



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 9, 2022, 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, the Competition Oversight Committee begins each meeting by recognizing an influential person, group or event that has made a positive impact in intercollegiate athletics. In recognition of November being National Native American Heritage Month, the committee during this videoconference celebrated Nicole Aunapu Mann, a NASA astronaut and former women's soccer student-athlete from the U.S. Naval Academy who also earned a master's degree from Stanford University. Mann is a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a test pilot in the F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet. She deployed twice aboard aircraft carriers in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is the first indigenous woman from NASA to go to space.
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 October 3-4 in-person meeting as presented.
4. **Team Sports Subcommittee report.**
  - a. **Baseball.**
    - **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 30 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2023 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

*(Note: The remaining eligible teams from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference will be affiliate members of the Northeast Conference. Thus, the MEAC will not receive its own AQ in 2022-23 but will be eligible for AQ through the Northeast Conference.)*

**b. Women's beach volleyball.**

- 1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following six conferences for automatic qualification into the 2023 National Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Championship: Atlantic Sun Conference; Coastal Collegiate Sports Association; Conference USA; Big West Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and West Coast Conference.
- 2) **Automatic qualification exceptions – Southland Conference and Ohio Valley Conference.** The COC approved the sport committee's request to grant an exception to the automatic qualification requirements within Bylaw 31.3.4.5(a) for the Southland and Ohio Valley Conferences, which have the requisite six members but whose members have not competed against each other for two consecutive years as is required by the legislation for National Collegiate Championship sports. The COC agreed with the committee's rationale that both conferences have shown a strong commitment to sponsoring the sport in meeting the six-team standard and that the lone reason for not meeting the two-consecutive-years-of-competition component is that AQ was implemented for beach volleyball only last year (and both conferences were awarded the AQ last year as well). Accordingly, the COC agreed that both conferences merit the exception for the 2023 championship.
- 3) **Automatic qualification waiver – Sun Belt Conference.** The COC approved the sport committee's request to grant a waiver allowing the Sun Belt Conference to receive automatic qualification for the 2023 championship. The waiver is contingent upon the Sun Belt adding two affiliate members for the 2022-23 season, which the conference has noted it is committed to doing. The COC agreed relief was warranted due to the timing and circumstances surrounding conference realignment and the institutions' demonstrated long-term commitment to sponsoring and growing the sport.
- 4) **Championship format adjustment.** Due to granting the AQs, the exceptions and the waiver noted in the items above, nine of the 16 teams in the championship bracket will be automatic qualifiers, which is one more than is allowed by existing legislation requiring 50% of the bracket to be reserved for at-large selections. Accordingly, the COC approved adding one opening-round match between the eighth- and ninth-ranked automatic qualifiers at the championship site to accommodate the increase. The logistics of making this adjustment are eased by the fact that the entirety of the tournament is conducted at one site. The adjustment requires an additional \$66,000 to implement, which will be drawn from existing allocations.

**c. Women's bowling.**

- **Equipment approval deadline.** The COC approved the sport committee's request to implement a policy that includes a deadline of noon Eastern time on Monday prior to selections for the sport committee to make decisions on equipment (i.e., bowling balls

that do not meet the specifications outlined in the playing rules or create a competitive advantage not related to health and safety). This policy protects the competitive fairness of the championship by giving the membership notice should equipment become ineligible for postseason use.

**d. Men's and women's soccer.**

- **Feedback on joint championships.** Per the COC's request that the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Soccer Committees discuss the concept of a joint championship, the committees agreed the idea has merit but believe the timing is not right to make a final decision because of pending scheduling proposals submitted by both the men's (21st century model) and women's (decompression of fall regular season) coaches. Both committees will continue discussing the joint championship concept with the soccer membership and with other key stakeholders (i.e., the coaches association), to better evaluate the concept. The committees will revisit the matter at their annual meetings in January 2023.

**5. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee report.**

**a. Women's golf.**

- **Selection criteria – minimum winning percentage for at-large teams.** During its October meeting the COC discussed the selection criterion in golf that for men requires teams to be above .500 to be considered but not for the women. The COC asked the NCAA Division I Women's Golf Committee to review the issue and explain why not including the .500 requirement is in the sport's best interests. The sport committee reviewed the issue and noted that the membership has not provided formal input on this topic since 2016. Additionally, sport committee members are not unanimous in their support or opposition of the rule. As such, the sport committee wants to survey the membership on this topic before proceeding with any formal recommendation. That feedback is expected to be available later this winter.

**b. Women's gymnastics.**

- **Feedback/clarification regarding staggered regionals.** The COC in September approved a recommendation from the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee to stagger regional competition days and times with two regionals competing Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday and two regionals competing Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. After that action, however, some concerns emerged from at least one member of the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee regarding the potential inconsistencies that could result from staggering the regional days. The COC asked that the Division I SAAC revisit the issue to explore whether this concern is widespread among women's gymnasts. The COC also asked the Women's Gymnastics Committee to provide further rationale for the proposal to address the concern cited.

The COC reviewed both the feedback from the SAAC and the response from the sport committee addressing those concerns and was satisfied with the outcomes, noting there was actually less missed class time with the staggered format and that the judging concerns across regionals would not be realized, as judges work only one regional, and scores are contained to a regional and don't affect others.

**c. Men's and women's tennis.**

- 1) **Automatic qualification waiver request in women's tennis.** The COC approved the sport committee's recommendation that the Ohio Valley Conference be granted automatic qualification to the 2023 NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championships despite having only four members sponsoring the sport during the 2022-23 academic year. The COC acknowledged that the Ohio Valley Conference, which is in the first year of its two-year grace period for AQ, planned to begin this season with five institutions sponsoring women's tennis; however, in mid-September one of the institutions announced it would drop women's tennis after the season. Subsequently, the head women's tennis coach accepted a new job and with student-athletes attempting to transfer midyear, the institution is unlikely to meet sport sponsorship requirements. The timing of the announcement does not provide the conference time this season to get back to five institutions, thus negatively impacting championship access for their student-athletes. The conference has plans for 2023-24 academic year and thereafter to meet the automatic qualification requirements.

Accordingly, the COC supports granting relief for one year and still would consider this the first year of the two-year grace period. The conference would need to have five eligible institutions for 2023-24 and six eligible institutions by 2024-25 or risk losing its automatic qualification. Should the conference have only four eligible institutions for 2023-24, no additional waiver will be granted.

- 2) **Proposal to move the individual portion of the championships from spring to fall.** The COC during its October meeting discussed a proposal from the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee to move the singles and doubles portion of the tennis championships from the spring to the fall, effective in the 2024-25 academic year. The COC acknowledged the sport committee's rationale that the action would modernize the tennis championships, clearly define the fall and spring seasons, and positively impact student-athlete health and safety by reducing the length of the current combined team and individual portion of the championships in the spring. The COC also noted initial support for the proposal from the tennis community (ITA, USTA, coaches' survey). Ultimately, though, the COC cited some issues that require more vetting prior to a final vote, including the logistical impact on conference tournaments and a concern that the action could prompt a request to alter the playing and practice season format for tennis.

The committee revisited the concerns and received assurance from the ITA that it will not submit any request for legislative changes to the playing and practice season should this be approved. In addition, the ITA has provided an addendum with information for the conferences on resources available to them should they not have a conference championship in the fall, using unpublished rankings information and fall results for conference players, ITA World Tennis rankings, and data from the yet-to-be-determined criteria for the alternate list. The ITA also shared that their current ITA Regional model would be effective for conferences interested in a conference event in the fall, as that model is coach-led with tools provided by the ITA for their coaches to administer those tournaments effectively.

However, when conference office staff members on the COC discussed the proposal with other conference administrators, those opposed, cited concerns with a lack of information about the specifics of how the format would be established; how the proposal might inequitably affect institutions (especially quarter schools); and that it could compromise the integrity of the existing championship bracket. Other conferences, however, supported the idea, believing that the change would bring additional exposure and access to the singles and doubles championship competitions.

After further discussion, the COC was reluctant to act on the proposal at this time given the disagreement among conferences and the desire from the tennis coaching community for more information before determining their position. Accordingly, the committee agreed to take no action and asked staff to explore seeking additional input from the tennis coaches as well as the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee so that the committee could revisit the proposal during a subsequent meeting.

## 6. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Monday, December 12, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).

*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 November 9, 2022, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Jennifer Condaras, Colonial Athletic Association.	

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Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.
. Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.
Katherine Harston, New Mexico State University.
Kim Johnson, Texas Christian University.
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.
Eddie Nunez, University of New Mexico.
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.
Billy Walker, American University.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Julia Ware, University of Notre Dame.
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University
<b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Greg Johnson, Anthony Holman, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr, Sara Thurber and Jerry Vaughn.