



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 23, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Item.

- **NCAA Bylaw 21.5.2 – Common Committees – Committees with Only Championship Administration Responsibilities – Ice Hockey Committee, Women’s.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend NCAA Bylaw 21.5.2 as follows):

The Women’s Ice Hockey Committee shall consist of one member from each conference that is eligible for and applies for automatic qualification into the NCAA National Collegiate Women’s Ice Hockey Championship.

- (2) Effective Date. September 1, 2022. (Note: This date coincides with the end of the term of two current committee members, and the committee appointments at that time would be required to meet the revised composition requirements, if approved.)

- (3) Rationale. The recommendation to include one member from each automatic-qualifying conference is consistent with the composition requirements of the Division I Men’s Ice Hockey Committee (Bylaw 21.7.6.3.1.3.12). [Note: Once the New England Women’s Hockey Alliance (NEWHA) completes its second year of conference competition in 2021-22, it will be an automatic-qualifying conference and will meet the requirements to have representation as the fifth member of the committee.] In addition, all women’s ice hockey conferences are single-sport conferences, and the commissioners and their member institutions strongly support representation from each conference on the committee. The recommendation also retains the opportunity for adequate Division II representation given that five of the seven NEWHA members are Division II institutions.

- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None, since the recommendation does not change the size of the committee.

- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

a. Women’s beach volleyball bracket expansion.

- (1) Recommendation. Expand the NCAA Women’s Beach Volleyball Championship bracket from the current eight teams to 16.

- (2) Effective Date. 2022 NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation accommodates a significant increase in beach volleyball sponsorship since the establishment of the championship in 2016 and brings the access ratio for beach volleyball more in line with other Division I and National Collegiate championships. Bracket expansion will also accommodate awarding automatic qualification, as there are currently five conferences that would be eligible for AQ, and the increased bracket will provide the NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee the ability to award up to eight conferences automatic qualification as the sponsorship numbers continue to grow.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. The estimated budget impact to increase the field is \$242,000.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. The recommended bracket increase will provide more outstanding championship opportunities for student-athletes in an increasingly popular sport.

b. Women's ice hockey bracket expansion.

- (1) Recommendation. Expand the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship bracket from the current eight teams to 11.
- (2) Effective Date. 2022 NCAA National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation aligns the bracket more favorably with sponsorship in women's ice hockey and other Division I team sports, as well as with the bracket in Division I men's ice hockey. The addition of the New England Women's Hockey Alliance (NEWHA) as an automatic qualifier in 2023 will increase the number of conferences eligible for an AQ from four to five and further warrants bracket expansion.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. The estimated budget impact to increase the field by three teams is \$175,782.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. The recommended bracket increase will allow an additional three teams to experience playing in a national championship tournament beginning this year.

c. Women's ice hockey committee composition.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Championships Committee consider requesting the NCAA Division II Management Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee composition.
- (2) Effective Date. September 1, 2022.
- (3) Rationale. Legislation for the composition of the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee is a common provision and both Division I and Division II must adopt the change before it is final and effective. The recommendation to include one member from each automatic-qualifying conference is consistent with the composition requirements of the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee (Bylaw 21.7.6.3.1.3.12). [Note: Once the New England Women's Hockey Alliance (NEWHA) completes its second year of conference competition in 2021-22, it will be an automatic-qualifying conference and will meet the requirements to have representation as the fifth member of the committee.] In addition, all women's ice hockey conferences are single-sport conferences, and the commissioners and their member institutions strongly support representation from each conference on the committee. The recommendation also retains the opportunity for adequate Division II representation given that five of the seven NEWHA members are Division II institutions. The Competition Oversight Committee believes this amendment meets the criteria to be considered as noncontroversial.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. 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 and recognizing the positive influence that NCAA student-athletes have on national and global scale, the Competition Oversight Committee recognized Sunisa "Suni" Lee, a freshman gymnast at Auburn University who won gold in the all-around competition at the 2020 Olympic Games and bronze in the uneven bars. A six-time member of the U.S. women's national gymnastics team, Lee also is the first Hmong-American Olympian.
2. **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 reaffirmed the following 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. Name, image and likeness update. The committee received an update on the staff's continued effort to monitor the quickly evolving NIL landscape. Staff estimates that dozens of third-party vendors are providing services that range from education and compliance monitoring to brokering arrangements. Many student-athletes are benefitting by applying/learning a variety of skills and experiences including technology, business development and communications. Initial data do not provide a complete picture as disclosure of activities is inconsistent and state laws and institutional policies vary widely in substance, interpretation and enforcement. Staff will continue to monitor the environment by visiting with third-party vendors, student-athletes, coaches and compliance administrators.

4. Division I championships.

a. Gender equity review. Staff notified the committee that it continues to gather the information surrounding the recommendations in the Phase II report and prioritize them into 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.

b. Transformation Committee update/discussion. The Competition Oversight Committee discussed the establishment of the Division I Transformation Committee, which the NCAA Division I Board of Directors appointed to redefine the Division I collegiate model in accordance with the revised NCAA constitution that will be voted on by the entire NCAA membership in January. The Competition Oversight Committee also discussed the Transformation Committee's charge as stated by the Board of Directors, which includes specified broad-based topical areas on which the Transformation Committee should focus its work. The Competition Oversight Committee expressed its concern that Division I championships is a subset of some of these areas rather than its own category and agreed to discuss during its next videoconference how best to communicate to the Transformation Committee its desire that championships receive a more pointed review.

c. Travel party size/squad size/bench size review. The committee continued discussing the need to conduct a more holistic review of travel party size/squad size/bench size to ensure equity and consistency among sports. The committee noted the bench size recommendations already made to accommodate fall sports given that those championships are occurring presently. The committee also received a specific recommendation from the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee to increase the squad size for that sport. The committee agreed to table that request as it has done with others until the holistic review is completed. Accordingly, the committee assigned its Team Sports Subcommittee with leading the review and submitting recommendations to the entire committee as soon as is feasible. The committee noted that championship policies may be a moving target given the intensive review of the Division I collegiate model already underway; however, the holistic review of travel party size/squad size/bench size may reveal some inequities that can be addressed

immediately without waiting for the Division I Transformation Committee to complete its work.

- d. Championship anniversaries.** Staff updated the committee on notable anniversaries in the near term, including the 50th anniversary of Title IX in 2022 during which the NCAA will conduct a year-long celebration, and the 100th anniversary of the first NCAA Track and Field Championship. The 2021-22 academic year also marks the 40th anniversary for many women's sports championships, as the NCAA began overseeing the administration of women's championships in 1981. As a common practice, the NCAA celebrates anniversaries on the more commonly recognized 25-50-75-100 benchmarks; however, women's basketball is making a concerted effort to note the 40th anniversary in that sport given the additional attention as a result of the gender equity review this year. Staff noted that the other women's sports experiencing their 40th anniversary will also be provided a celebratory video to show during the championships.

5. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee report.

- **Men's and women's rifle.** The committee approved that the U.S. Air Force Academy host the 2022 NCAA National Collegiate Men's and Women's Rifle Championships. The championships were to have been conducted at North Carolina State University; however, North Carolina State informed the NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee in late August that it would be unable to host the event. Accordingly, the rifle committee sought replacement bids and recommended Air Force, which has hosted previously and assured the committee that it can provide a championship-level experience on short notice.

6. Team Sports Subcommittee report.

a. Women's beach volleyball.

- **Bracket expansion/format.** The Competition Oversight Committee supported the NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee's recommendation to expand the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Championship from eight to 16 teams (see Action Item 2-a). To accommodate the expansion if approved by the Division I Council, the sport committee recommended implementing the following format for the 2022 championship:
 - The NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee recommends bringing all 16 teams to Gulf Shores for the 2022 championship. The committee will conduct selections on April 30 with the first round of competition occurring on Tuesday, May 3. The NCAA travel staff has been consulted and is aware of the potential challenges that may occur, but they are confident that travel can be accommodated. The Gulf Shores local organizing committee is committed to this opportunity and is already working to secure additional lodging and site infrastructure needs.
 - Along with the implementation of the increased bracket, the committee will look to implement automatic qualification for those conferences that meet the automatic

qualification requirements. The committee continues reviewing selection criteria for the rest of the field and expects to submit a recommendation in early January.

- The committee is recommending this format only for the 2022 championship. Given the approaching season and the desire to accommodate bracket expansion quickly for the 2022 championship, the committee believes this option is the best for the present time. The committee will continue reviewing and discussing the best bracket format for 2023 and beyond to accomplish the committee's primary goals of continuing to grow the sport, supporting the institutions that have made a commitment to beach volleyball, and providing exemplary postseason experiences for student-athletes.

b. Women's ice hockey.

- **Committee composition.** The Competition Oversight Committee supported the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee's recommendation to amend the sport committee's composition as specified in Action Item 1.
- **Bracket expansion/format.** The Competition Oversight Committee supported the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee's recommendation to expand the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship from eight to 11 teams (see Action Item 2-b). To accommodate the expansion if approved by the Division I Council, the sport committee recommended implementing the following format for the 2022 championship:
 - The top five seeds in the tournament will receive first-round byes. The fifth-seeded team will play at the campus site of one of the top four seeds.
 - Three first-round games will be played at the campus sites of three of the top four seeds in the tournament. The winners of first-round game will receive a day off before playing in the quarterfinals of the tournament.

The winners from each site will advance to the Women's Frozen Four, which will be played the following Friday, March 18, and Sunday, March 20, at Pennsylvania State University.

The proposed format allows for the tournament to stay on its current schedule since it doesn't add any weekends. In addition, it also gives each team a day's rest between the first and second round since not everyone is playing a first-round game. Also, it allows for the top four teams to host the second-round contests on campus to maximize attendance and atmosphere. Finally, with the selection show Sunday night (March 6), it allows teams enough time to finalize travel accommodations and to arrive at their assigned site prior to the earliest possible practice day.

7. Future videoconferences.

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- 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 23, 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.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Billy Walker, American University.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.	
Absentees:	
Peyton Boyd, Temple University.	
Beth Goetz, Ball State University.	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University.	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
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:	

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Mark Bedics, Kristin Fasbender, Jennifer Fraser, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr, Dave Schnase and Jerry Vaughn.