



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2, 2023, MEETING**

Note: This document does not include items incorporated in the NCAA Division I Council report.

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. For this meeting the committee acknowledged World Mental Health Day, which was first celebrated on October 10, 1992. The purpose of the initiative is to raise awareness and enhance mental wellness for everyone. The day also provides an opportunity to discuss mental health and its importance, and the significance of seeking help when needed. The NCAA Sport Science Institute in collaboration with the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committees has developed educational resources available on NCAA.org that offer a model of care for student-athlete mental wellness.
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 September 13 videoconference as presented.
4. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** Jamie Zamrin updated the COC on the SAAC's September 30-October 1 meeting in Indianapolis.
5. **Emerging sports update.** The committee was informed that women's wrestling has exceeded the threshold of 40 sponsoring institutions to be considered for a potential transition from an emerging sport to championship sport status. The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA), which oversees the emerging sports process, is working on the various steps that must be accomplished to consider the transition, including socializing the concept among the three NCAA divisions. The CWA has indicated it may recommend during its February meeting that the three divisions introduce/sponsor legislation for possible adoption during the 2024-25 academic year (the 2025 NCAA Convention for Divisions II and III; April or June 2024 Council meetings for Division I). The CWA has acknowledged that the earliest a championship could be staged would be in winter of 2026 (women's wrestling would be conducted as a winter sport). Before a

women's wrestling national collegiate championship can be established, legislation must be adopted and funding must be considered by the appropriate financial oversight committees.

6. **Budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed the budget-to-actuals for Fiscal Year 2023.
7. **Governance update.** The committee received an update on governance issues and topics in Division I, including a preview of the Division I Council's October 3-4 meeting agenda.
8. **Division I name, image and likeness update.** The COC joined the other Division I Council standing committees for an update on legislation the council may introduce into the January 2024 legislative cycle during its October 3-4 meeting to establish student-athlete protections related to name, image and likeness opportunities.
9. **Team Sports Subcommittee report.**
 - a. **Women's soccer.**
 - **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 31 conference for automatic qualification into the 2023 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference and Western Athletic Conference.
 - b. **Softball.**
 - (1) **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following 32 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 NCAA Division I Softball Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

(2) Selection criteria. The COC approved a recommendation from the softball committee to use the KPI as an additional consideration during rankings and selection effective with the 2024 championship. The COC noted that the KPI is an established tool used in several Division I sport selections and that the softball committee studied the KPI as a potential addition following both the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

c. Women's water polo.

(1) Automatic qualification. The COC approved the following seven conferences for automatic qualification in to the 2024 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship: Big West Conference; Collegiate Water Polo Association; Golden Coast Conference; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mount Pacific Sports Federation; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and Western Water Polo Association.

(2) Committee chair. The COC approved a waiver allowing Taylor McInerney, head women's water polo coach at Indiana University, Bloomington, to serve as the women's water polo committee chair for the 2023-24 academic year.

10. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Wednesday, November 8, 2-3:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- Monday, December 11, 2-3:30 p.m. (videoconference).

[Note: The COC discussed its current meeting/videoconference schedule, noting that before the pandemic the committee met in person on a quarterly basis and conducted additional calls as needed. During and immediately after the pandemic the meeting frequency increased to monthly due to the number of logistical and administrative issues the committee was required to address in a timely fashion. Now that the effects of the pandemic have waned, the committee agreed to target meeting six times annually (retain the three in-person sessions in conjunction with scheduled in-person council meetings and conduct three videoconferences in months to be determined). The committee agreed that it could conduct additional meetings/calls as needed.]

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

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Attendees:
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.

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Jennifer Condaras, Coastal Athletic Association (via videoconference).
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York) (via videoconference).
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference (via videoconference).
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference (via videoconference).
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University (via videoconference).
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference (via videoconference).
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League (via videoconference).
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University (via videoconference).
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.
Billy Walker, American University.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University (via videoconference).
Jamie Zamrin, Portland State University (via videoconference).
Absentees:
Rodrigo Alvarez Gonzalez, Bradley University
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.
Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Guest(s) in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Ashton Henderson, Michigan State University (NCAA Pathways Program Participant).
Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (NCAA Pathways Program Participant).
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jennifer Fraser, Ashlesha Lokhande, Tracy McClendon, Gretchen Miron, Jeff O'Barr, Jerry Vaughn and Amy Wilson.