



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 9, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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. For this meeting the committee acknowledged Women's Equality Day, which was established in 1971 and is celebrated annually on August 26; the adoption of Title IX in 1972; and the first NCAA women's championship in 1981 (field hockey).
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 June 26 in-person meeting as presented.
4. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The committee reviewed reports from PROP's recent meetings.
5. **Division I championships updates.**
  - a. **NCAA gender equity progress report.** The committee received an update on the review conducted by Lewis Rice LLC to assess the NCAA's progress in implementing the recommendations from the gender equity report issued in 2021. The progress report supports the NCAA's concerted efforts to implement gender equity principles to enhance student-athletes' experiences, especially for those participating at NCAA championships across all sports. The report also acknowledged the strong leadership from membership committees in ensuring a commitment to gender equity in all championship operations.
  - b. **Transformation Committee update.** Staff updated the committee on recent actions the Division I Board of Directors took to extend the timeline of the decentralization topics still being reviewed and to postpone indefinitely the sport management model that was under consideration for many sports the Competition Oversight Committee oversees. Staff also summarized various legislative proposals the Division I Council will consider this fall and noted that the recommendations from the Transformation Committee regarding bracket

expansions in select sports and enhanced travel experiences for teams participating in Division I championships are still being examined.

## 6. Team Sports Subcommittee reports.

### a. Women's bowling.

- **Selection criteria pilot.** The COC approved allowing the bowling committee to conduct a two-year pilot during which an additional secondary criterion that includes head-to-head tournament finishes will be used in the selection process, effective with the 2024 championship. The additional criterion provides the bowling committee more data when comparing two teams that are equal on both primary and secondary criteria.

### b. Men's soccer.

- **2024 Men's College Cup site replacement.** The committee approved WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, North Carolina, as a replacement site for the 2024 Men's College Cup finals. The 2024 finals were originally scheduled to be held in Sacramento, California, but the Division I Men's Soccer Committee was informed that the facility being constructed there would not be completed in time to host. The soccer committee subsequently reviewed the bids submitted previously from 2024 and determined that Cary was the best option, as it has a proven track record of hosting the Men's College Cup and will do an outstanding job.

### c. Men's volleyball.

- (1) **AQ waiver request from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)/bracket expansion.** The COC approved the sport committee's recommendation to grant the SIAC automatic qualification for the 2024 National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship despite not having satisfied the two-year waiting period for national collegiate sports. The COC supported the sport committee's reasoning that not only did the SIAC compete as a conference for two years (albeit with a provisional school to make up the sixth member after its original sixth member, Paine College, left the NCAA), the conference has showed persistent commitment to fostering growth and diversity in a region that has had little representation for the sport at the national collegiate level. Additionally, the conference has remained steadfast in furthering growth by planning to add a seventh member (sixth full NCAA member) for the upcoming 2023-24 academic year. The COC believed the request from the SIAC warranted approval.

The COC also noted in the sport committee's recommendation that pending approval of the SIAC waiver, the championship bracket would need to be expanded from seven to eight teams to accommodate the additional automatic qualifier. The budget information is not available yet. The COC did request an increase to a 12-team bracket

pending the budget to do so. The COC will revisit the recommendation again once the budget impact has been formally determined. (Note: the COC indicated that if the eight-team bracket is implemented, it will not require any opening round matches as the current seven-team bracket does.)

- (2) **Automatic qualification.** After granting the SIAC waiver request, the COC approved that the following six conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024 National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship: Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation; and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (3) **AQ waiver request from the Northeast Conference (NEC).** The COC noted that the men's volleyball committee also considered an AQ waiver request from the Northeast Conference but did not recommend granting relief. The NEC posited that its circumstances and the steps it was pursuing to comply with AQ requirements warranted a waiver approval; however, the men's volleyball committee did not find the argument compelling enough to merit support. The committee appreciated that the NEC is working toward providing for additional opportunities for the sport and that additional schools had been added at the start of the 2022-23 season, but the committee nonetheless believes the NEC should complete its second year competing as a conference with the minimum of six active members prior to being recommended for automatic qualification. The COC also reviewed the request and did not identify any extraordinary circumstances to warrant approving the waiver. agreed with the sport committee's reasoning support.
- (4) **Selection criteria.** The COC approved allowing the men's volleyball committee to add the KPI to its primary selection criteria for the National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship, effective with the 2024 championship. The men's volleyball committee has studied the KPI as a potential criterion over the year and believe it merits inclusion as a primary selection criterion.

## 7. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee reports.

### a. Women's gymnastics.

- (1) **Reimbursement for preliminary rounds.** The COC agreed to table the request from the women's gymnastics committee to reimburse institutions that compete in the preliminary rounds (currently, participants in preliminary rounds do not receive reimbursement for travel). The COC noted that this would not be consistent with the current policy for individual/team sports, and because of the significant budget impact it should be tabled for discussion with other requests for the 2024-25 budget cycle.

**(2) Increase to 18 competing athletes.** The COC also agreed to table the sport committee's request to increase the squad size from 15 to 18 student-athletes. The COC has committed to reviewing squad sizes across all sports every two years, with the next opportunity coming in January 2024. Accordingly, the COC agreed to revisit the matter at that time, noting that if there is no budget impact for the requested increase (as the sport committee reasons, since institutions would be responsible for paying for the three additional student-athletes) it could be implemented for the 2024 championships if supported. However, if the recommendation should warrant a budget increase, it would need to be considered with 2024-25 budget requests.

**(3) Waiver to allow head coach as chair.** The COC approved a waiver to allow Guard Young, head coach at Brigham Young University, to serve as committee chair for the coming year. (Note: Should Brigham Young qualify to the national championship, committee member Cindy Harris, senior associate athletics director at Illinois State University, will serve as chair during competition.)

**b. Men's and women's tennis.**

**(1) AQ waiver request from Conference USA.** The COC approved the sport committee's recommendation that Conference USA be granted automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championships despite having only four members sponsoring the sport during the 2023-24 academic year. Conference USA experienced significant conference realignment following the 2022-23 season, leaving it with just four institutions sponsoring men's tennis, and the timing of these changes did not provide the conference time to get back to five institutions, thus negatively impacting championship access for their student-athletes. The conference noted it will be at five members in 2024-25 for the second year of its grace period and has plans to increase its membership for the 2025-26 academic year and thereafter to meet the automatic qualification requirements. The tennis committee supported – as did the COC – granting relief for one year and considering this the first year of the two-year grace period. The conference would need to have five eligible institutions for 2024-25 and six eligible institutions by 2025-26 or risk losing its automatic qualification. Should the conference have only four eligible institutions for 2024-25, no additional waiver will be granted.

**(2) Automatic qualification.** After approving the Conference USA AQ waiver request, the COC approved the following conferences for automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships (31 conferences for the women's championships and 29 for the men's): 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 Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference (women's only); Mountain

West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference (women's only); Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

**(3) Postseason season-ending events.** The COC considered the sport committee's recommendation to ask that the Division I Council introduce legislation into the 2023-24 cycle to provide an exemption for a student-athlete to compete in one postseason event as an individual and one postseason event as part of the team. (Currently, if a student-athlete makes the NCAA singles and doubles championship but not the team championship, they cannot compete with their team in an NIT tournament.) The COC tabled the request until other sport committees that might be similarly affected (i.e., men's and women's golf) are consulted.

**(4) Request to add tennis to the bracketing pilot.** The COC considered but did not support the sport committee's request to include tennis in the pilot program in which select sports that had been seeding 25% of their brackets seed 50% instead to help determine whether the increase effectively enhances the championships. The COC previously approved women's soccer and women's volleyball as the two pilot participants and believes it is not appropriate to add other sports until the pilot concludes.

**(5) 2024 singles and doubles site selection.** The COC approved the sport committee's recommendation that Baylor University host the first year of the fall singles and doubles championship pilot in fall 2024. Baylor was selected to host the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships as part of the 2023-26 site selection process. With the change to the two-year fall pilot for the singles and doubles championships, the tennis committee reasoned – and the COC agreed – that Baylor should be retained as the host after receiving confirmation from the Big 12 Conference that there would be no home football game that weekend in Waco, Texas.

**c. Men's and women's track and field and cross country.** The committee received the sport committee's annual meeting report as information.

## **8. Future videoconferences/meetings.**

- Wednesday, September 13, 2-3:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- Monday, October 2, 4-8 p.m., and Tuesday, October 3, 9 a.m.-noon (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- Wednesday, November 8, 2-3:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- Monday, December 11, 2-3:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

August 9, 2023, Videoconference

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*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*

<b>NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee August 9, 2023, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Rodrigo Alvarez Gonzalez, Bradley University.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.	
Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Billy Walker, American University.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Jamie Zamrin, Portland State University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Jennifer Condaras, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.	
<b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.	
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.	
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	

<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
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John Baldwin, Jennifer Fraser, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr and Jerry Vaughn.
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