



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
JULY 13, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **NCAA Bylaw 18.4.2.2-e – Championships – Eligibility.**
 - (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council introduce legislation into the 2022-23 cycle to add cross country to the provisions of Bylaw 18.4.2.2-e regarding minimum contests and participants requirements for indoor and outdoor track and field.
 - (2) Effective date. August 1, 2023 (applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2023).
 - (3) Rationale. The current bylaw applies to indoor and outdoor track and field, and this recommendation would add cross country to provide consistency for the three sports with many of the same participating student-athletes and coaches. Currently, an institution that sponsors cross country but doesn't sponsor indoor and/or outdoor track can't compete at those championships. Conversely, the recommendation would prevent an institution that sponsors indoor and/or outdoor track but not cross country from being able to have their distance runners compete at the cross country championships. The delayed effective date allows student-athletes being recruited this year to know before committing to an institution whether they would be eligible for the 2023 cross country championships. Student-athletes enrolled before August 1, 2023, would follow the previous bylaw.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Under the current rules some institutions claim to sponsor cross country without fully meeting sport sponsorship requirements, which in turn takes away an opportunity from a school or individual whose institution is fully sponsoring the sport. This recommendation ensures that schools who truly sponsor the sport are those rewarded with being eligible for the NCAA national championships.

2. Nonlegislative 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 event that has made a positive impact in intercollegiate athletics. The committee at this meeting celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the benchmark federal legislation adopted in 1972 decreeing that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” The NCAA subsequently approved sponsorship of women’s championships in all three divisions beginning in the fall of 1981. Staff noted that the national office intends to highlight the anniversary frequently during this coming year, culminating with a celebration at the 2023 NCAA Women’s Final Four.

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 meeting as presented.
4. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The committee received an update on the work of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel to date.
5. **Division I championships updates.**
 - a. **Gender equity update.** Staff updated the committee on initiatives to address recommendations from both phases of the gender equity report, noting that with championships now complete for the 2021-22 academic year, work will continue in earnest to implement additional changes before the fall sport championships this coming year. The committee will receive regular updates at each meeting going forward.
 - b. **Replacement policy update.** The committee revisited a set of replacement policies for Division I and National Collegiate Championships that were introduced prior to the winter championships in 2021 due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain in effect. Staff updated the committee on efforts to codify these policies across sports, including basketball, to apply going forward and noted that the COC will see an updated draft during its next meeting.
 - c. **Bracketing pilot.** The committee noted the enthusiastic support from the Division I Council regarding the one-year pilot for two fall sports (women’s soccer and women’s volleyball) to assign seeds to 50 percent of their brackets and use the data from the pilot to make informed funding decisions next spring as the committee prepares to allocate dollars for the 2023-24 year and beyond. The committee reviewed a draft of the bracketing principles

that will be applied for the pilot and will send to the two relevant sport committees for use during selections this coming fall.

- d. **Division I Council update.** In addition to the Council's support for the bracketing pilot during its June meeting noted above, the Council also recommended that the NCAA Division I Board of Directors review the NCAA budget and consider future adjustments to prioritize the funding of championships as a key function of the NCAA. The COC has been advocating such action over time to reflect a more contemporary commitment within Division I budgeting priorities to ensuring student-athletes and institutions alike are more fully supported while participating in the pinnacle of their athletics experience.

Accordingly, the committee reviewed the following decision-making priorities developed during its June meeting to drive policy changes and/or budget allocations as the Division I championships program evolves:

- Bracket integrity (unanimously identified by COC members as the top priority);
- Quality of competition;
- Funding championships as fully as possible to reduce the financial burden on the membership;
- Access and participation (e.g., field size, AQs);
- Championship formats; and
- Exposure and broadcast opportunities.

Staff noted an effort to flesh out these decision-making priorities for the committee to examine at a future meeting (including cost analyses) so that the committee can further prioritize them for the Council's benefit as the review of championship allocations progresses in the near term.

- e. **Bench size flexibility feedback.** Staff reviewed a document charting current bench size limits for all sports as a result of the COC providing sport committees the flexibility to determine the limits appropriate to the sport and circumstances (e.g., roster size, facility logistics, etc.). The committee supports continuing to provide this flexibility going forward.
- f. **Officiating initiatives update.** Staff updated the committee on initiatives begun since the comprehensive reviews of officiating conducted in 2019 and 2020 that focused on ways to strengthen the pool of qualified officials and provide enhanced education and training for those individuals to successfully meet expectations.

6. Team Sports Subcommittee report.

a. Men's soccer.

- **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following 23 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2022 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship:

America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southern Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

b. Women's beach volleyball.

- 1) **Championship format.** The COC approved the sport committee's request to conduct the championship beginning in 2023 with 16 teams playing in a single-elimination tournament at one site. The format will feature eight duals conducted on the first day, six duals conducted on the second day and the championship dual on the final day. The tournament will continue to be played Friday-Sunday. The COC based its support on the success the sport committee experienced with this format during the 2022 championship. The COC also noted potential benefits and efficiencies that could be realized with this approach going forward.
- 2) **Selection criteria.** The COC approved the sport committee's request to select teams on a national basis rather than be required to select a certain number of teams from each geographic region, effective with the 2023 championship. The COC noted that this change is consistent with other team sports, and that access previously provided via geographical proximity is better accommodated through national selection given the implementation of automatic-qualifying conferences in beach volleyball last year.

c. Men's volleyball.

- 1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following five conferences for automatic qualification into the 2023 National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship: Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.
- 2) **Proposed bracket expansion.** The COC approved in principle the sport committee's request to expand the bracket for the National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship from seven to 12 teams, effective with the 2024 championship. The COC supported the expansion in concept given the growth in sponsorship and how the increase to 12 teams would keep the sport in line with the bracket access percentages that have been central to the review of recent bracket considerations and agreed to more formally consider the expansion during the COC's review of all sport committee budget requests for the next budget cycle in spring 2023.

3) **Selection criteria.** The COC considered but tabled the sport committee’s request to add the KPI to the primary selection criteria for the National Collegiate Men’s Volleyball Championship. The COC noted that the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee had previously been granted use of the KPI on a pilot basis for its 2022 championship and prefers to evaluate the results of that action before evaluating whether all sports, or select sports, should use the metric as part of the primary selection criteria as well. The COC also acknowledged that because that KPI is conducted by an outside entity, there would be the need to better understand the potential budget impact before fully launching with other sport committees.

7. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee report.

- **Men’s and women’s track and field and cross country.**

1) **Legislative proposal.** The COC supported the sport committee’s request to add cross country to Bylaw 18.4.2.2-e, which would require teams to meet sport sponsorship minimums to be eligible to compete in the NCAA cross country championships. (See Action Item 1.)

2) **Regional sites.** The COC approved the sport committee’s request to conduct the regionals for the NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Championships in 2023, 2024 and 2025 at the following sites.

Regional	2023	2024	2025
Great Lakes	University of Wisconsin, Madison	Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and Mid-American Conference	Evansville Sports Corporation/University of Evansville
Mid-Atlantic	Lehigh University	Penn State University	Lehigh University
Midwest	Oklahoma State University	Bradley University	Oklahoma State University
Mountain	Texas Tech University	Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority/ University of Nevada, Reno	University of Utah
Northeast	Columbia University	Boston College/University of Massachusetts Lowell	Boston College/University of Massachusetts Lowell
South	University of Florida	Florida State University	Huntsville Sports Commission/University of North Alabama
South Central	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	Texas A&M University, College Station	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Southeast	Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau/ University of South Carolina Upstate	Visit York County/ Winthrop University	University of Virginia

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West	Sacramento Sports Commission/California State University, Sacramento	Washington State University	Sacramento Sports Commission/California State University, Sacramento
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8. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Wednesday, August 10, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- Wednesday, September 14, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- Monday-Tuesday, October 3-4 (quarterly meeting in person, Indianapolis).
- Wednesday, November 9, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- Wednesday, December 14, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).

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 July 13, 2022, Videoconference
Attendees:
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.
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.
Julia Ware, University of Notre Dame.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.
Absentees:
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.
Mark Benson, University of Albany.
Brad Edwards, George Mason University.
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Martin Newton, Samford University.
Eddie Nunez, University of New Mexico.

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Billy Walker, American University.
Guest(s) in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kristin Fasbender, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff Mlynski and Jeff O'Barr, Kelly Whitaker.