



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
JUNE 24-25, 2024, MEETING**

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

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and opening remarks.** The Division I Competition Oversight Committee Chair Michael Kelly welcomed the group to its in-person meeting and introduced three new committee members: Allison Rich, director of athletics at the University of New Hampshire; Shannon Strahl, deputy director of athletics and chief operating officer at Gonzaga University; and Keeley Rasmussen, a track and field student-athlete and graduate of Long Beach State University who is serving as the COC's new SAAC representative.
2. **Introduction of new senior vice president.** New Senior Vice President for Championships Lynda Tealer joined the committee via videoconference to introduce herself and provide an overview of her vision for the NCAA championships program. Ms. Tealer, who most recently was a deputy athletics director at the University of Florida and has spent the past 29 years in college athletics administration, has served in several leadership positions in the NCAA governance structure, including as chair of the Division I Council and the COC. She will oversee 84 NCAA championships and manage functions in event operations, media coordination and statistics, playing rules, ticket operations and marketing, merchandise and licensing, and social and digital media.
3. **Committee focus areas and decision-making priorities.** As it 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

4. **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 at each meeting recognizes an influential person, group or initiative that has made a positive impact in intercollegiate athletics. For this meeting, in recognition of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, the COC acknowledged Sanya Richards-Ross, a former student-athlete at the University of Texas at Austin and Olympian who competed internationally for the United States in the 400-meter run. The COC also recognized the Juneteenth holiday and Pride Month that takes place annually in June.

5. **Review of recent reports.** The committee approved the report from its April 10 videoconference and the report from the Administrative Committee's April 22 videoconference as presented.
6. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The committee reviewed recent reports from PROP as information.
7. **Update on emerging sports for women.** The committee received an update on the NCAA's Emerging Sports for Women Program, including the status of all six sports currently in the program as well as the agreement from all three NCAA divisions to sponsor legislation for a vote at the 2025 NCAA Convention to transition women's wrestling from an emerging sport to an NCAA championship sport. The committee was also informed that women's flag football is expected to apply for emerging-sport status by the August 1 deadline. Women's flag football rapidly has gained popularity via support from the NFL and is already slated to be an Olympic sport at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.
8. **Discussion of access to Division I championship when no championship is available.** The committee reviewed and discussed current legislation that permits Division II members to compete in the Division I championship in sports for which no championship is conducted in Division II. The committee took no action at this time but agreed to review at a future meeting.

[Note: At the recommendation of the NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee, the council introduced a proposal into the October 2024 legislative cycle that addresses this topic. If adopted, the proposal would preserve Division I championship access for men's ice hockey but would foreclose future Division I championship access for other sports for which no championship is offered in Division II.]

9. **Review of region requirements for sport committees.** Per a request from the NCAA Division I Nominating Committee, the COC reviewed the legislated composition requirements of Division I sport championship committees as they relate to geographic regions. The issue has become more complex as conference realignment and required composition requirements increasingly impact the geographic regions of some sport committees. The new composition that guarantees each of the four autonomy conferences a spot on a sport committee along with the new success principle are additional factors. After extensive discussion, the COC offered the following feedback to the nominating committee:
 - a. Consider asking the Division I Council to introduce an amendment to eliminate references in Bylaw 21.7 to sport region assignment in sport committee composition.
 - b. Consider requiring that only one person per conference be allowed to serve on a sport committee.

- c. Allow sport committees to determine how they manage the organization of institutions for season-long evaluations and rankings. Encourage like sports to collaborate on regional alignment to be as similar as possible.
- d. Without being prescriptive, encourage the nominating committee to adopt as policy a commitment to balance geographic representation as effectively as possible on sport committees.

10. Individual/team sports subcommittee report.

a. Men's and women's fencing.

(1) **Regional allocation formula.** The COC approved the recommendation to change the regional allocation formula to award points in a tiered structure based on individual finishes at the finals site, and to reflect success based on a region's highest potential number of points. Awarding points in a tiered fashion for finishes at the finals site and factoring in success relative to a region's highest potential number of points more adequately awards success for regions with high achieving fencers at the finals site.

(2) **Committee chair.** The COC approved a waiver to allow a head coach (Zach Moss, head fencing coach at Northwestern University) to serve as chair of the fencing committee for 2024-25.

b. **Men's and women's skiing.** The COC received as information the report from the skiing committee's March 11 meeting, noting support from US Ski and Snowboard for the committee's previously requested additional Nordic sprint event to the championship. (The COC previously tabled this item pending further budget discussions.)

c. Men's and women's swimming and diving.

- **Zone diving sites.** The COC approved the following zone diving sites for the 2025 championships:

Zone	Host Institution	Location
A	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick	Piscataway, New Jersey
B	Auburn University	Auburn, Alabama
C	The Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio
D	University of Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa
E	University of Utah	Federal Way, Washington

d. **Men's and women's tennis.** The COC received as information the report from the tennis committee's March 12 videoconference, noting that the tennis committee will retain the

current criteria for seeding the tournament and ordering the alternate list for the fall singles and doubles championships.

- e. **Men's and women's track and field and cross country.** The COC received as information the report from the sport committee's March 26 videoconference, noting a 2024 Northeast Regional site change due to construction that moves the event from Franklin Park in Boston to Hopkinton State Fairgrounds Cross Country Course in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Boston College and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell will remain co-hosts.

11. Team sports subcommittee report.

a. Beach volleyball.

- **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following eight conferences to receive automatic qualification for the 2025 National Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Championship: Atlantic Sun Conference; Big West Conference; Conference USA; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation; Ohio Valley Conference; Sun Belt Conference; Southland Conference; and West Coast Conference.

[Note: The COC noted that the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation is a new automatic qualifying conference for the 2025 championship with six former Pac-12 institutions competing (Stanford, California, UCLA, Southern California, Washington and Oregon). Because these six schools have played together for at least two years, the COC granted the MPSF an exception from the two-year waiting period requirement for National Collegiate championships. The exception also applies to the moratorium in place for the creation of single-sport conferences. However, this issue prompted discussion among COC members regarding a single-sport conference with Aqs in multiple sports (the MPSF also has Aqs for men's and women's water polo and men's volleyball). The COC may discuss the matter further at a future meeting.]

- b. **Men's soccer.** The COC received as information the report from the Men's Soccer Committee's January 29-30 annual meeting.

c. Women's soccer.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following 30 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference;

Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

(2) **Selection criteria.** The COC approved adding wins and ties against the top 25 and top 50 in the adjusted RPI and ties and losses against teams below 150 in the adjusted RPI as primary criteria, and to add results against teams ranked 51-100 as secondary criteria. These criteria will allow the Women's Soccer Committee to increase transparency with the membership as it explains where the committee places its greatest importance.

(3) **RPI adjustments.** The COC also approved changing the bonus/penalty structure in the RPI to a bonus for wins and ties against teams ranked 1-25, a lesser bonus for wins and ties against teams ranked 26-50 for all games, and the lowest bonus for wins only against teams ranked 51-100. Also, penalties would be changed for ties and losses to teams ranked 151-250 and a more significant penalty would be assessed for losses and ties to teams ranked below 250. Additionally, ties will count for one-third of a win instead of one-half of a win (which is what the men's committee has already been approved to do and reflects how ties are typically valued and treated in conference standings). The penalties and bonuses would apply to nonconference contests only, as is currently done.

(4) **Video review.** The COC considered but tabled the request to require all preliminary-round hosts to implement video review starting with the 2025 championship. The COC raised concerns about hosts having the infrastructure to do this, and the requirement could prove challenging and costly due to the differing levels of soccer facilities and the fiber/cabling necessary. The committee also noted that the Men's Soccer Committee does not require video review for its preliminary rounds. Accordingly, the COC asked for additional information regarding how many conferences currently require video review and whether those that do not would be willing to implement it. The committee noted the desire for consistency across sites and between genders and as such does not support having video review as being permissive among preliminary-round sites.

(5) **Championship format change.** The COC voted to table the request to establish a second day of rest between the second and third rounds of the NCAA tournament. The COC acknowledged the rationale but agreed to review this alongside other budget requests in the future.

d. **Men's and women's soccer.** The COC received as information the report from the soccer committees' January 29 joint meeting.

e. **Women's volleyball.**

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following 31 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball

Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal Athletic Conference; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; Sun Belt Conference; The Summit League; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

(2) Challenge review system. The COC approved the request to require institutions wishing to host the first and second rounds of the championship to have a minimum five-camera challenge review system in place, effective with the 2025 championship. The COC acknowledged similar cost concerns as with the video review item for women's soccer above but also noted that as an indoor sport, the system would be easier to implement. In addition, institutions that conduct their competition in basketball facilities would be able to repurpose the challenge review system in place for that sport. The expense will be the responsibility of the host institution.

12. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Wednesday, August 28, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time (videoconference).
- Monday, October 7, 4-8 p.m. Eastern time and Tuesday, October 8, 9 a.m.-noon Eastern time (in-person meeting in Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Michael Kelly, University of South Florida
Staff Liaisons: Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances

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Attendees:	
Jennifer Condaras, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference (via videoconference).	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference (via videoconference).	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	

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Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.
Keeley Rasmussen, Long Beach State University.
Allison Rich, University of New Hampshire.
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.
Shannon Strahl, Gonzaga University.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University (via videoconference).
Absentees:
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.
Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Guest(s) in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor (via videoconference).
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Tracy McClendon, Gretchen Miron, Lynda Tealer (via videoconference) and Jerry Vaughn.