

Waiver Process for Minimum Match Requirement for NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship Eligibility

Championship Policy.

A wrestler must have a minimum of 4 matches against Division I institutions to qualify for pre-allocated conference spots or as an at-large.

Introduction.

The NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee has the authority to waive the minimum regular match requirement when a wrestler is unable to meet the championship eligibility minimum.

This waiver process is effective for the 2021 NCAA Division I Wrestling championships. The decision to approve any waivers will be based on objective evidence that the team's/individual's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's/team's control.

All such requests will be reviewed by the NCAA Division I Wrestling Committees and designated NCAA staff.

Application Procedures.

A member institution seeking a waiver of the minimum match requirement for championships eligibility shall submit in writing a request to the national office. A conference may submit the request on behalf of their member school(s). The request shall include the following:

- (a) Documentation that its wrestling team had as of January 1 scheduled for the 2020-21 academic year the appropriate minimum number of contests against Division I opponents.
- (b) Documentation that Division I contest a team had contracted to participate in 2020-21 were canceled due to a documented COVID-19-related circumstance or were unable to be completed due to COVID-19-related circumstances (e.g., opponent's director of athletics providing rationale for cancelled match and inability to reschedule during the 2020-21 season); and
- (c) Documentation that despite a good-faith effort, the team was unable to re-arrange its schedule to compete in the appropriate minimum number of matches against Division I opponents.

All such requests must provide written documentation and be signed by the requesting school's director of athletics and include a letter of support from the conference office.

Review Procedures.

On receipt of the waiver request, the NCAA staff will review the information to ensure it is complete. The Division I Wrestling Committee has the authority to hear, deliberate and decide these waivers. After reviewing all information, the committees, by a two thirds majority of its members present and voting, will render for the current academic year one of the following decisions:

1. **Approval:** It is determined that the institution's or conference's request on behalf of the institution demonstrated the team's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's/team's control.
2. **Denial:** It is determined that the institution's or conference's requests on behalf of the institution did not demonstrate the team's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's/team's control.

Teleconference/Videoconference and Voting Procedures.

The committee shall meet via teleconference, videoconference or in-person as needed. A quorum of 50 percent of the committee members present and eligible to vote is needed for the meeting to proceed. The institution is not present during the meeting.

The committee chair is responsible for conducting the meeting. The staff will present the basic facts of the waiver. The staff member provides assistance to the committee but does not deliberate or determine any waiver that is before the committee. The committee chair leads the discussion and call for a vote. The chair has the authority to determine any procedural issues that arise. Each waiver must be moved, seconded and a vote taken.

Appeals of Committee Decisions.

The decision of the Division I Wrestling Committee shall be final and shall not be subject to further review.

Reconsideration.

After the committee has issued a decision, the requestor (e.g., institution or conference on behalf of the institution) may ask the committee to reconsider its decision if the requestor submits new or additional relevant information.

Confidentiality. Committee members shall not communicate any information related to specific waiver cases to anyone other than the national office staff or other committee members.

Recusal.

A committee member or national office staff member shall recuse himself or herself from participating in proceedings (e.g., deliberating as a committee member) of a waiver case when he or she is directly connected with the involved institution including but not limited to, a member of the committee member's institution or institution's conference. A committee or national office staff member with a personal relationship or institutional affiliation that reasonably would result in the appearance of bias or prejudice should refrain from participating in any manner in the processing of a waiver request. It is the responsibility of the committee or national office staff member to remove himself or herself if a conflict exists. Institutional objections to a committee or national office staff member participating in a review of a waiver should be raised with and resolved by the chair as soon as recognized but will not be considered unless the concern is raised prior to the scheduled meeting. Exceptions to the recusal policy may be granted by the chair due to time or quorum constraints.

Deadline.

Waivers must be submitted by email to the staff contact listed below no later than 3 p.m. Eastern, March 8, 2021.

Staff Contacts.

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