



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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. In honor of Black History Month, the committee recognized two high-achieving Olympic athletes – an icon from the past in The Ohio State University graduate Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games; and more recently, Stanford University graduate Simone Manuel, who became the first Black woman to win an individual medal in swimming when she earned two golds and two silvers at the 2016 Olympic Games.

- 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 January 10 meeting as presented.

- 4. Division I championships updates.**
 - a. Transformation Committee recommendations.** The committee reviewed recommendations from the Division I Transformation Committee’s final report that were endorsed by the Division I Board of Directors and relate directly to the Division I championships program. The recommendations regard bracket composition, championship access ratio for bracket size, elevated travel experience, and a governance model that gives each sport more decision-making autonomy. The committee discussed approaches for gathering feedback on these concepts from sport committees, coaches associations and other key stakeholders to help inform the committee’s discussion and ultimately the committee’s recommendations regarding these proposals in the coming months.

 - b. Bracketing pilot review.** The committee reviewed input from the Division I Women’s Soccer and Volleyball Committees regarding the pilot initiative implemented this past fall in which 50% of the brackets in those two championships were seeded (up from 25%). Both sport committees reported that the increased seeding percentage produced a significantly enhanced championship experience. Given the success of the initiative, the COC asked both sport committees to indicate whether any adjustments to the new guiding principles for bracket selection should be made. Accordingly, the two sport committees offered the following suggestions:

Women’s Soccer

- Seed teams 1-48 in pods of four and send teams 49-64 to sites based on geography and avoiding first- and second-round conference matchups.
- Teams in the 49-64 group will not be sent to the same site as the previous year, using the 2023 championship as the starting point.

Women's Volleyball

- Continue with the current practice of seeding 1-32 in pods of four. Teams 33-48 will be No. 3 seeds at a site and teams 49-64 will be No. 4 seeds at a site. Each first- and second-round site will have two teams from the 1-32 pods as well as a team from each of the No. 3 seed No. 4 seed group.
- Teams in the 33-64 grouping will not be sent to the same site as the previous year, using the 2023 championship as the starting point.

(Note: If there is a conflict between the principle of sending the proper seed to a site (for soccer, the 49-64 grouping, and for volleyball, the 33-48 and 49-64 groupings) and avoiding a team going to the same site in back-to-back years, the principle of sending the proper seed will be given the priority.)

The COC approved those recommendations and affirmed its previous agreement that if the initiative was successful for soccer and volleyball that all other team sports would be able to adopt the pilot's principles as well pending budget approval. The COC agreed that these remaining team sport committees should start with the principles that increase the original bracketing/seeding to 50% as soccer and volleyball did but also have the latitude to apply one of those two committees' suggested adjustments if it makes sense for their sport.

The NCAA administrative services staff has been asked to complete a budget impact analysis for these recommendations for the COC to review at its April meeting.

- 5. Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) update.** Tiffany Daniels updated the committee on the panel's recent meetings and noted the panel's proposal that each division's governance structure pursue legislation to eliminate the current requirement for playing rules to be common among divisions. The Division I Council is expected to consider that recommendation in April.

PROP also discussed the use of playing rules during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season, noting that currently they not explicitly required by playing rules or bylaws, with the exception of softball. Historically, sports have not been consistent in whether playing rules must be used during the nontraditional/nonchampionship season. Accordingly, PROP asked each rules committee with a nontraditional/nonchampionship season to contemplate this topic and provide a recommendation on the use of playing rules during the nontraditional/ nonchampionship season for PROP to review and consider.

- 6. Team Sports Subcommittee report.**

- **Field hockey.**

- **KPI ranking as a selection criterion.** The COC reviewed feedback from the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee, which the COC had previously selected to pilot the use of the KPI ranking as a selection criterion during the 2022 season in order to determine whether the metric would be useful for all team sports. The field hockey committee used the KPI in conjunction with the rest of the established criteria, including the Rating-Percentage Index (RPI), and was pleased enough with the KPI that it formally asked the COC to keep using it. The COC not only approved that request but also agreed to allow other team sport committees to use it as long as they commit to the following approach:

- Establish an evaluation period to determine the KPI's value for the sport before implementing it;
- Actively communicate with and educate the coaching community about the metric; and
- Provide adequate notice to coaches before implementing the metric to accommodate scheduling.

7. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee report.

a. Women's golf.

.500 rule implementation. During its October meeting the COC discussed the selection criterion in golf that for men requires teams to be above .500 to be considered for at-large selection but not for the women. The COC asked the NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee to review the issue and explain why not including the .500 requirement is in the sport's best interests. The women's golf committee in November responded that its membership has not provided formal input on this topic since 2016, and sport committee members were not unanimous in either their support or opposition of the rule. Since then, however, the women's golf committee surveyed its membership and found that more than 70 percent of the respondents now support implementing the rule. As such, the women's golf committee requested – and the COC approved – implementing the .500 rule effective with the 2025 Division I Women's Golf Championships (the delayed effective date accommodates scheduling).

8. Other business.

- **Host site requirements regarding alcohol sales.** Staff informed the committee that the alcohol sales policies for NCAA championship host sites have been adjusted to allow for the sale of beverages with an alcohol content of 15% or less to accommodate hard seltzer/cider beverages in addition to beer and wine.

9. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Tuesday, March 7, 3-4 p.m. Eastern time (Administrative Committee videoconference).
- Tuesday, April 11, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (quarterly meeting via videoconference).
- 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 February 8, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Jennifer Condaras, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
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.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Eddie Nunez, University of New Mexico.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Absentees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.	
Billy Walker, American University.	
Julia Ware, University of Notre Dame.	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	

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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:
Jennifer Fraser, Will Hopkins, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr, Sara Thurber and Jerry Vaughn.