



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 18, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Nonlegislative Items.**

- **Automatic qualification requirements for Division I winter sport championships other than basketball.** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Council approve a blanket waiver of Bylaws 31.3.4.4.1 (multisport conference) and 31.3.4.4.2 (single-sport conference) for 2020-21 winter sports other than basketball with respect to the minimum number of teams required for automatic qualification in multisport and single-sport conferences, provided a minimum of three institutions participate in conference competition together. (This is the same blanket waiver the Council approved in October for fall sport championships conducted in the spring semester.)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and the student-athlete voice.** Staff updated the group on an all-staff presentation from a campus consultant on EDI topics and noted that NCAA President Mark Emmert is keeping these issues front and center in national office and governance operations moving forward.
2. **Division I championships discussion.** The committee reviewed materials in an effort to establish contingency planning models and strategies to conduct winter and spring NCAA championships (other than basketball) only if, due to health and safety conditions or membership sponsorship reasons, they cannot be conducted/completed at full capacity.
 - a. **Guiding principles.** The committee approved the following principles to guide decisions regarding bracket/field size adjustments:
 - Maintain the current legislation as it relates to Constitution 4.01.2.3 (championship access – automatic qualification) and Bylaw 31.3.4.7.1 (50% of brackets are reserved for at-large allocations).
 - Accommodate all eligible automatic qualifiers in each bracket.
 - At-large teams shall occupy at least 50% of the bracket or fill all allocations not occupied by automatic qualifiers, whichever is larger.
 - Establish a date 30 days prior to selections that serves as a decision-making deadline for determining the bracket and field sizes and championship formats.

- Once a bracket size is determined, there will be no changes in the size of the bracket; however, the number of AQs and at-large allocations will be adjusted to reflect the number of eligible AQs to be accommodated at the time of selections. The remaining allocations shall be populated with at-large selections.
- Each championship bracket/field size will be determined independently according to the number of eligible conferences (for team and individual/team championships) and institutions (for individual championship) competing at the designated determination date (i.e., 30 days before selections).
- Decisions must support gender equity.
- If, for any COVID-19 reason only, the size of the brackets must be altered within the 30-day window, the committee will have the authority to make necessary bracket adjustments.

b. Bracket/field size contingency plans. In accordance with the guiding principles above, the committee discussed contingency plans for adjusting bracket and/or field sizes for winter and spring sport championships should sponsorship levels warrant a change and agreed on the following approach:

- For team and individual/team sports, the bracket size will be determined by the number of eligible conferences competing (conferences qualifying for an automatic qualification) in the regular season at the designated determination date (30 days prior to selections).
 - If **50% or more** of the automatic-qualifying conferences are competing, the bracket remains at 100%, the format accommodates all eligible AQs and the balance of the bracket allocations will be at-large selections.
 - If **fewer than 50%** of the automatic-qualifying conferences are competing, the bracket will be reduced to 75% of the current bracket, the number of competing teams will be adjusted to accommodate all eligible AQs and the remaining bracket allocations shall be populated with at-large selections.
- For individual sports, the field sizes will be determined by the percentage of institutions competing in the regular season at the designated determination date (30 days prior to selections).
 - If **50% or more** of the participating institutions are competing, the field size remains at 100%, and the current number of student-athletes are selected to the championships.

- If **fewer than 50%** of the participating institutions are competing, the field size is reduced to 75%, and 75% of the current number of student-athletes are selected to the championships.
- The bracket and field sizes shall remain at the designated percentage verified on the determination date until championship participants are selected. The number of AQs and at-large selections will be adjusted to account for any changes occurring during that 30-day period.

The committee selected this contingency plan to retain student-athlete championship participation opportunities as much as possible and for as long as possible.

The committee also agreed to maintain a traditional bracketing method for team championships. This means that as AQs decrease, at-large allocations increase to maintain a traditional bracket size. This method accommodates eligible AQs and provides at-large selections to be at or above the level designated by the bracket size. In addition, this method provides the greatest student-athlete participation opportunities because all teams who do not earn a conference AQ are then evaluated as at-large contenders.

- c. **Selection criteria for spring sport championships.** The committee agreed to relax the .500 rule as applicable to the selection process for the 2021 spring championships similar to the action the committee took previously for 2020 fall championships conducted this spring and 2021 winter championships.
 - d. **Minimum contest requirements.** The committee discussed reducing minimum contest requirements for championship selection purposes for spring sports, noting the reductions already approved for winter sports and for fall sports in the spring semester. The committee agreed to seek input from spring sport committees, noting a preference for a 50% reduction unless a sport committee believes a more significant reduction is appropriate. The committee will continue deliberating this issue during its December 2 videoconference.
3. **Replacement championships sites.** The committee approved the following requests from sport committees regarding replacement host sites for their respective 2021 championships:
- a. **Men's and women's skiing.**
 - **West Regional.** Conduct the 2021 west region championships at Park City Mountain Resort and Soldier Hollow Resort, February 25-28, and hosted by the University of Utah. Utah will replace the University of Alaska Anchorage as the host of the regional. This site adjustment is a result of travel and budget impacts created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Championship finals.** Conduct the 2021 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Skiing Championships at Cannon Mountain and Jackson Nordic Center, March 10-13, and hosted by the University of New Hampshire. New Hampshire will replace Middlebury College as the host of the championships, as Middlebury recently notified NCAA staff that they are unable to host due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- b. **Men's and women's swimming and diving.** Conduct the Zone A diving competition at West Virginia University and the Zone D diving competition at the University of Texas at Austin to accommodate the inability of the originally selected institutions to host for various unforeseen circumstances.

- 4. **Preliminary round competitions for winter and spring individual sport championships.** The committee requested that staff engage the committees of individual sports to review the number and size of preliminary rounds.

- 5. **Future videoconferences.** The committee will continue its biweekly videoconference and quarterly meeting schedule as follows:
 - Wednesday, December 2, 2 to 3 p.m. Eastern time.
 - Wednesday, December 16, 11 a.m. to noon Eastern time.
 - Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time(quarterly meeting).

Committee Chair: Lynda Tealer, University of Florida

Staff Liaisons: Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances

Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

November 18, 2020, Videoconference

Page No. 5

NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee November 18, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
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.	
Ted Gumbart, ASUN Conference.	
Ken Halpin, Winthrop University.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference.	
Megan Klavitter, Chicago State University.	
Doug Knuth, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Larry Lyons, Illinois State University.	
Kris Pierce, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Nona Richardson, University of Utah.	
Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine.	
Lynda Tealer, University of Florida.	
Julia Ware, Purdue University.	
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University.	
Absentees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Luis Marcano, University of Delaware.	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Sharon Cessna and Jennifer Henderson.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
John Bugner, Joni Comstock, Jennifer Fraser, Robin Hale, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Carol A. Reep, Liz Suscha and Jerry Vaughn.	