, but the committees hope to develop and gain approval for new pairings prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year.
  9. **Bid process.** NCAA staff reviewed the bid process with the committees and sought feedback on the bid specifications for the upcoming bid cycle.
  10. **Bracket expansion: Individuals and doubles tournament.** The committees discussed the idea of expanding the field size for the individuals and doubles tournament. Committee members supported this concept but also recognized that there is a larger priority placed on expanding the team bracket. The committees will revisit this topic at next year's annual meeting.
  11. **Committee chair appointments.** The committees approved Jenn Dubow to continue as the women’s tennis committee chair and Patrick Summers to continue as the men’s tennis committee chair.
  12. **Review of manuals.** NCAA staff asked the committees to review the pre-championships, host operations and participant manuals and provide changes.
  13. **Annual meeting.** The committees agreed to meet July 7-9, 2020.

*Committee Chairs: Jenn Dubow, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference  
Patrick Summers, New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference*

*Staff Liaisons: Anjellica Peck, Championships and Alliances  
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees July 9-10, 2019, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Jon Carlson, Gustavus Adolphus College.
Jennifer Dubow, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Marty Perry, Virginia Wesleyan University.
Mark Riley, Kalamazoo College
Conchie Shackelford, University of the South.
Patrick Summers, New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Steve Bickham, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.
Anjellica Peck, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.
Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances.
Louise McCleary, Governance.
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.