



## 2021-22 Championships Eligibility in Sports Other than Basketball or Football

### Overview.

The waivers of bylaws related to championship eligibility passed during the 2020-21 academic year were only valid for the 2020-21 academic year. All applicable bylaws and relevant championship and sport committee policies are reinstated for the 2021-22 academic year.

### Frequently Asked Questions.

**Question No. 1:** Does the minimum number of contests/dates of competition for championship eligibility apply to both automatic qualifiers and at-large selection?

**Answer:** **No**, the minimum requirements only apply to at-large selection. Institutions should contact their conference office for guidance on automatic qualification requirements.

**Question No. 2:** Can conference tournament games count toward the minimum number of contests/dates of competition for at-large selection?

**Answer:** **Yes**, institutions may count any and all conference tournament competition towards the minimum competition requirement. Institutions should contact their conference office for guidance regarding conference tournament participation.

**Question No. 3:** Do the minimum number of contests/dates of competition need to be against Division I opponents?

**Answer:** **Yes**, the minimum number of contests/dates of competition must be against Division I opponents (except in National Collegiate Championship sports). Institutions are permitted to compete against non-Division I opponents; however, those competitions may not be used to meet the minimum competition requirement for selections.

### Waiver Process for Minimum Competition and .500 Rule Requirement for NCAA Division I and National Collegiate Championship Eligibility.

### Championship Policy.

An institution must participate in a minimum amount of competition with a minimum number of participants and have at least a .500 win/loss percentage to qualify for selection as an at-large in the NCAA Division I and National Collegiate Championships. Institutions may count all conference tournament competition in which the team participates towards their minimum number of required games.

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Sport	2021-22 Minimums for At-Large Selection	2021-22 Minimum Participant Requirements
<b>Cross Country</b>	1	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
<b>Field Hockey</b>	11	-
<b>Soccer</b>	11	-
<b>Women's Volleyball</b>	19	-
<b>Men's Water Polo</b>	15	-
<b>Bowling</b>	15 (dates of competition)	5
<b>Fencing</b>	21 bouts with W/L percentage of .250	1
<b>Gymnastics (Men's)</b>	5	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
<b>Gymnastics (Women's)</b>	6	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
<b>Men's Ice Hockey</b>	25	-
<b>Women's Ice Hockey</b>	20	-
<b>Indoor Track and Field</b>	4*	14
<b>Rifle</b>	4	1 - Ind. 4 - Team
<b>Skiing</b>	5 event start per discipline	5
<b>Swimming and Diving</b>	1 (qualifying mark)	1
<b>Wrestling</b>	8	7
<b>Baseball</b>	27	-
<b>Beach Volleyball</b>	8	-
<b>Golf (Men's)</b>	8 contests with a W/L percentage of .500	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
<b>Golf (Women's)</b>	15 eighteen-hole stroke-play rounds (8 in spring)	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
<b>Lacrosse</b>	10	-
<b>Women's Rowing</b>	6	23
<b>Softball</b>	27	-
<b>Tennis</b>	13 singles started (6 in spring) 10 doubles started (4 in spring) 12 - Team	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles 4 – Team
<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b>	4*	14
<b>Men's Volleyball</b>	19	-
<b>Women's Water Polo</b>	10	-

\*For Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field, institutions must follow [Bylaw 18.4.2.2](#) and [Bylaw 20.9.6.3.7](#).

### **Waiver Opportunity.**

The governing sport committee has the authority to waive the minimum competition, minimum participant and .500 rule requirements when an institution is unable to meet the championship eligibility minimum(s).

This waiver process is effective for the 2021-22 NCAA Division I and National Collegiate championships. The decision to approve any waivers will be based on objective evidence that the team's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's control.

All such requests will be reviewed by the governing sport committee and the NCAA national office staff.

### **Application Procedures.**

A member institution seeking a waiver of the minimum competition, minimum participant or .500 rule requirement for championships eligibility shall submit a request in writing to the national office. The request shall include the following:

1. Documentation that its institution had scheduled for the 2021-22 academic year the appropriate minimum number of contests or dates of competition against the requisite number of opponents;
2. Documentation that competitions the institution had contracted to play in 2021-22 were canceled due to a documented COVID-19-related circumstances or were unable to be completed due to COVID-19-related circumstances (e.g., opponent's director of athletics providing rationale for cancelled game and inability to reschedule during the 2021-22 season); and
3. Documentation that despite a good-faith effort, the institution was unable to rearrange its schedule to play the appropriate minimum amount of competition with the requisite number of participants.

All such institutional 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 staff will review the information to ensure it is complete. The committee has the authority to hear, deliberate and decide these waivers. After reviewing all information, the committee, 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 request demonstrated the institution's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's control.
2. **Denial:** It is determined that the institution's request did not demonstrate that the institution's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's control.

The committee shall conduct its review by teleconference, email or videoconference. Deliberations shall involve only committee members and staff.

Voting Procedures.

The committee shall meet via email, teleconference or videoconference 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 will provide assistance to the committee but will not deliberate or determine any waiver that is before the committee. The committee chair leads the discussion and calls 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. The chair votes only in the event of a tie.

Appeals of Committee Decisions.

The decision of the committee shall be final and shall not be subject to further review.

Reconsideration.

After the committee has issued a decision, the institution may ask the committee to reconsider its decision only if the institution submits new or additional relevant information that was not available at the time of the original submission.

Confidentiality.

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

Recusal.

A committee or 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 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 staff member to remove himself or herself if a conflict exists.

Institutional objections to a committee or 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 will not be accepted until 30 days prior to selections and must be submitted to the staff contact listed below no later than seven days prior to selections.

**Staff Contact.**

Liz Suscha

Managing Director, Championships & Alliances

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