



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MARCH 24, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and the student-athlete voice.** Staff updated the committee on anti-racism resources that will be shared with the membership to help support the Asian/Pacific Islander community. The collection of websites and videos compiled by the NCAA Office of Inclusion continues efforts to address inequities among specified minority groups and reflects the ongoing initiative to heighten the focus on student-athletes and emphasize their value in the NCAA collegiate model of athletics.
- 2. Division I championships update.** Staff updated the committee on the 15 Division I, Division II and National Collegiate Championships completed to date, including progress on administering testing protocols and the execution of replacement policies where necessary. Staff also updated the committee on the bid process for predetermined sites for spring sports.
- 3. Team sports subcommittee report.**
  - **Men's and women's soccer.** During its March 17 videoconference the committee considered a recommendation from the men's and women's soccer committees to consolidate the postponed 2020 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Soccer Championships by having all 36 men's teams and 48 women's teams compete at one geographic location and condensing the overall time to conduct the championships. Due to the large number of teams in one geographic location, the Competition Oversight Committee asked the sport committees to provide more detail to ensure that this format could be conducted safely and cost effectively while protecting the integrity of the brackets and the student-athlete experience.

During the March 24 videoconference the committee received a comprehensive presentation summarizing logistics for championships that will be conducted in April at various on-campus and off-campus sites in east and central North Carolina. The Competition Oversight Committee was reassured that the format should minimize travel for teams, as they would travel one time into the area and have, at most, a nominal bus ride to the next round. The format also will minimize the number of local/state health jurisdictions guidelines by which to abide and provides efficiencies for COVID-19 testing sites/setup. The Competition Oversight Committee also was reassured that the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the Town of Cary, which are hosting the Men's and Women's College Cups, respectively, have agreed to help facilitate the ancillary sites hosting the preliminary rounds.

The sport committees intend to provide some opportunity for family and friends to attend the championships. Currently there are no travel restrictions to North Carolina and attendance is allowed at 30 percent capacity. Each off-campus site has additional fields

for practice or warm-ups and a turf field (or fields) option in the event of inclement weather. While this year's tournament will be conducted differently, the sport committees are committed to providing the best experience for the student-athletes under the current circumstances. By conducting all championship rounds in one locale, the committees can control some of the variables in providing a safe environment for the championships.

As for the budget impact, when compared to the alternate format (i.e., traditional placement of preliminary-round host sites around the country), cost savings will be realized for overall operational expenses and reduced team travel. There will be increased per diem for extended time on site, but it is anticipated that those costs will be offset by the reduction in travel. Operational costs have not been finalized but reducing the number of sites will result in efficiencies. While some sites might incur additional infrastructure costs (e.g., personnel, internet/streaming capabilities, temporary bleachers/restrooms), it is anticipated that the additional costs/savings mostly will offset each other.

After discussion, the Competition Oversight Committee approved the format as specified and urged the sport committees and staff to continue taking the appropriate steps with hosts and site administrators to ensure as much as possible that student-athletes competing at each of the venues are afforded an experience that is as rewarding and as equitable as possible.

- 4. Future videoconferences.** The committee agreed to continue its biweekly meeting schedule for the near future beginning with the next videoconference on Wednesday, April 7, from 1-2:30 p.m. Eastern time. Staff will work to schedule future dates and times.

*Committee Chair: Lynda Tealer, University of Florida*

*Staff Liaisons: Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances*

*Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances*

*Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee March 24, 2021, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Amanda Braun, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.	
Keisha Dunlap, Conference USA.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Beth Goetz, Ball State University.	

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Ted Gumbart, ASUN Conference.
Ken Halpin, Winthrop University.
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.
Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference.
Megan Klavitter, Chicago State University.
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.
Luis Marcano, University of Delaware.
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University.
Kris Pierce, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Nona Richardson, University of Utah.
Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine.
Lynda Tealer, University of Florida.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Doug Knuth, University of Nevada, Reno.
Julia Ware, Purdue University.
<b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Clifton Douglass, Conference USA (Chair of the Division I Women's Soccer Committee).
Chris Schneider, Big East Conference (Chair of the Division I Men's Soccer Committee).
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jennifer Fraser, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Ryan Tressel, Jerry Vaughn and Kelly Whitaker.