



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Additional rest days for select championships.** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee approved rest days be inserted for select championships to enhance student-athlete health and safety and to provide a more equitable experience across sports.
- 2. Additional budget requests.** The committee also has received several other requests from sport committees that have a budgetary impact. During its June meeting, the COC noted that the allocation for 2021-22 would cover inflationary increases for travel, per diem and operations expense, leaving limited dollars for new initiatives. With the funding that is available, the COC prioritized rest days at select championships. As such, the committee is considering other budget requests as it is able, though it acknowledged that there will be some requests that cannot be accommodated until the next budget cycle or unless funds in the current cycle are reallocated. In addition, the COC anticipates budget-related decisions emanating as a result of the Phase 2 gender equity report that is expected later this fall, which makes pausing on certain current requests even more prudent.

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 and recognizing the positive influence that NCAA student-athletes have on a national and global scale, the Competition Oversight Committee noted that 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the first NCAA championships in a women's sport (field hockey). The NCAA formally assumed administration and oversight of women's championships at the historic 1981 NCAA Convention.
- 2. NCAA Division I championships.**
 - a. Fall championships travel accommodation risk assessment.** Staff informed the committee of concerns raised by the NCAA travel department regarding significant reductions (up to 20 percent) in seats for regular commercial and charter flights and urged COC members to spread the word to constituents and colleagues to act as early as possible regarding arrangements for championships participation. Also, with the ongoing uncertainties related to the pandemic, the NCAA Medical Advisory Group is evaluating the testing requirements that may have to be implemented at championship sites this fall. Accordingly, staff noted that it would keep the COC apprised of developments and revisit these issues during the COC's next videoconference on September 17.
 - b. NCAA forfeit policy.** During the committee's August meeting, members asked staff to clarify the NCAA's forfeit policy in preparation for the 2021-22 academic year.

- (1) There is no forfeit of a contest until all participating teams are present and the referee or other appropriate contest official has assumed jurisdiction in accordance with the applicable playing rules.
 - (2) When a team does not appear (e.g., due to weather conditions, accidents, breakdown of vehicles, illness or catastrophic circumstances, shortage of players), a forfeit is not recorded unless the rules of the sport provide that option. An institution shall not, for statistical purposes, declare a forfeit for nonfulfillment of a contest. Such instances shall be considered as “no contest.”
 - (3) In circumstances involving institutions from the same conference, the league office has the option to declare a forfeit win and loss for conference-standings purposes only, but this does not change an institution’s overall won-lost record.
 - (4) Games determined to be “no contest” do not impact the NET, RPI or any other metric. Individual sport committees will maintain the practice of evaluating teams based on their results in games/matches that took place.
- c. **Eligibility requirements for at-large selections.** The committee also had asked staff to revisit minimum contest requirements as they affect at-large selections, given that those requirements were reduced last year because of the pandemic. Staff provided a chart noting the pre-pandemic requirements per sport and reminded the committee that in anticipation of scheduling complications this coming year, a waiver opportunity remains in place.
- d. **KPI metric for rankings/selections.** The committee received a presentation regarding the KPI as an additional tool to assist sport committees with rankings and selections. The committee noted discussion within the Division I membership, particularly from sport committees, about potentially adding this metric as a resource to help evaluate teams. The KPI is slightly different from the traditional Rating Percentage Index (RPI) in that it assigns a value to each game played rather than quantifying an entire resume all at once like the RPI does. The RPI is also heavily based on winning percentage of both a team and its opponents – the quality of a win or loss is defined and then averaged. The Competition Oversight Committee agreed to review the matter further during a future videoconference before determining whether to officially recommend it as a selection resource for select sports. [Note: The committee acknowledged that the Division I Field Hockey Committee already has requested using the KPI in 2022-23. The COC ultimately approved the request, noting that it essentially would serve as a pilot to help determine whether the KPI could be of value across more sports. (See Informational Item 4-b.)]
- e. **Senior Minority Administrator proposal.** The committee received a presentation regarding a proposal by the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee to require Division I institutions and conferences to appoint a Senior Minority Administrator, who would be the highest-ranking ethnic minority administrator involved with the conduct of an institution’s intercollegiate athletics program or the conduct and policy processes within a conference office. COC members appreciated the information and noted their support of the proposal moving forward (the proposal is expected to be entered into the 2021-22 legislative cycle and if adopted would become effective August 1, 2022).

- f. **Additional rest days for select championships.** The committee approved rest days be inserted for select championships to enhance student-athlete health and safety and to provide a more equitable experience across sports. The COC this spring received a request from an institution sponsoring men's ice hockey to consider inserting a rest day between the regional semifinals and the regional final as it is done at the Men's Frozen Four. Rather than act on that request singularly, the COC thought it prudent to consider the issue of rest days more broadly to assure that all championships are treated equitably in this regard. A wider review indicated that rest days would be appropriate for women's volleyball, women's gymnastics and softball in addition to men's ice hockey, and the COC during its June meeting agreed to support these as a budget priority. Accordingly, the COC agreed to ask the relevant sport committees for feedback regarding the round (i.e., regionals or finals) during which the rest day would be most beneficial. The additional rest days bear an expense of \$158,575 and details by sport are included here:

(1) National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships

- a. Regionals – Add a rest day between the second and third competition days (current format has three straight days of competition).
- b. Finals – Add a rest day between the two competition days (current format has consecutive days of competition).

(2) Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship

- Regionals – Add a rest day between the regional semifinals and finals (current format has these games played on consecutive days).

(3) Division I Softball Championship

- Women's College World Series – Add two days to the duration of the WCWS which eliminates the automatic doubleheader for teams that lose on Day 1 and adds a rest day for the two teams that advance to the WCWS championship series (current format has the championship series beginning the day after the two finalists are determined).

(4) Division I Women's Volleyball Championship

- Regionals – Add a rest day between the regional semifinals and finals (current format has these matches played on consecutive days).

- g. **Additional budget requests.** The committee acknowledged several recommendations/requests from sport committees that carry a budget impact and noted the merits of each. However, given the committee's commitment to supporting the rest days in four sports to shore up student-athlete health and safety concerns and make the championships experience more equitable across sports (see Informational Item 2-f above), there is little remaining budget allocation to support these other requests. Accordingly, the committee in its review of sport committee reports agreed to accommodate them as much as possible but that some would have to be tabled until

additional funding is available. (Note: These requests are addressed separately in the various sport committee reports below.)

3. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee report.

a. Men's golf.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 30 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2022 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pacific-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; Western Athletic Conference; and West Coast Conference.

b. Women's golf.

- (1) **Regional site expansion.** The committee supported a request to expand the Division I women's golf regionals from four sites with 18 teams and six individuals to six sites with 12 teams and six individuals, effective for the 2022 NCAA regionals. The committee noted the positive impact of expansion on the student-athlete experience, gender equity, and championship operations (particularly the flexibility to manage inclement weather) and urged staff to revisit the budget allocation for 2021-22 to explore whether this can be accommodated immediately. The committee will revisit this request during its September 17 videoconference.

- c. Men's gymnastics.** The committee received as information the report from the sport committee's most recent correspondence.

d. Women's gymnastics.

- (1) **Day of rest.** The committee approved the recommendation to add a day of rest within both the regional and final rounds of competition (see Informational Item 2-f above).
- (2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved a waiver allowing a head coach (Kasey Crawford, head women's gymnastics coach at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse) to be appointed chair for 2021-22.

e. Men's and women's rifle.

- (1) **Committee chair.** The committee approved a waiver allowing a head coach (Ryan Tanoue, head rifle coach at The Ohio State University) to be appointed chair for 2021-22.

f. Men's and women's track and field and cross country.

- (1) **Adjusted format for preliminary meets.** The committee supported a recommendation to adjust the format of the Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field East and West Preliminary Championships from a three-day meet to a four-day meet. This format would mimic that of the final site competition and provide each gender with an off day between competition, with one gender competing on days one and three and the other gender competing on days two and four. As it did with the request to expand the number of regionals in women's golf, the committee asked staff to revisit the budget allocation for 2021-22 to explore whether this can be accommodated immediately. The committee will revisit this request during its September 17 videoconference.

4. Team Sports Subcommittee report.

a. Beach volleyball.

- (1) **Squad size increase.** The committee considered but tabled a recommendation to increase the squad size from 12 to 14. While the committee acknowledged the merits supporting the recommendation, it chose to table the request to engage in a more holistic review of all team-sport squad and bench sizes that accounts for the number of players required for competition (and substitutions) along with the average roster sizes among sponsoring schools. Such a review is consistent with the approach the committee took with adding rest days in various championships to make the championships experience more equitable across sports.

b. Field hockey.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 10 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2021 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship: America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; and Patriot League.
- (2) **Bench size increase.** The committee approved a recommendation to increase the bench size from the current 30 to 34 to accommodate additional rostered student-athletes. The parameters for the 30 original spots remain as 24 student-athletes in uniform, four official travel party members, a team administrator, and one medical personnel. The four additional spots must be used for rostered student-athletes only.

- (3) **Selection tools.** The committee approved a request for the KPI to be added to the primary selection criteria for the Division I Field Hockey Championship starting with the 2022 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship, noting that doing so would provide a pilot to help determine whether the metric should be officially added as a resource for all sports (see Informational Item 2-d).

c. Men's ice hockey.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following six conferences receive automatic bids for the 2022 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship: Atlantic Hockey Conference; Big Ten Conference; ECAC Hockey Conference; Hockey East Conference; National Collegiate Hockey Conference; and Central Collegiate Hockey Association.
- (2) **Day of rest.** The committee supported the recommendation to add a day of rest between the regional semifinals and finals (see Informational Item 2-f above).

d. Women's ice hockey.

- (1) **Bracket expansion.** The committee considered but tabled a request to expand the bracket for the National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship from eight to 10 teams. While the committee supports the merits of the proposal to expand to 10 teams, it agreed to table the matter until the next opportunity to fund it.
- (2) **Conference waiver request.** The committee agreed with the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee's decision not to support a waiver request from the New England Women's Hockey Association seeking relief from the requirement that a new conference must compete with at least six teams for two years before being eligible for automatic qualification. Despite the AQ legislation stating there shall be no waivers of the two-year waiting period, the NEWHA presidents based its request on extenuating circumstances created by the pandemic in 2020-21. While the Women's Ice Hockey Committee is sympathetic to the effects of the pandemic on every conference, it cited the intended benefits of the two-year competitive experience requirements – and the potential negative impact of providing a waiver for a fifth AQ conference (which did not meet the legislative requirements for AQ), further limiting access to an eight-team championship field – as the reasons for denying the request. The COC agreed with that rationale.

e. Women's lacrosse.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 16 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2022 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship: American Athletic Conference; America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; ASUN Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy

League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and Patriot League.

f. Women's soccer.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 31 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2021 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; 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

g. Softball.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 32 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2022 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; Colonial 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) **Women's College World Series format adjustment.** The committee approved the Softball Committee's recommendation to adjust the format for the Women's College World Series (WCWS) to accommodate all games within a nine-day period (up from seven) by eliminating the automatic doubleheader for teams that lose on Day 1 of the WCWS and adding a rest day for the two teams that advance to the finals of the WCWS. The COC addressed the rest-day component of the recommendation in Informational Item 2-f above but also voiced its support for expanding to a nine-day format.
- (3) **Squad size increase.** The committee considered but tabled a recommendation to increase the squad size from 20 to 22 with a corresponding increase to the travel party from 28 to 30. While the committee acknowledged the merits supporting the recommendation, it chose to table the request to engage in a more holistic review

of all team-sport squad and bench sizes that accounts for the number of players required for competition (and substitutions) along with the average roster sizes among sponsoring schools. Such a review is consistent with the approach the committee took with adding rest days in various championships to make the championships experience more equitable across sports.

h. Women's volleyball.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 32 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2021 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Conference; 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; Sun Belt Conference; The Summit League; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
- (2) **Squad size increase.** The committee considered but tabled a recommendation to increase the squad size from 15 to 16. While the committee acknowledged the merits supporting the recommendation, it chose to table the request to engage in a more holistic review of all team-sport squad and bench sizes that accounts for the number of players required for competition (and substitutions) along with the average roster sizes among sponsoring schools. Such a review is consistent with the approach the committee took with adding rest days in various championships to make the championships experience more equitable across sports.
- (3) **Day of rest.** The committee supported the recommendation to add a day of rest between the regional semifinals and finals (see Informational Item 2-f above).

5. Other business.

- a. **NCAA Convention.** The committee confirmed that it will meet in person in conjunction with the January Convention in Indianapolis January 19-22, 2022.

6. Future videoconferences.

- Friday, September 17, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time.
- Monday, October 4, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

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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 September 8, 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.	
Beth Goetz, Ball State University.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Doug Knuth, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Billy Walker, American University.	
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University (temporarily replacing Nona Richardson as the representative from the Pac-12 Conference).	
Absentees:	
Peyton Boyd, Temple University.	
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University.	
Julia Ware, Purdue 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:	
Anthony Holman, Ken Huber, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeremy McCool, Jeff O'Barr, Jerry Vaughn and David Worlock.	