



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 10, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and the student-athlete voice.** As part of its ongoing commitment to celebrating equity, diversity and inclusion and recognizing the positive influence that NCAA student-athletes have on national and global scale, the Competition Oversight Committee acknowledged and honored the recent passing of Colin Powell, an American politician, statesman, diplomat and United States Army officer who served as the U.S. secretary of state from 2001 to 2005. The first African American secretary of state earned bipartisan respect and was considered a major influence on shaping cultural ideals, including a heightened focus on inclusion in all facets of the American experience.
- 2. USOPC Think Tank update.** Jim Knowlton, director of athletics at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the USOPC College Sports Sustainability Think Tank, joined the videoconference to update Competition Oversight Committee members on recommendations emerging from the project, including concepts to combine USOPC events with select NCAA championships to help grow sports with low sponsorship. The Competition Oversight Committee appreciated the discussion and agreed to continue exploring these issues and recommendations in more detail during its upcoming meetings.
- 3. Committee focus areas.** Given the work the COC will be asked to conduct due to the ongoing review of the Division I collegiate model, the proposals emanating from the gender equity review, and the potential execution of recommendations from the USOPC, the committee reviewed the primary focus areas that will continue to guide its decision-making process going forward:
 - Student-athlete experience.
 - Student-athlete health, safety and well-being.
 - Equity, diversity and inclusion.
 - Bracket/field size integrity (competitive fairness)
 - Fiscal responsibility.
- 4. Division I Championships.**
 - a. Championships financial report.** The committee reviewed the budget-to-actuals for Division I and National Collegiate championships conducted through fiscal year 2020-21.
 - b. Gender equity report.** The committee discussed procedures to manage the Phase II report of the external gender equity review conducted by Kaplan Hecker & Fink, noting that because the report addresses all sports the Competition Oversight Committee oversees, the COC will play a major role in managing the various recommendations. As was the case with the Phase I report that addressed basketball, staff is already working to prioritize the recommendations and differentiate among those that can be managed through the national office, those by governance committee policy determinations and those that may require legislative proposals and thus broader discussion within the membership. Recommendations

emanating from this report will comprise a significant portion of the committee's agenda in the coming months.

- c. **Bracket/field size discussion.** Acknowledging the work ahead related to the gender equity review, the Competition Oversight Committee began initial discussions related to bracket/field size, particularly as it relates to comparisons not only between like men's and women's sports but also among sports in a specific gender. The committee noted that the NCAA Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group reviewed the issue of bracket/field size in detail during its work in 2018-19 and developed a series of principles and policies to consider when exploring the appropriate brackets/field sizes per sport in the future. The committee will revisit those principles and policies in the coming months as it works to execute recommendations from the gender equity report.
- d. **Bracket expansion in beach volleyball and women's ice hockey.** The committee also discussed bracket expansion in beach volleyball and women's ice hockey that it had already agreed to in concept but revisited based on updated information from the relevant sport committees.
 - **Beach volleyball.** The committee supported increasing the bracket in the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Championship from the current eight teams to 16 to accommodate a significant increase in sponsorship since the establishment of the championship in 2016.
 - **Women's ice hockey.** The committee supported increasing the bracket in the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship from the current eight teams to 11 to better align the bracket more favorably with sponsorship in the sport and the bracket in men's ice hockey. The COC noted that the Women's Ice Hockey Committee had recommended an increase to 12 teams; however, the COC was concerned that such an increase would put the women's ice hockey bracket out of alignment with other team sports.

The Competition Oversight Committee agreed to send these recommendations back to the two sport committees for them to consider implementing for the 2022 championships (i.e., to ensure that the formats required to accommodate the expansions can be properly executed). The COC will consider feedback from the sport committees during its November 23 videoconference and, if the sport committees respond affirmatively, will formally recommend the expansions to the Division I Council for consideration during the Council's December meeting.

- e. **Squad size/travel party/bench size review update.** The committee reviewed the decision from its October meeting to engage in a more holistic review of all team-sport squad, travel party and bench sizes but to conduct an immediate assessment of fall sports to expedite the process. As such, given the approaching fall sport championships, the COC's Administrative Committee earlier this month reviewed input from fall sport committees regarding bench size, including their responses to the suggestion to accommodate an entire team roster (as determined by the team's website) and ultimately supported the following positions

presented by each fall sport committee (which varied due to sport-specific concerns and constraints):

- Men's and Women's Cross Country – No adjustment; maintain the limit of 14 roster entries, as the current limit is used by fewer than 5 percent of participating schools, and teams traveling with more individuals may impact hotel and ground transportation availability. Similarly, no change for schools with selected individuals.
- Field Hockey – Accommodate an entire team roster plus the established number of team personnel within the travel party limit.
- Men's and Women's Soccer – Maintain the current policy to accommodate several non-competing student-athletes within the team personnel limit, which will be 15 separate from the squad size [note: men's soccer has squad size of 21 and women's soccer has squad size of 22]. The existing limits can assure that the student-athlete experience will be comparable between competing teams and from one site to another. More individuals increase the difficulty to maintain good sportsmanship and appropriate bench decorum. Non-dressing student-athletes beyond the limit of 36 for men and 37 for women typically can be positioned close to the bench area and have access to other team activities and locations.
- Women's Volleyball – Accommodate an entire team roster plus the established number of team personnel within the travel party limit.
- Men's Water Polo – Accommodate an entire team roster plus the established number of team personnel within the travel party limit. (In cases where facilities may have space constraints in the immediate bench area, non-competing student-athletes may be positioned in a different part of the pool deck.)

The Administrative Committee based its decisions on the desire to include as many student-athletes as possible in the championship experience and in a manner that is consistent with the regular-season experience, particularly as teams are currently carrying expanded rosters due to the eligibility impacts prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Administrative Committee also considered sideline management and safety along with a comparable application across genders in like sports as key factors for bench size determinations. The Administrative Committee also agreed to implement the adjustments on a one-year pilot basis to be reviewed again in advance of the 2022-23 championship year. Input from winter and spring sport committees is currently being gathered and will be reviewed during an upcoming meeting.

- f. **Replacement policies.** In preparation for the fall sport championships season, the committee noted the replacement policies for Division I and National Collegiate Championships that were introduced last year prior to the winter championships and remain in effect due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The relevant sport committees have been reminded about the replacement policies, including the action to identify potential replacement teams (in rank order) to expedite the replacement process.

5. Constitution Committee update. Staff updated the COC on the upcoming special convention during which the Association will consider and provide input on the draft constitution that was distributed to the membership November 8.

6. Team Sports Subcommittee report.

- **Men's water polo.** The committee received the report from the NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee's most recent meeting as information only.

7. Future videoconferences. The COC's Administrative Committee agreed that the COC should resume a biweekly meeting schedule in the near term to discuss and accomplish the immediate work of the gender equity report.

- Tuesday, November 23, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time.
- Wednesday, December 8, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time.
- Wednesday, December 22, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University
Staff Liaisons: Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee November 10, 2021, 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.	
Alec Dominguez, Florida International University.	
Brad Edwards, George Mason University.	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Doug Knuth, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

November 10, 2021, Videoconference

Page No. 5

Billy Walker, American University.
Absentees:
Peyton Boyd, Temple University.
Beth Goetz, Ball State University.
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.
Guest(s) in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Jim Knowlton, University of California, Berkeley.
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:
Mark Bedics, Kristin Fasbender, Jennifer Fraser, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr and Jerry Vaughn.