



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEES
JUNE 28-29, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Selection criteria.

(1) Recommendation. That the current criterion of “win-loss percentage vs. last 50% of the season” be changed to “consider all primary criteria vs. last 50% of the season.”

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.

(3) Rationale. Currently in the pre-championships manual, this criterion is listed as win-loss percentage during the last 50% of the season. However, win-loss percentage vs. Division III opponents is just one of several primary criteria (along with strength of schedule, head-to-head results, results vs. common opponents, and results vs. regionally ranked opponents) that the committee takes into account when making its selections for the championships. Therefore, the committees feel considering “all primary criteria” is a better indicator of how teams and individuals performed during the last 50% of their season. Additionally, with play in the fall, the tennis committees felt this criterion was good for the sport of tennis.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Championships schedule format.

(1) Recommendation. To remove the practice day between the team finals and start of individual competition. Additionally, have the individual competition take place over four days as opposed to three.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.

(3) Rationale. The committees are requesting flexibility in the schedule format. With the newly approved day of rest, maintaining the practice day between the team

championships and individual championships constricts the number of competition days for individual competitors. The committees would like to follow the individual schedule used in the 2023 joint championships: Day one – singles first and second round and doubles first round; Day two – singles and doubles quarterfinals; Day three – singles and doubles semifinals; Day four – singles and doubles finals. With the current practice day after the team championships, individuals must double up on each day of competition. The requested change alleviates three straight days of eight or more matches by spreading the competition over four days.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The requested change is best for the health and safety of the student-athlete. The change will provide a better opportunity for rest on competition days as some athletes competing in the individual championships will also have competed in the team championships.

c. Practice day.

(1) Recommendation. To allow teams to travel and practice one day prior to the start of competition for the entire championship.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. The committees are requesting teams be approved to travel and practice the day prior to the start of all competition. For regional competition some teams receive a bye, therefore starting competition one day later than the start of overall competition. The committees believe the teams that receive the bye are at a disadvantage by only being granted to practice one day prior to their specific match. While their competitors will have practiced/competed on the playing surface an additional day. The requested change provides equitable practice and time on the competition playing surfaces for all teams.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$3,500 per team.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation will result in equitable practice and time on the competition playing surfaces for all teams.

d. Automatic qualification deadline.

(1) Recommendation. Require all automatic qualifying conferences to complete their championships by 11 p.m. the Saturday before selections. If an exception is needed, commissioners must submit rationale to the committee for approval by 3 p.m. local start time on Saturday.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. The committees are requesting all automatic qualifier conference championships be completed by 11 p.m. Eastern the Saturday prior to selections. Currently, all data is submitted through the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) system, which then must be imported to the NCAA score reporting system, adding time to the selection process. The committee must cross-reference the imported data to make sure it is accurate. The requested change will allow the committees additional time to collect and review all selection data to determine the field.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

e. Additional flights.

(1) Recommendation. To provide additional flights to help separate the top four ranked teams nationally.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.

(3) Rationale. The committees are requesting additional flights to separate the top four ranked teams nationally from having to play each other until the finals site. The committees appreciate the Division III Championships Committee considering among potential budget enhancements the concept of adding flights to separate higher-ranked teams. The committees desire to avoid situations in which two teams who are both highly nationally ranked and are close geographically are placed in the same region to fulfill the NCAA's travel regulations. The committees' goal is to create a championship with the most competitive teams competing for a national championship.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$12,500 per gender.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would enhance the student-athlete championship experience by helping to create an equitable path to the finals for the most deserving teams.

f. Officials' fee increase.

(1) Recommendation. Increase officials' fees at the regional and national championships.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024, championships.

(3) Rationale. The committees are requesting officials' fee increases for regional and national championship competition to align with Division I and Division II officials' fees. The current rate is below the regular-season average for officials. Additionally, the Division III regional rounds take place simultaneously with Division I. As a result, regional sites are unable to secure officials in a timely manner due to the difference in compensation. The requested change will align closer with regular-season officiating fees and a more equitable pay scale.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$6,500.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

3. **2023 annual meeting report.** The committees reviewed and approved the 2022 annual meeting report as written.

4. **2023 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.

a. **Selection criteria.** The committees reviewed and discussed selection criteria and procedures and agreed to propose the change noted in Action Item 2-a.

b. **Selection results.** The committees were satisfied with the number of results being entered into the ITA, though they noted there were more than 100 missing results. The committees will continue to encourage the membership to submit in a timely manner. Warning letters and fines will continue through the 2023-24 season for any institution that fails to submit results.

5. **No-ad scoring pilot.** The committees voted to approve the no-ad scoring pilot as a rule change beginning in the 2023-24 season.

6. **Planning for 2024 championships.**

a. **Selection show.** The committees expressed interest in continuing to provide a selection show for the team championship.

b. **Schedule of events.** The committees reviewed a draft of the proposed schedule for the 2024 championship and suggested removing the individual practice day after the team championships conclude. This would not alter the currently scheduled dates for the 2024

championships and would follow the recommendation and rationale outlined in Action Item 2-b (championship format schedule).

- c. **In-season communication.** The committees agreed there should be more educational opportunities for coaches and have agreed to produce a webinar prior to the championships that will cover data entry, selections, championships format, etc.
7. **Officials' fees.** The committees noted a strong desire to increase officials' fees and agreed to submit the proposal noted in Action Item 2-f.
8. **Bench size.** With the changes to the bench size policy that allows all student-athletes to be in uniform, the committees agreed that student-athletes who are not in the squad size but are within the bench size limit will need some type of credential to identify that they are permitted to be in the competition area.
9. **Automatic qualification deadline date.** The committees agreed to propose a change to the automatic qualification notification deadline starting with 2024 championships and beyond. The committees propose having all conference championships be completed and the NCAA receiving notification of automatic qualifiers by 11 p.m. the Saturday before selections. The committees noted support for an earlier deadline among other sports. (See Action Item 2-d.)
10. **ITA update.** Timothy Russel and Cory Brooks provided an update on behalf of the ITA and solicited committee feedback on the potential scoring format changes/recommendations.
11. **Championships Committee update.** NCAA staff liaison Laura Peterson joined the committee to discuss topics related to the division, including information regarding budget changes and the positive outcomes and the impacts they will have on the membership.
12. **Committee chair appointments.** The committee approved current committee member Suzanne Merritt, assistant director of athletics and head tennis coach at Letourneau University, and Mike Lynch, senior director of athletics at Babson College, as chair of the women's committee and men's committee, respectively. Ms. Merritt will replace Andy Girard, who has served for one year as chair of the women's committee and will be rotating off the committee. Mr. Lynch will begin his second term as committee chair.
13. **Review of manuals.** NCAA staff asked the committees to review the pre-championships, host operations and participant manuals and provide changes.
14. **Strategic plan.** The committees reviewed and modified a strategic plan with goals that include pushing for an improved score reporting system and separating top-ranked teams in the preliminary rounds when possible, under the current Division III bracketing parameters.
15. **Annual meeting.** The committees agreed to meet June 26-27, 2024.

Committee Chairs: *Andy Girard, Carnegie Mellon University*
 Mike Lynch, Babson College
Staff Liaison: *Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances*
 Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances

Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees June 28-29, 2023, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bill Carey, Transylvania University.	
Chris Pier, Lake Forest College.	
Douglas Chapman, UMass Dartmouth.	
Ryun Ferrell, Central College (Iowa).	
Andy Girard, Carnegie Mellon University.	
Justin Grube, Franklin & Marshall (via videoconference).	
David Weiner, Christopher Newport University.	
Scott Greve, Franciscan University of Steubenville.	
John Hirte, Covenant College (via videoconference).	
Mike Lynch, Babson College (via videoconference).	
Suzanne Merritt, LeTourneau University.	
Erica Perkins Jasper, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (via videoconference).	
Kevin Calhoun, Transylvania University.	
Eric Spangler, Haverford College (via videoconference).	
Absentees:	
Justin Roe, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Cory Brooks, International Tennis Association (ITA).	
Lizzie Conti, International Tennis Association (ITA).	
Timothy Russell, International Tennis Association (ITA).	
Darren Potkey, Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.	
Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jay Fitzwater, Playing Rules.	
Eric Hartung, Division III Governance.	
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.	
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.	