



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
JUNE 26, 2023, 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. The committee acknowledged the month of June honors a number of diversity initiatives, including Caribbean American Heritage Month, which began in 2006; and LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, which began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread beyond the United States. June also now includes the Juneteenth holiday on June 19, which was signed into law in 2021 and commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.
- 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 May 10 videoconference as presented.
- 4. Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The committee reviewed reports from PROP's June meeting.
- 5. Division I championships updates.**
 - a. Discussion of 25% championships access concept.** The committee reviewed initial feedback from the six sport committees for sports it oversees (baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, women's tennis, and women's volleyball) that would be impacted by the Division I Transformation Committee's recommendation to provide a 25 percent championship access ratio for sports sponsored by at least 200 member institutions. The following chart illustrates the impact of the 25 percent on the six sports.

Sport	Sponsorship	Current Bracket Size	Current Access Ratio	25% Access Bracket Size (rounded to nearest whole #)	Resulting Bracket Increase
Baseball	293	64	22%	73	9
Softball	293	64	22%	73	9
Men's Soccer	202	48	24%	51	3
Women's Soccer	335	64	19%	84	20
Women's Tennis	300	64	21%	75	11
Women's Volleyball	332	64	19%	83	19

The initial feedback from the sport committees indicated general support for increasing brackets. The COC will continue communicating with the sport committees to develop recommendations, noting that while the Transformation Committee acknowledged when making this recommendation that the 25% threshold was a marker, the sport committees could propose something different if the 25% would compromise the integrity of their championship, The COC is encouraging the sport committees to propose models that near the 25% goal.

Relatedly, the COC reiterated that its top priority as previously identified is bracket integrity and seeding (i.e., seeding at least 50% of brackets), which the committee will continue to emphasize as it oversees this work.

- b. Team travel experience concepts.** The committee also reviewed sport committee feedback regarding the Transformation Committee's recommendation to enhance the postseason travel experience for participating teams. The feedback indicated the following six priorities:
- a. Increase all Division I and National Collegiate per diem rates to be equal with Division I basketball preliminary rounds.
 - b. Reimburse for local ground transportation when a team travels by air.
 - c. Guarantee outbound charter air travel for teams advancing to the finals round for teams that otherwise qualify for air travel. (This would not apply to sports that conduct the entirety of the championship at one site or bring more than eight teams to the finals site.)
 - d. For outbound travel to competition site, do not split NCAA-financed travel party. Additional variations could be set for outbound flights versus return flights.

- e. Standardize the process and fee structure for upgrading to charter air travel. Currently institutions can upgrade to a charter by paying the difference of the charter while using the commercial option cost (i.e., if NCAA commercial option cost of \$20,000 and charter cost of \$80,000, then at institution pays the \$60,000). The recommendation is that the NCAA determines a flat or fixed pay to upgrade cost for the institutions.
 - f. Modify travel policies for team sports to apply the hub rule only on departure or arrival, but not both.
- 6. Emerging sports update.** Given the increasing growth in several emerging sports, the committee reviewed the emerging sports process in its entirety, including the transition process and timeline for an emerging sport to become a championship sport.
- 7. Waiver request for automatic qualification and schedule submission policy clarifications.** The committee approved a request from the Big Sky Conference to be granted automatic qualification in men's golf for the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships despite having only four members sponsoring the sport during the 2023-24 academic year. The committee acknowledged that the Big Sky Conference planned to enter the first year of its two-year grace period for AQ with five institutions sponsoring men's golf. In May 2023, one of the five institutions announced it was leaving the conference and the timing of the announcement precludes the conference from getting back to five sponsoring institutions prior to the 2023-24 season, thus negatively impacting championship access and potentially jeopardizing sponsorship for the remaining programs and student-athletes in the Big Sky Conference.

The committee granted relief for one year and considered 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 fall below four eligible institutions for 2023-24 or have only four eligible institutions for 2024-25, no additional waivers will be granted.

In addition, the men's golf committee noted additional clarifications to the schedule submission policy to define more clearly what is and is not permissible regarding rescheduled or additional events beyond the schedule submission deadline. These clarifications will be communicated to head coaches in advance of the 2023-24 academic year.

- 8. Championship access consideration in men's ice hockey.** Staff noted for the committee that Augustana University (South Dakota), a Division II member institution, sent correspondence indicating its intent to add men's ice hockey and its desire to be eligible for participation in the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship since there is no championship currently at the Division II level. Staff notified the institution that, per NCAA legislation, it could be considered for the Division I championship if it meets all Division I institutional and individual eligibility

requirements but that it would still be considered a Division II institution (since multi-division classification is no longer permitted).

9. Governance update. Staff updated the committee on the status of Transformation Committee recommendations regarding the Division I decision-making process (governance), including revised sport committee composition requirements and a more streamlined legislative process designed to move decision making further down into the structure with appropriate checks and balances.

10. NCAA Media Rights Update. The committee received a media rights update.

11. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Wednesday, August 9 (virtual meeting).
- Wednesday, September 13 (virtual meeting).

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

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Attendees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University (via videoconference).	
Jennifer Condaras, Colonial Athletic Association (via videoconference).	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
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.	
Eddie Nunez, University of New Mexico.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.	
Billy Walker, American University (via videoconference).	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Morgyn Wynn, Oklahoma State University (representing the Division I SAAC).	
Absentees:	

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Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.
Mark Benson, University of Albany
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference
Guest(s) in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor (via videoconference).
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
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, Melissa Piening, Chad Tolliver and Jerry Vaughn.