



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MAY 10, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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 noted the celebration of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.
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 April 11, 2023, videoconference as presented.
4. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The committee reviewed the report from PROP's April meeting as information, noting the rule change in football in which the clock would not stop after first downs except during the final two minutes of each half. While Divisions I and II support that change, Division III asked – and PROP agreed – to refer it to the Football Rules Committee for further review as it pertains to Division III.
5. **Division I championships updates.**
 - a. **Sports media landscape.** The committee received a presentation on the sports media landscape.
 - b. **Gender equity update.** John Baldwin and Leigh Ann Price joined the videoconference to update the committee on the internal process underway for ensuring equitable practices and operations by gender across NCAA championships, including the audit being conducted by a third party to ensure that the actions implemented since the gender equity report was issued have helped achieve gender equity within the NCAA Championships program.
 - c. **Transformation roadmap update.**

- 1) **Holistic student-athlete benefits model.** The Division I Board of Directors in April adopted the Transformation Committee's recommendations regarding the holistic model of student-athlete benefits, which will become effective August 1, 2024.
 - 2) **Bracketing/seeding.** The Division I Council in April supported the COC's recommendations to allow select sport committees to implement the bracketing/seeding guidelines as specified and forwarded those recommendations to the Board of Directors Finance Committee for consideration. The finance committee and its staff liaisons are working on a precise budget analysis and will discuss the recommendation again in the summer. As for the recommendations regarding travel enhancements and accommodating championship access for 25% of active Division I members in good standing in team sports sponsored by more than 200 schools, sport committees will be asked to provide input on those items in June.
 - 3) **Sport management model.** The Board of Directors in April modified the timeline for implementing the decision-making structure. The soonest a final recommendation related to governance committees, including sport management committees, will be provided to the Board of Directors is August. The Council will consider legislative action on changes to the composition of select sports committees (championships committees) during its June meeting, with an August 1, 2023, effective date.
- d. **Site selection update.** Staff noted that the next site selection cycle for 2026-30 will be initiated July 19 and remain open through February 2024, with bids subsequently being evaluated through spring and summer 2024 and finalized in October 2024.
- e. **Championship Awards Program feedback.** The COC asked select sport committees to offer feedback on how trophies are awarded after discussing whether to award them to advancing teams at the preceding round as opposed to at the finals site, with the idea being to present something tangible for teams to celebrate in the moment of advancement rather than after a defeat at the finals. For sports with regionals in this model, trophies could be presented to regional winners at the regional sites and to the national champion and runner-up at the finals site. The COC received feedback from the following sport committees:
- 1) **Women's gymnastics.** The gymnastics committee indicated a preference to retain its current format of awarding trophies to the top four teams at the finals site only and not provide trophies at the regionals. The sport committee noted that the regional winners may not qualify to the finals and that a regional runner-up could advance to the finals but not receive a trophy in the proposed model. The COC supported the gymnastics committee's request.
 - 2) **Men's and women's cross country.** The men's and women's track and field and cross country committee ranked its top four options for the COC to consider, the first of which

was to award regional champion trophies as well as trophies to the top four teams at the finals site. However, the COC supported the sport committee's second choice, which is to not award trophies at regionals but to award them to the top four teams at the finals site. The COC noted this approach is consistent with what the women's gymnastics committee recommended.

6. Team Sports Subcommittee report.

- **Women's soccer.** The COC approved the women's soccer committee's recommendation to add the KPI to its selection criteria effective with the 2023 Division I Women's Soccer Championship.

7. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee report.

- a. **Men's and women's fencing.** The COC received the fencing committee's report, noting as information the committee's intent to submit a recommendation to the COC in June that would increase the number of regions from four to six.

b. **Wrestling.**

- 1) **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved that the following conferences be awarded one automatic qualification spot for each of the 10 weight classes to the 2024 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships: Atlantic Coast Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association; Mid-American Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and Southern Conference.
- 2) **Weighted selection criteria.** The COC approved the wrestling committee's request to modify weighted selection criteria by increasing the conference place finish to 15 percent and reducing the coaches' rank to 10 percent. The wrestling committee recommended the change to strengthen the integrity of the process.
- 3) **Conference championship participation.** The COC approved the wrestling committee's request to require a wrestler to have participated in at least two matches in his respective conference tournament to be considered for at-large selection to the championships. The current policy already requires participation in the conference championship, but this further defines that participation and emphasizes its importance.

8. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- a. Monday, June 26, and Tuesday, June 27 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- b. Tuesday, July 18, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

May 10, 2023, Videoconference

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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 May 10, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Jennifer Condaras, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Katherine Harston, New Mexico State University.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Eddie Nunez, University of New Mexico.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Absentees:	
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Billy Walker, American University.	
Julia Ware, University of Notre Dame.	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
Karen Brodtkin, Endeavor.	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
Jared Edelson, Endeavor.	
Eddie Llano, Endeavor.	
Hillary Mandel, Endeavor.	
Nicholas Warke, Endeavor.	
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:

John Baldwin, Jennifer Fraser, Dan Gavitt, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Julie Kimmons, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr, Leigh Ann Price and Jerry Vaughn.