



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 26, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**NONLEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS.**

- **Cross country championships recommendation.** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee recommended that the NCAA Division I Council approve the cancellation of the 2020-21 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships. This recommendation, if approved by Council, will be forwarded to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors for final consideration. The committee recommended working with the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee and the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) to determine a path by which cross country only programs or cross country only student-athletes can have access to a rewarding championship experience within the indoor/outdoor track and field championships. The committee will consider feedback from the sport committee and SAAC to make a formal recommendation at its September 2 meeting.

The committee noted that while the decision to pursue conducting fall sport championships in the spring semester included all fall sports, there has been increasing discussion within the membership regarding how the cross country championships fit into that plan. In particular, since the indoor track and field championships are conducted during the winter season and the outdoor track and field championships are conducted three months later in the spring season, the question has been raised whether the cross country championships should be held in the spring semester.

The committee discussed the matter at length, noting that very few Division I institutions sponsor only cross country without an accompanying indoor and/or outdoor track and field program, which leads many people to believe that most student-athletes who run cross country would still have championship opportunities via indoor and/or outdoor track and field. However, other perspectives note that cross country is different than track and field, and student-athletes who specialize in that sport should have an opportunity to compete.

After weighing the options, the committee ultimately voted to recommend not conducting the cross country championships in the spring semester and will confer with the sport committee and SAAC to determine the appropriate way to accommodate cross country student-athletes.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Discussion regarding NCAA fall championships being conducted in the spring semester.** In addition to the cross country issue, the committee continued its discussion of conducting other fall sport championships in the spring semester. The committee, during its previous meeting August 17, established parameters around how the championships would be conducted, most notably that brackets would be reduced by 50 percent and that all automatic qualifying conferences would have access to the brackets. During the August 26 meeting, the committee discussed the following additional items:

- a. Playing and practice seasons.** Staff updated the committee about the process for developing playing and practice seasons for each of the fall sports that will conduct championships in the spring, noting a collaborative effort with other governance groups (SAEC, SAAC and LC) is necessary to determine the best approach moving forward. The committee agreed that the chairs of its team sports subcommittee and the team/individual sports subcommittee would represent the committee on a subgroup being assembled to discuss these issues in more detail.
  - b. Fall contests considered for selections for fall sports conducted in the spring.** The committee has asked the relevant sport committees for feedback about how contests conducted in the fall should factor into the championship selection process. The committee will consider this input and make a formal recommendation at its September 2 meeting.
  - c. Bracket composition, championship dates and format, and selection criteria for fall sports conducted in the spring.** The committee also has asked the fall sport committees to weigh in on how the composition of bracket/field sizes will be determined, confirm selection criteria and make preliminary recommendations regarding championship dates. The committee will review that feedback as well during its September 2 meeting and make a recommendation for the Council to consider in October.
- 2. 2022-26 site selection update.** Staff updated the committee on the bid process for championships from 2022 through 2026. The committee will formalize final recommendations at its October 5-6 meeting.
- 3. Equity, diversity, inclusion and the student-athlete voice.** Staff updated the committee on the selection of Derrick Gragg as the NCAA's new senior vice president for inclusion, education and community engagement. Currently the athletics director at the University of Tulsa, Mr. Gragg was previously the athletics director at Eastern Michigan University and deputy athletics director at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.
- 4. Division I Men's Golf Committee report.** The committee approved the men's golf committee's recommendation to suspend the .500 rule for the 2020-21 academic year only as a selection criterion for at-large teams to be considered for the 2021 Division I Men's Golf Championships. The committee also approved adjusting the deadline for annual schedule submissions from October 1, 2020 to February 1, 2021.
- 5. Concepts from the NCAA Division I Name, Image and Likeness Legislative Solutions Group survey.** The committee discussed select concepts from the survey, including compensation for autographs, and potential areas of conflict (e.g., whether activities involving commercial products or services that conflict with NCAA legislation such as sports wagering or banned substances should be prohibited; or whether institutions could prohibit activities based on institutional values). Staff noted that the timeline for the legislation is for the Council to introduce a package in October for a vote in January.

- 6. Future videoconferences.** The committee will conduct videoconferences September 2, September 9 and September 23 before its regularly scheduled October 5-6 meeting.

*Committee Chair: Lynda Tealer, University of Florida*  
*Staff Liaisons: Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances*  
*Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee August 26, 2020, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Amanda Braun, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.	
Keisha Dunlap, Conference USA.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Beth Goetz, Ball State University.	
Ted Gumbart, ASUN Conference.	
Ken Halpin, Winthrop University.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference.	
Megan Klavitter, Chicago State University.	
Doug Knuth, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Larry Lyons, Illinois State University.	
Luis Marcano, University of Delaware.	
Kris Pierce, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Nona Richardson, University of Utah.	
Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine.	
Lynda Tealer, University of Florida.	
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Sharon Cessna and Jennifer Henderson.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Joni Comstock, Jennifer Fraser, Robin Hale, Ty Halpin, Anthony Holman, Michelle Hosick, Greg Johnson, Kevin Lennon, Carol A. Reep, Liz Suscha and Jerry Vaughn.	