



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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 Althea Gibson, who at age 23 became the first African American tennis player to win the U.S. Nationals. The Florida A&M University graduate went on to win 11 majors in tennis, including the French Open and Wimbledon. A meeting room in the NCAA national office is named in her honor.

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 August 9, 2023, videoconference as presented.

4. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The committee reviewed a report from PROP's most recent meeting.

5. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** To help elevate the student-athlete voice in Division I governance, the Competition Oversight Committee agreed that an update from the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will be a standing agenda item going forward. For this meeting, the SAAC representative noted the SAAC priorities for 2023-24.

6. **Division I championships updates.**

a. **Preliminary-round host expectations.** The COC noted in its review of sport committee reports a recommendation from the Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee to establish firm locker/meeting room standards and other requirements for hosts and that failure to meet them will be communicated back to the host and could impact future hosting. The COC noted that the women's lacrosse committee (and all sport committees) has the authority to award sites based on the evaluation of meeting the bid requirements and weigh the competitive strength and seeding of teams when assigning hosts. Accordingly, the COC not only supported the women's lacrosse initiative but also encouraged staff to

communicate with all sport committees regarding their authority to develop accountability measures to ensure that all sites during all rounds of a championship provide an experience that meets expectations stated in the bid specifications, particularly with lodging (quality and proximity to competition site), meeting space and locker rooms. The COC emphasized the importance of 1) communicating bid expectations and requirements to potential hosts in the bid process; and 2) communicating back to hosts when they do not meet expectations.

- b. **Statistical/rankings service provider for men's and women's golf.** Staff informed the committee that SPIKEMARK has been selected as the ranking and scoring software for the NCAA men's and women's golf championships in all three divisions beginning with the 2023-24 academic year.
- c. **2023-24 championships eligibility guidance.** The COC conducted its annual review of championship eligibility requirements for Division I and national collegiate sports the committee oversees.
- d. **Championships participant survey.** Staff noted the post-championship survey that participants review has been enhanced in a manner that generates a higher response rate and provides more informative responses to help sport committees improve future championships.

7. Team Sports Subcommittee reports.

a. Baseball.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 30 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 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; 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; Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

b. Women's bowling.

- **Waiver request – conference automatic qualification.** The COC noted that the women's bowling committee reviewed but ultimately did not support a request from the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) to waive the second year of the waiting period and be granted automatic qualification to the 2024 National Collegiate

Women's Bowling Championship. In reviewing the CACC request, the bowling committee appreciated the effort the conference is making to provide additional opportunities for the sport. However, the committee would like for the CACC to complete its second year competing as a conference prior to being recommended for automatic qualification as is required by NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.2.

The COC supported the bowling committee's recommendation, noting that the waiver request was similar to one in men's volleyball that had previously been denied and established precedent.

c. Field hockey.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 10 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2023 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.

d. Men's ice hockey.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following six conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship: Atlantic Hockey Conference; Big Ten Conference; Central Collegiate Hockey Association; ECAC Hockey Conference; Hockey East Conference; and National Collegiate Hockey Conference.

e. Women's ice hockey.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following five conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship: College Hockey America; ECAC Hockey; Hockey East Association; New England Women's Hockey Alliance; and Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

f. Men's lacrosse.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following nine conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship: America East Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Ten Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; and the Patriot League. (Note: The two lowest-ranked automatic-qualifying teams as determined by the men's lacrosse committee, regardless of conference RPI, will compete in an opening-round game to determine the final AQ spot in the championship bracket.)

(2) Sport committee composition. Due to a recent circumstance that led to two representatives from the Big Ten Conference being appointed to the Division I Men's Lacrosse Committee, the men's lacrosse committee asked that the Competition Oversight Committee take action going forward to assure that no more than one representative from a conference serve on the committee. The COC noted that the Division I Nominating Committee has the authority to review and decide on committee appointments and already avoids duplicating conference representation unless merited by special circumstances. While the COC understands the men's lacrosse committee's request members agreed to take no action on the recommendation due to the nomination procedures already in place.

g. Women's lacrosse.

- **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following 15 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and Patriot League.

8. Individual/Team Sports Subcommittee reports.

a. Men's golf.

(1) Automatic qualification. The COC approved the following 30 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships: American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 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; 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; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

(2) Minimum number of rounds/contests for championship selections. The COC approved the men's golf committee's recommendation that the minimum number of rounds/contests for championship selections be adjusted to require a minimum of 15 rounds to be completed, with at least eight rounds taking place in the spring, rather than the current minimum number of eight contests (effective September 1, 2024, to provide enough lead time for institutions to adjust schedules if necessary). Currently, men's golf requires that teams and individuals participate in a minimum of eight

contests to be eligible for championship selections. Because a contest can range from 18 holes to 54 holes, this has led to some confusion regarding what a team or individual needs to do to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements. Historically, an overwhelming majority of teams and individuals under consideration for championship selection compete in approximately 25 rounds at minimum, so this recommendation should not necessitate a change in current scheduling practices. This adjustment will, however, provide greater clarity and understanding throughout the membership, and it will align men's and women's golf with the same selection criteria, ensuring consistency across both genders.

(3) Top seed regional site preferences. The COC considered but did not support the men's golf committee's recommendation that teams under consideration for No. 1 seeds at each of the six regional sites be permitted to rank their preferred sites for regional competition (the proposal died for lack of a motion). The COC did not support a similar request last year to award the No. 1 seed its preferred regional site. The COC noted that the men's golf community has discussed a move to non-predetermined regional sites for several years, but because that concept is operationally unfeasible, granting top seeds their regional preference essentially serves as a middle ground for those in the men's golf community who want to see non-predetermined regionals. The COC noted the recommendation could displace other teams that then may have to fly to a regional site, which is the same reasoning the COC relied on last year when not supporting the other recommendation. Additionally, the COC noted that the women's golf committee did not opt to submit this recommendation.

b. Women's golf.

- **Automatic qualification.** The COC approved the following 27 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championships: American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic Coast 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; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pacific-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

c. Men's and women's golf.

(1) Minimum number of participants required for sport sponsorship. The COC considered the golf committees' recommendation that the minimum number of participants required for a contest to be considered countable for sport sponsorship be decreased from five to four. The COC agreed with the committees' rationale in making the request but noted that sport sponsorship requirements are overseen by the Division

I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee (SPVC). Accordingly, the COC referred the matter to the SVPC for its consideration and potential recommendation that the Division I Council introduce legislation into the governance cycle.

(2) Travel party size increase. The COC considered but tabled until its January meeting the golf committees' recommendation that the official travel party size for the men's and women's golf championships be increased from eight to nine. The golf committees contend that with the addition of a third coach in golf, and with six players (including the substitute) available to participate in the championships, the travel party size should be increased to account for all playing members of the team and members of the coaching staff. The COC acknowledged that rationale but noted its standing policy of reviewing bench size, squad size, travel party size every two years (the next review is this coming January).

(3) Regional awards. The COC considered but did not support the golf committees' recommendation that individual regional champions be awarded with regional champion trophies onsite. The COC reasoned that doing so would create inconsistencies with other individual sports.

d. Men's gymnastics.

- The COC received the report from the men's gymnastics committee's annual meeting as information, noting that the committee is exploring a potential partnership with USA Gymnastics Junior Regional Championships. In addition, the men's gymnastics committee and the coaches association are discussing a format change to add the individual event finals that were removed before the 2016 championships back into the championships.

e. Men's and women's skiing.

(1) Regional sites. The COC approved the following sites for the 2024 regional championships:

Region	Dates	Venue	Host
West	February 22-25	Big Sky Resort (A) and Crosscut Mountain (N)	Montana State University-Bozeman
Central	February 24-25	Michigan Tech Trails (N)	Michigan Technological University
East	February 23-24	Middlebury Snowbowl (A) and Rikert Outdoor Center (N)	Middlebury College

(2) Additional Nordic event. The COC reviewed but tabled until its spring 2024 meeting a request from the skiing committee to add a third Nordic event to the championships schedule but maintain the current four-day competition schedule and the equality of scoring between Nordic and Alpine events (each representing 50% of the available team points), effective with the 2025 skiing championships. The COC acknowledged the rationale supporting this initiative but agreed to wait until the spring meeting when the committee reviews all budget proposals for the 2024-25 academic year before rendering a final decision. (The COC also noted that the swimming and diving committee is considering adding a team diving event to their championship.)

(3) Committee chair. The COC approved a waiver allowing John Dwyer, head coach at Dartmouth College, to serve as committee chair for the 2023-24 academic year.

f. Men's and women's swimming and diving. The COC received the report from the swimming and diving committee's most recent videoconference as information, noting that the committee approved additional international events to count for qualifying for the championships, modified the schedule of events by moving the consolation diving finals from the preliminary session to the finals session and continued discussion on the team diving event and championship date formula.

9. Future videoconferences/meetings.

- Monday, October 2, 4-8 p.m. (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- Wednesday, November 8, 2-3:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- Monday, December 11, 2-3:30 p.m. (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 September 13, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Jennifer Condaras, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Rodrigo Alvarez Gonzalez, Bradley University.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	

Report of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee

September 13, 2023, Videoconference

Page No. 8

Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.
Kathy Keene, Sun Belt Conference.
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.
Alecia Shields-Gadson, Delaware State University.
Billy Walker, American University.
Christina Wombacher, Arizona State University.
Jamie Zamrin, Portland State University.
Absentees:
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.
Raymond Harrison, North Carolina State University.
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.
Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
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, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Jeff O'Barr and Jerry Vaughn.