



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
APRIL 10, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Committee focus areas and decision-making priorities.** As it 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

2. **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. For this meeting the committee acknowledged the upcoming NCAA Inclusion Forum, April 24-26, in Indianapolis. The annual forum assembles leaders within higher education and intercollegiate athletics, including student-athletes, to engage in programming and enhance efforts to advance diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging initiatives. Educational programming focuses on each of the NCAA Office of Inclusion's five core areas of disability, international, LGBTQ, race/ethnicity and women.
3. **Review of recent reports.** The committee approved reports from its February 14 videoconference and March 1 electronic vote as presented.
4. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** Jamie Zamrin updated the COC on items the SAAC has addressed recently and noted that this will be her last meeting with the COC given her graduation this spring and subsequent career pursuits. COC members congratulated Jamie on her success and acknowledged her contributions during her term on the Division I SAAC.
5. **Name, Image and Likeness – NCAA Championship Licensing.** Affirmed by the Board of Governors in January, the NCAA has begun participating in licensing opportunities that include a student-athlete's name, image and likeness during NCAA championship broadcasts. Member institutions can participate at their discretion. The system is predicated on (a) the use being lawful; (b) the use complying with the NCAA's NIL policy (e.g., no inducements); (c) the NCAA does not provide consideration or value to the student-athletes; and (d) the member institution affiliated with the student-athlete has no objections. These four precautions were central to the NCAA's decision to allow its corporate champions and partners to use student-athlete NIL in their promotional campaigns surrounding NCAA championships.

6. **Emerging sports – women’s wrestling update.** The committee supported a proposal by the NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics to introduce legislation to add women’s wrestling as a National Collegiate championship and establish a women’s wrestling committee. Women’s wrestling has been an emerging sport in all three divisions since 2020. In fall of 2023, 41 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports-sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. If adopted, and pending budget approval, the women’s wrestling committee would begin its work in January 2025 to prepare for the first National Collegiate championship in winter 2026.
7. **Budget topics.** Staff updated the committee on budget items the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee and the NCAA Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee are likely to consider during their meetings later this month. Several of the items concern championships and include ideas generated by the Division I Transformation Committee and the COC.
8. **Automatic qualification waiver requests.** The committee reviewed the following four waiver requests and considered input from the COC’s team sports and individual/team sports subcommittees to inform decisions.
 - a. **Summit League – men’s soccer.** The Summit League requested a waiver to maintain its automatic qualification for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons with fewer than six active Division I member institutions sponsoring the sport. Noting there has not been a history of awarding two years of waiver at one time, the COC addressed each year separately. The COC acknowledged that the men’s soccer committee did not support granting the waiver request for either year, but COC members were inclined to support the first year of the request for the conference to retain the AQ within the legislated grace period with only four members. COC members also recognized the potential negative impact on student-athlete opportunity if the waiver were to be denied. Accordingly, the COC authorized granting the waiver, but only for the 2024-25 season. Regarding the 2025-26 season, the COC voted to table that request and asked that the Summit League return with a request closer to the 2025-26 year if necessary. While the COC appreciates the conference’s plan to achieve compliance by the 2026-27 year, the committee cited the lack of precedent for granting a two-year waiver as the primary rationale for tabling the request.
 - b. **Ohio Valley Conference – women’s tennis.** The Ohio Valley Conference submitted a request to extend its recently completed two-year grace period by two more years given unexpected membership circumstances that prevented the conference from reaching the six-member requirement by the end of the grace period as planned. The COC was sympathetic to the circumstances that caused the delay in the conference’s original membership plan and acknowledged the conference’s subsequent plan to achieve compliance by 2026-27. However, the COC was not inclined to establish a precedent for extending the legislated grace period and, as such, denied the request.

- c. Northeast Conference – men’s volleyball.** The Northeast Conference asked to be eligible for automatic qualification with fewer than six active members following a two-year waiting period competing with the minimum of six. The NEC competed in 2022-23 and 2023-24 with six members but will only have five next year when the conference becomes eligible for AQ. After discussion, the COC agreed to grant the waiver request, noting that a sixth member will join the conference for the 2025-26 year to be compliant with the AQ requirements. (The 2024-25 season will serve as the first year of the two-year grace period.) The COC also noted that its action was pending based on budget approval to support a format change to add an opening-round game in the men’s volleyball championship to accommodate the new AQ. (Staff noted that the funding to accommodate the bracket expansion is among priorities the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee will consider later this month.)
- d. Western Athletic Conference – men’s tennis.** The Western Athletic Conference requested a one-year waiver to retain its AQ with only four eligible institutions for the 2024-25 season. The conference had fallen to five sponsoring members for 2023-24 and was already in year one of the grace period but experienced an unexpected setback when one of its members changed conference affiliation, leaving the WAC with just four members sponsoring men’s tennis for 2024-25. The COC voted to grant the waiver for one year, which will count as year two of the grace period, but acknowledged that the conference would need to have six members for 2025-26 to retain its AQ.

(Note: During its January meeting the COC began discussing whether the continued uncertainty surrounding conference alignment and the resulting increase in waiver requests when movement causes conferences to fall below minimum sponsorship standards warranted a more comprehensive evaluation of the AQ legislation overall. Several COC members reiterated the need for such an evaluation given the review of the above waiver requests. The committee will continue discussing this matter when it convenes in June.)

9. Team sports subcommittee report.

a. Women’s lacrosse.

- **Video review during preliminary rounds.** The COC considered but did not support the women’s lacrosse committee’s request to allow video review to be used during the Division I Women’s Lacrosse Championship, including at preliminary-round host sites that have the capability of doing so. The COC noted that video review is currently an experimental rule and has concerns about using an experimental rule in the postseason. The COC noted it may be willing to reconsider the request once video review completes the rules process, including obtaining support from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel and more experience by schools and officials using it.

- b. **Men's soccer.** The COC received as information the reports from the men's soccer committee's most recent meetings, noting the feedback regarding the request from the Summit League to be granted a waiver for AQ. (See Informational Item 8-a above.)
- c. **Men's and women's soccer.** The COC received as information the report from the soccer committee's January 29 joint meeting and noted both groups' desires regarding potential adjustments to the playing and practice season models.
- d. **Men's water polo.**
 - **Championship site change.** The COC approved the recommendation from the men's water polo committee to conduct the 2024 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship at Stanford University rather than at the University of California, San Diego, which is no longer permitted to host due to the institution not submitting its sexual violence prevention attestation form as required.

10. Individual/team sports subcommittee report.

- a. **Men's and women's golf.**
 - **Regional champion trophies.** The COC reviewed separate ideas outlined by the men's and women's golf committees regarding procedures to take when multiple teams tie for first place in the regional championships. The COC acknowledged the merits of the different decisions but felt adamantly that the two committees should agree on a common procedure to address the first-place tie, especially considering the recent gender equity review and the emphasis on ensuring similar experiences for student-athletes in like sports. Accordingly, the COC referred the matter back to the golf committees and requested they make a decision that applies to both genders in advance of the 2024 championships.
- b. **Men's and women's skiing.** The COC received as information the report from the skiing committee's March 11 meeting, noting support for US Ski and Snowboard for the committee's previously requested additional Nordic sprint event to the championship. (The COC had tabled this item in the fall pending further budget discussion this spring.)
- c. **Men's and women's tennis.** The COC received as information the report from the tennis committee's March 12 videoconference, noting that the tennis committee will retain the current criteria for seeding and ordering the alternate list for the fall singles and doubles championships.
- d. **Men's and women's track and field and cross country.** The COC received as information the report from the track and field/cross country committee's March 26 videoconference, noting a 2024 Northeast Regional site change due to construction that moves the event from Franklin Park in Boston to Hopkinton State Fairgrounds Cross Country Course in

Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Boston College and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell will remain co-hosts.

11. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Monday, June 24, from 4-8 p.m. Eastern time and Tuesday, June 25, from 9-12 p.m. Eastern time (in-person meeting in Indianapolis).
- Wednesday, August 28, from 2 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time (videoconference).
- Monday, October 7, from 4-8 p.m. Eastern time and Tuesday, October 8, 9-12 p.m. Eastern time (in-person meeting in Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Michael Kelly, University of South Florida

Committee Vice Chair: Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University

Staff Liaisons: Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

John Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee April 10, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Jennifer Condaras, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Mike Cragg, St. John’s University (New York).	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Rodrigo Alvarez Gonzalez, Bradley University.	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Jamie Zamrin, Portland State University.	
Absentees:	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

April 10, 2024, Videoconference

Page No. 6

Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Billy Walker, American University.
Guest(s) in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Jennifer Fraser, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Katie Koenig, Tracy McClendon, Gretchen Miron, Jeff O'Barr and Jerry Vaughn.