



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 11, 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 recognized the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, which was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. The day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development, and to raise awareness of their situations in all aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life.
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 November 27 videoconference as presented.
4. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** Jamie Zamrin noted her report from the COC's November 27 meeting covered items to date and that the SAAC will meet again at the NCAA Convention.
5. **Bracket expansion update.** Staff updated the committee on the status of discussions regarding the recommendation from the Division I Transformation Committee that sports sponsored by at least 200 institutions be provided a 25% access ratio into the championship. The six sport committees to which the recommendation applies (the Division I Baseball, Division I Men's Soccer, Division I Women's Soccer, Division I Softball, Division I Women's Tennis and Division I Women's Volleyball Committees) have engaged in preliminary discussions and have noted several options for satisfying the recommendation. Those concepts will be forwarded to the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee to consider during its review of financial modeling associated with the resulting proposed bracket expansions alongside other Division I initiatives. The COC will be apprised of the ongoing discussions and be asked for feedback at subsequent meetings. Meanwhile, the sport committees will continue to refine concepts and seek feedback along the way.
6. **Team sports subcommittee reports.**

a. Baseball.

(1) Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) – conference administrator representation.

The COC approved the baseball committee's recommendation that the baseball administrator from each conference sponsoring baseball be added to their respective RACs to provide additional context. Staff will contact conferences ahead of the 2024 season to confirm their baseball administrators can participate in this manner.

(2) Rating Percentage Index (RPI) adjustments. The COC approved the baseball committee's recommendation to adjust the display of "team sheets" for the 2024 season to show results by quadrant that account for the opponents' range of RPI that brings in more results when the games are at neutral or away locations. The adjustment does not change the calculation of the RPI metric but merely the display of results.

(3) Kevin Pauga Index (KPI) as an additional resource during selections. The COC approved the baseball committee's recommendation that the KPI be used as a resource and consideration by the baseball committee during the selection meeting for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship starting with the 2024 championship. The COC noted this recommendation is in line with what other sport committees have adopted.

(4) Baseball game cancellations attestation form and RPI penalty. The COC considered but did not support the baseball committee's recommendation that an attestation form be created that must be managed by the conference baseball administrators and signed by the directors of athletics of both institutions when a nonconference regular-season baseball game is canceled. The COC noted challenges with the suggested administrative process and sent the recommendation back to the baseball committee to consider a different solution to address the issue of canceled games.

b. Softball. The COC received the softball committee's most recent report as information, noting the committee's discussion of bracket expansion options in accordance with the 25% access recommendation noted in Item 5 above. The softball committee also addressed two recent permissive changes to the NCAA softball playing rules (visible action clock and double first base) and whether they should apply for postseason competition. The softball committee agreed that the visible action clock would enhance postseason competition where there are host capabilities but will not require hosts to use the double first base unless both coaches mutually agree to do so.

7. Individual/team sports subcommittee reports.

a. Men's gymnastics.

- **Minimum number of contests.** The COC tabled the men's gymnastics committee's recommendation to reduce the minimum number of contests required for sports sponsorship from nine to eight and asked staff to consult the Sport Science Institute for

comment before final consideration. The COC noted receiving the recommendation due to its oversight of the sport, but if the COC ultimately approves the recommendation, it would be forwarded to the Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee (SVPC) because it relates to membership requirements, which the SVPC oversees. Pending SVPC approval, the Division I Council would be asked to introduce the proposal into the legislative cycle.

b. Men's and women's tennis.

(1) 2025 singles and doubles championships site. The COC approved the tennis committee's recommendation that the USTA National Campus in Orlando be the site for the 2025 singles and doubles championships with the USTA and University of Central Florida serving as hosts. The COC noted the recent success of hosting at that site in 2019, 2021 and 2023.

(2) Informational items. The COC also received an informational report from the tennis committee noting changes to the lineup challenge process, a clear policy for incomplete tournament matches and identifying how alternates will be determined during the fall singles and doubles championships.

8. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- January 9, 2024, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mountain time (in-person meeting in conjunction with the NCAA Convention in Phoenix).
- February 14, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

Committee Chair: Michael Kelly, University of South Florida
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 December 11, 2023, 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.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	

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Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.
Jamie Zamrin, Portland State University.
Absentees:
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.
Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.
Billy Walker, American University.
Guests 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.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Kristin Fasbender, Anthony Holman, Maison Hubbard, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr and Chad Tolliver.