



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 9, 2024, MEETING**

**Note: This document does not include items incorporated in the NCAA Division I Council report.**

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 was provided a short video on understanding Hispanic heritage.

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 December 11 videoconference as presented.

4. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** Jamie Zamrin updated the COC on items the SAAC will address during its meeting this week at the NCAA Convention. The report prompted a larger discussion within the COC on issues affecting student-athletes, including the impact of sports wagering on student-athletes and the educational resources available to institutions to help protect them.

5. **Division I championships.**

- a. **Review of preparations for tennis championships pilot.** Staff updated the committee regarding questions that have been raised from the membership in advance of the two-year pilot in 2024 and 2025 during which the division will conduct the men's and women's tennis singles and doubles championships in the fall and continue conducting the team championships in the spring. Since the approval of the pilot, the NCAA academic and membership affairs (AMA) staff have fielded questions from the membership requesting interpretations of various bylaws in light of the pilot. COC members reviewed and supported a Q&A staff prepared regarding the rationale behind the pilot and noted that AMA staff should request feedback from the Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee should background be required to provide the membership responses. AMA

staff also should catalogue questions asked and responses provided to benefit the evaluation of the pilot that the tennis committee and the COC will conduct in the future.

- b. Bracket expansion update.** Division I governance staff updated the committee on the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee's review of options from the six sport committees (baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, women's tennis and women's volleyball) impacted by the Transformation Committee's recommendation that sports sponsored by at least 200 institutions be provided a 25% access ratio into the championship. The finance committee considered the various options from sport committees to determine funding impacts but also acknowledged additional impacts of bracket expansion beyond financial allocations. The finance committee asked staff to create an internal working group to collaborate with membership on potential impacts of bracket expansion.
- c. Conference opponents.** Sport committees and individuals within the membership have asked staff whether upcoming conference realignment in 2024-25 will impact Bylaw 31.3.2.5, which states that in championships that do not generate revenue and for which only 25 percent of the bracket is seeded, conference opponents shall be avoided in the first two rounds. Staff reviewed past brackets for select championships to identify any potential challenges that upcoming conference realignment could have in that regard and did not cite any significant concerns. Staff noted that the bracketing pilot allowing select sport committees to seed 50% of their brackets also should help. Staff will continue monitoring the situation and will notify the COC if issues emerge.
- d. Sport region assignments.** The COC's Team Sports Subcommittee during its December meeting asked that sport region assignments by conference be added to a future COC agenda given the challenges resulting from the geography of some conferences (particularly those that are expanding). The region assignments are primarily to allow regional advisory committees a consistent process by which to evaluate conference members. Accordingly, all members of a conference are placed in the same region for these evaluation purposes. Sport region assignments also factor into sport committee composition. After discussion, the COC agreed to seek input from sport committees whether conference members should continue to be grouped in one region or whether a different approach is warranted.

## 6. Other business.

- **Media rights agreement.** The committee noted the January 4 [announcement](#) regarding the agreement between ESPN and the NCAA on a new, eight-year media rights contract beginning Sept. 1, 2024, that includes domestic rights to a record 40 NCAA championships – 21 women's and 19 men's events – and international rights to those same NCAA championships plus the Division I men's basketball tournament.

## 7. Future videoconferences/meetings.

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- Wednesday, February 14, 2-3:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- Wednesday, April 10, 2-3:30 p.m. (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

| <b>NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee<br/>January 9, 2024, Meeting</b> |  |
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| <b>Attendees:</b>   |  |
| Jennifer Condaras, Coastal Athletic Association.                                    |  |
| Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).                                       |  |
| Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.                                  |  |
| Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.                  |  |
| Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.                                       |  |
| Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.   |  |
| Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.   |  |
| Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.                                 |  |
| Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.   |  |
| Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.   |  |
| Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.  |  |
| Billy Walker, American University (via videoconference).                            |  |
| Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.                                      |  |
| Jamie Zamrin, Portland State University.  |  |
| <b>Absentees:</b>   |  |
| Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.   |  |
| Rodrigo Alvarez Gonzalez, Bradley University.                                       |  |
| Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.                                      |  |
| <b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>  |  |
| Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor (via videoconference).                                  |  |
| <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>                                      |  |
| Amanda Conklin, Maison Hubbard, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr and Jerry Vaughn.      |  |