



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
APRIL 11, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Note: This document does not include items incorporated in the NCAA Division I Council report.

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and the student-athlete voice.** As part of its ongoing commitment to celebrating equity, diversity and inclusion, the Competition Oversight Committee begins each meeting by recognizing an influential person, group or initiative that has made a positive impact in intercollegiate athletics. The committee acknowledged that March was Women's History Month, a recognition formally established beginning in 1987, and that April is Arab American Heritage Month, which was formally recognized beginning in 2021.
2. **Committee focus areas and decision-making priorities.** As it also does at the beginning of every meeting, the committee revisited its focus areas (not in priority order) that will continue to guide its decision-making process going forward:

Student-athlete experience | Equity, diversity and inclusion | Competitive fairness | Student-athlete health and well-being | Fiscal planning
3. **Review of recent reports.** The committee approved the report from its February 8 videoconference as presented, and members of the Administrative Committee also approved the report from that group's March 7 videoconference as presented.
4. **Olympic Sports Liaison Committee report.** The committee reviewed the report from the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee's March 2 meeting as information only. While the OSLC is an Association-wide committee that reports to the NCAA Board of Governors, the COC periodically reviews reports from the group to be apprised of issues and initiatives related to sports the COC oversees. In addition, given the recommendations from the Transformation Committee related to a revised governance/committee structure and the evolving collaboration with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the OSLC is reviewing its composition and charge to determine how it can best contribute going forward.
5. **Division I championships updates.**
 - a. **Midyear transfer and championships eligibility.** The committee discussed the impact of midyear transfers as it relates to championship selections in tennis, as questions have emerged regarding whether a student-athlete who receives a waiver of the midyear transfer legislation should be permitted to use marks/times/results earned during enrollment at another institution for selection purposes. The COC acknowledged that because these waivers are granted only in rare instances and under extenuating circumstances that the results earned at the student-athlete's previous institution should merit consideration for

accommodate the increase in the number of automatic qualifiers from nine to 10. With the increase of automatic qualifiers, this keeps half the field reserved for at-large selections as required by Bylaw 31.3.4.6.1.

- iii. **Championship format change.** The COC supported that starting with the 2027 championship, the format of the National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship will consist of all 18 teams competing at one site over five days as opposed to the current format in which four regional sites of four or five teams feed into one four-team finals site. Having all the teams compete at one site creates the best possible student-athlete experience by focusing efforts and resources in one central location. This recommendation is being approved now to align with the upcoming bid cycle for 2026-30 that will open this fall. Due to potential increased travel expense, the bowling committee should evaluate the need for additional budget pending the site selection and during the 2026-27 year budget process.

b. Men's soccer.

- i. **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 23 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2023 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southern Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
- ii. **Preliminary-round format adjustment.** The committee considered but ultimately referred to the sport committee its recommendation to shift the dates for the preliminary-round games to allow more spacing of matches, which in turn allows teams more rest, recovery, and preparation time. With the proposal, the second round moves to a weekday. The COC noted concerns about return travel for second-round teams and asked the sport committee to consider whether alternate ideas based on an earlier selection announcement were considered. Accordingly, the COC agreed that more information from the soccer committee would be beneficial.

c. Women's volleyball.

- i. **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 32 conferences for automatic qualification privileges to the 2023 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship: America East Conference; 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; Colonial Athletic Conference; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; Sun Belt Conference; The Summit League; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

- ii. **Selection criteria.** The COC approved the sport committee's recommendation to add the KPI to its selection criteria effective with the 2023 Division I Women's Volleyball Championship. The sport committee requested the ability last spring to run the KPI during the 2022 season to review as a potential additional selection criterion. After a review of the KPI, the committee determined its addition would be beneficial to the selection process.

d. **Men's water polo.**

- i. **Automatic qualification exception.** The COC approved granting the Big West and West Coast Conferences relief from the two-year waiting period for automatic qualification, thus making them eligible for AQs to the 2023 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. Both conferences previously had teams participating in single-sport conferences. Beginning in 2023-24, however, both conferences will meet the minimum of six sponsoring institutions, thus eliminating a single-sport conference. While the AQ legislation indicates there are no exceptions for the waiting period, the COC believes having multi-sport conferences participating rather than single-sport conferences is in the best interests of the sport.
- ii. **Championship format.** The COC also supported increasing the championship bracket from eight teams to nine teams to accommodate the additional automatic qualifier that resulted in granting the exception to the two conferences noted above while maintaining the two current at-large berths. The additional automatic qualifier increases the championship access for men's water polo to 18 percent of teams from 16 percent; this compares to 15 percent for women's water polo which has a 10-team bracket. The COC asked the Men's Water Polo Committee to recommend by the COC's June meeting the best format for conducting the now nine-team bracket.

9. **Championships budget requests.** The committee reviewed a compilation of budget requests from Division I sport committees for the coming cycle, noting that some of them had already been reviewed and approved in concept previously. The requests include the bracket increases for women's bowling and men's water polo noted above, as well as bracket/field size increases for men's volleyball and men's and women's cross country considered previously. The budget requests also include those from various sport committees to fund competition/operational needs. The requests will be submitted in the national office budget cycle for 2023-2024.

10. Other business.

- **Site selection process.** The committee reviewed a memo staff drafted to begin the next site selection process for 2026 through 2030.

11. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Wednesday, May 10, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- Monday, June 26, and Tuesday, June 27 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University
Staff Liaisons: Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee April 11, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Katherine Harston, New Mexico State University.	
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Eddie Nunez, University of New Mexico.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.	
Billy Walker, American University.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Absentees:	
Jennifer Condaras, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Julia Ware, University of Notre Dame.	

Guest(s) in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kristin Fasbender, Jennifer Fraser, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr and Jerry Vaughn.