



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COUNCIL
APRIL 15-16, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

In an effort to connect NCAA Division I Council items to the NCAA pillars of academics, fairness and well-being, items included in this report have an identifying pillar. There is an additional pillar, operational, that is used to denote items that relate to maintaining a stable and efficient Division I.

KEY ITEM.

- **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2025-1 – Playing and Practice Seasons – Women’s Basketball – Preseason Practice Scrimmages/Exhibition Contests.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council amended and adopted Division I Proposal No. 2025-1 as expedited legislation. The proposal permits, in women’s basketball, an institution to play up to two preseason practice scrimmages and/or exhibition contests (or one of each) against four-year collegiate institutions before the first permissible contest date. The contests are permitted, provided the contests do not occur at a prospective student-athlete’s educational institution or a facility that is regularly used by prospective student-athletes for practice or competition. In addition, the legislation eliminates the requirements that a preseason practice scrimmage must be conducted in privacy and without publicity or official scoring and that no class time shall be missed by the student-athletes in conjunction with such a scrimmage. The proposal is effective immediately. The council requested the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee engage in further discussion on preseason practice scrimmages and exhibition contests against two-year institutions, as originally proposed by Proposal No. 2025-1 before it was amended by the council.

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update From NCAA President.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council received an update from President Baker on topics related to the proposed settlement of antitrust litigation and the work of the NCAA Division I Decision-Making Working Group.
2. **Update and Discussion of National Division I and Association-Wide Issues.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council received an update on issues related to the proposed settlement of antitrust litigation and other legal cases. In addition, the council received an update on congressional engagement efforts and how the membership can assist with these efforts.
3. **Division I Decision-Making Working Group Update.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council received an update on the work of the Decision-Making Working Group, which included an overview of next steps and the timeline for review and action by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors.

4. **Review of Sports Wagering Legislation.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council received an update on a recommendation from the NCAA Division I Board of Directors Administrative Committee to the Board of Directors to eliminate the prohibition on wagering on professional sports. The Administrative Committee also recommends that the NCAA staff develop concepts for the appropriate committees to explore related to safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties for student-athletes who engage in sports wagering but seek help for problem gambling.
5. **Reports from Council Committees.** The council received reports from its standing committees that included the action and informational items noted below. Roll-call vote results of legislative actions are available in the Attachment.
 - a. **NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees.** The council received a report from the Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees that included the following informational item.
 - **Basketball – Maximum Number of Contest and Qualifying Regular-Season Multiple Team Event Requirements.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees previously introduced Proposal No. 2025-2 into the June 2025 pilot legislative process to establish 32 contests as the maximum contest limit and eliminate legislated requirements for an institution to participate in a qualifying regular-season multiple-team event. If adopted, the proposal would be effective August 1, 2026.

Rationale. The current multiple-team event criteria is challenging due to conference realignment and other concerns. A contest limitation requiring each game to count toward the maximum is straightforward and provides each institution with maximum scheduling flexibility. This proposal does not require an institution to change its regular season schedule, and it does not limit the opportunity for multiple team events to operate or exist. The opportunity for an additional game encourages quality nonconference competition that can be used in championship selection and provides opportunities to generate additional exposure for college basketball. Men's and women's basketball will continue to be aligned with equitable participation opportunities. Implementation for the 2026-27 season allows for a seamless transition in scheduling of events and contests.
 - b. **NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committees.** The council received a report from the Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committees that included the following informational items.

- 1) **Review of Notification of Transfer Windows and Related Topics.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Football Oversight Committees provided an update on the work of the Transfer Windows and Related Topics subgroup. Due to the relationship between the notification of transfer windows, roster management, roster declaration and other elements of the football calendar, the subgroup paused its work in March. The subgroup will likely resume work in April.
 - 2) **Institutional Limit on Official Visits Blanket Waiver.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Football Oversight Committees provided an update on a blanket waiver to suspend the institutional limit of 70 football official visits for the 2025-26 football official visit cycle (April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026). In the next legislative cycle, the Football Oversight Committees plan to continue to review football official visits and the impact of official visits in the current intercollegiate athletics environment to determine whether to introduce legislation related to the limit on official visits.
- c. **Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee.** The council received a report from the Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee that included the following informational item.
- **Football Bowl Certification.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee recently discussed the football bowl certification framework for the upcoming postseason bowl bid cycle. The current bowl certification framework is entering its final year and ongoing discussions relate to the role of the NCAA in certifying postseason bowl contests moving forward.
- d. **Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committee.** The council received a report from the Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committee that included the following recommendations and informational items.
- **Maximum Number of Contests and First Contest Date.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committee provided an update on recent discussions on the maximum number of contests and first contest date. Initial feedback supports a maximum contest limitation of 12 beginning with the 2026 football season and a first contest date on the Thursday immediately before the 13th Saturday prior to the date of selections to the NCAA Division I Football Championship. A potential legislative change would also eliminate all first contest date exceptions. The committee will discuss whether to recommend a proposal as expedited legislation for council consideration in June 2025.

- e. **NCAA Division I Sports Oversight Committee.** The council received a report from the Sports Oversight Committee that included the following recommendations and informational items.

- 1) **Legislation Introduced into the June 2025 Legislative Cycle.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council introduced legislation into the June 2025 legislative cycle, in men's and women's fencing, to establish separate national collegiate championships. A men's fencing championship, based on 35 sponsoring schools would remain in place under the Olympic sport exception and the women's fencing championship, based on sponsorship of 44 schools, would be held at the same site and would be conducted concurrently. The proposal's effective date is August 1, 2025, effective for the 2025-26 season.

Rationale. Under the current scoring format, institutions that sponsor only women's fencing face a statistical impossibility to win a national championship. The separation of the two genders would allow for a more equitable championship experience and a realistic pathway for all teams to compete for national championships.

The Sports Oversight Committee concluded that introducing a proposal to establish a women's fencing championship is consistent with the board's interim policy and legislative priorities of "administration of postseason championships" to support the growth, development and recognition of women's championships. The Sports Oversight Committee is supportive of the collaborative work from the USOPC/NCAA collegiate fencing sport management pilot that developed the initial proposal. As a national collegiate championship, the recommendation requires legislative support from all three divisions.

- 2) **Women's Soccer Championship Date.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Sports Oversight Committee approved a change to move the women's soccer championship one week later as a result of the adoption of Proposal No. 2024-62, which moved two weeks from the spring nonchampionship segment to the fall championship segment, effective with the 2026 championship. The change places the women's championship on the same weekend as the men's championship.
- 3) **Women's Water Polo Championship Date.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Sports Oversight Committee approved a change to the championship date formula for women's water polo from the second weekend in May to the last full weekend in April (Friday-Sunday) in response to the adoption of Proposal No. 2024-63, which established a

consistent first competition date of the women's water polo playing season 14 weeks prior to the championship.

- 4) **Site Relocations.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Sports Oversight Committee approved various site relocations including in beach volleyball and men's golf. The 2026 NCAA National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship will be moved from Huntington Beach, California to Gulf Shores, Alabama. The 2026 men's golf regional site will now be hosted by the University of Arizona and the 2027 men's golf regional site will now be hosted by Arizona State University.
- f. **NCAA Division I Legislative Committee.** The council received a report from the Legislative Committee that included the following informational items.
- **Compliance Review Membership Requirement.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Legislative Committee provided an update on the development of a framework for compliance operations that will be assessed in the compliance review that is required once every four years, beginning August 1, 2025. The review is meant to ensure institutional efforts are focused on serving the needs of student-athletes.
- g. **Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee.** The council received a report from the Strategic Vision and Planning Committee that included the following recommendations and informational items.
- 1) **Emerging Sports for Women – Women's Flag Football.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council tabled a recommendation to introduce legislation into the June 2025 legislative cycle to add women's flag football as an emerging sport for women and establish legislation related to athletics personnel, recruiting, playing and practice seasons and membership. The council agreed to discuss this recommendation, and potentially take legislative action, at a future meeting.
 - 2) **Honors Committee – Name, Composition and Duties.** (Operational) The council introduced legislation into the June 2025 council-governance legislative cycle to modify the name, composition and duties of the NCAA Honors Committee. The proposal would (1) rename the Honors Committee to the Awards Committee, (2) increase the composition of the committee from nine to 10 members specifying that one position shall be allocated for a former student-athlete who was a Woman of the Year nominee and to replace the position allocated for a current or former chancellor or president from a member institution to a senior-level athletics administrator at a member institution or conference, and (3) expand the duties of the

committee to include oversight, management and selection of the Woman of the Year Award. The proposal's effective date is August 1, 2025.

Rationale. In January 2025, the three divisions consolidated the four diversity, equity and inclusion committees into one comprehensive committee. The new committee does not oversee the Woman of the Year Award; the Honors Committee will manage it for consistency with other awards like the NCAA Gerald R. Ford Award. Adding a former Woman of the Year nominee and a senior-level athletics administrator to the committee will provide valuable insights. The Honors Committee will be renamed to the Awards Committee to reflect its work. Because this proposal addresses common legislation, it requires adoption by all three divisions.

- 3) **Change of Division Membership – Refund Schedule.** (Fairness/Operational) The council introduced legislation into the June 2025 council-governance legislative cycle to amend the refund schedule for institutions reclassifying from Division II or Division III to Division I. The proposal specifies that if an institution reclassifying from Division II to Division I withdraws from the reclassification process, the application fee shall be refunded to the institution on a prorated basis – 50 percent through year one, 30 percent through year two and no refund thereafter. For the Division III to Division I reclassification process, the application fee shall be refunded to the institution on a prorated basis – 75 percent through year one, 50 percent through year two, 30 percent through year three and no refund thereafter. The proposal's effective date is immediate, applicable to institutions that begin the reclassification process during the 2025-26 academic year and thereafter.

Rationale. The reclassification process has been reduced to three years for an institution reclassifying from Division II and to four years for an institution reclassifying from Division III. As a result, the refund schedule should be adjusted to align with the duration of the current processes.

- 4) **Reclassification Processes Update.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Strategic Vision and Planning Committee provided an update on the implementation of the newly adopted reclassification process. Five Division II institutions and one Division III institution currently in the reclassification process have elected to avail themselves of the new reclassification process that requires meeting objective benchmarks. If the benchmarks are met, these institutions would be eligible for election to active Division I status for 2025-26. A comprehensive list of reclassifying institutions can be found in the NCAA Directory. Use this [link](#) to access the list.

- h. NCAA Division I Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** (Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee highlighting the committee's congressional engagement efforts, work on the Division I Decision-Making Working Group, conference engagement, and the development of educational resources.
- i. NCAA Division I Committee on Academics.** The council received a report from the Committee on Academics that included the following recommendations and informational items.

 - 1) Men's Wrestling – Outside Competition During First Term of Enrollment.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The council introduced legislation into the June 2025 legislative cycle, in men's wrestling, to permit a student-athlete to engage in international events, national team tryouts and national team competition during the first full-time term of collegiate enrollment. The proposal's effective date is August 1, 2025.

Rationale. Current legislation prohibits a men's wrestling student-athlete from engaging outside competition during the first term of full-time enrollment. However, waivers have been granted to allow for limited participation in elite level events. This proposal, which was recommended by USA Wrestling, eliminates the need for institutions to submit waivers for a first-year student-athlete to participate in elite level competition as an individual or as a member of an outside team.
 - 2) Graduation Passport Update.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Committee on Academics provided an update on the continued development of the Graduation Passport and a new graduation rate.
 - 3) Academic Review of Reclassifying Institutions.** (Academics/Fairness/Well-Being/Operational) The Committee on Academics provided an update on the activation of the academic components of the newly adopted membership reclassification legislation and the implementation of related policies.
- 6. Legal Update.** (Operational) The council received an update on litigation affecting Division I and the Association.
- 7. Report of the March Council Meeting.** (Operational) The council approved the report of its March meeting.

Council Chair: Josh Whitman, University of Illinois; Big Ten Conference.
Council Liaisons: Geoff Bentzel, Division I Governance
 Amanda Conklin, Division I Governance
 Jennifer Fraser, Division I Governance
 Leeland Zeller, Division I Governance

NCAA Division I Council Videoconference April 15-16, 2025	
Attendees:	
Alisse Ali-Joseph, Northern Arizona University; Faculty Athletics Representative Association.	
Mark Alnutt, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York; Mid-American Conference.	
Nicole Kendall Arrighi, Tennessee State University; Ohio Valley Conference.	
Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara; Big West Conference.	
Amy Beggin, University of New Mexico; Mountain West Conference.	
Jackie Blackett, Columbia University-Barnard College; The Ivy League.	
Josh Brooks, University of Georgia; Southeastern Conference.	
Don Bruce, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; 1A Faculty Athletics Representative.	
Dan Butterly, Big West Conference (Division I Subdivision conference commissioner).	
Jason Cable, Alabama State University; Southwestern Athletic Conference.	
Greg Christopher, Xavier University; Big East Conference.	
Tim Coffey, Longwood University; Big South Conference.	
Neema Conner, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (alternate).	
Christine Copper, U.S. Naval Academy; Patriot League.	
Brad Corbin, Washington State University; Pac-12 Conference.	
Steve Corder, University of Detroit Mercy; Horizon League.	
John Currie, Wake Forest University; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Joey D'Antonio, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Anthony Egbo, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Terry Gawlik, University of Idaho; Big Sky Conference.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University; ASUN Conference.	
Shawn Heilbron, Stony Brook University; Coastal Athletic Association.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Northeast Conference.	
Jeff Jackson, Missouri Valley Conference.	
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University; Big 12 Conference.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida; American Athletic Conference.	
Doug Knuth, Southern Utah University; Western Athletic Conference.	
Jessica Kumke, Horizon League.	
Lisa Liotta, Canisius University; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Brandon Martin, University of Missouri, Kansas City; The Summit League.	
Kimya Massey, University of San Diego; West Coast Conference.	
Ed McLaughlin, Virginia Commonwealth University; Atlantic 10 Conference.	
Meredith Page, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	

NCAA Division I Council Videoconference April 15-16, 2025	
Jennifer Phillips, James Madison University; Sun Belt Conference.	
Adeanah Pooler, Southwestern Athletic Conference (alternate).	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College; Southern Conference.	
Allison Rich, University of New Hampshire; America East Conference.	
Greg Sankey, Southeastern Conference (FBS autonomy conference commissioner).	
Heath Schroyer, McNeese State University; Southland Conference.	
Jim Senter, University of Texas at El Paso; Conference USA.	
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference.	
Josh Whitman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Big Ten Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Scott McKenzie, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Geoff Bentzel, Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser and Leeland Zeller.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:	
Charlie Baker, Scott Bearby, Tim Buckley, Dawn Buth, Emily Capehart, Deena Casiero, Derrick Crawford, Jon Duncan, Michele Forte-Osborne, Dan Gavitt, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Steeb Gronau, Brandy Hataway, Jennifer Henderson, Ethan Hite, Lynn Holzman, Charnele Kemper, Kevin Lennon, Jobrina Marques, Felicia Martin, Karen Metzger, Gretchen Miron, Binh Nguyen, Stephanie Quigg, Kris Richardson, Bridget Rigney, Dave Schnase, Geoff Silver, Liz Suscha, Lynda Tealer, Jared Tidemann, Jerry Vaughn, Stan Wilcox, Meghan Wright and Quintin Wright.	

Conference -- Voting Delegate	Conference Type	Voting Weight	Approve Council Report	Amend Proposal No. 2025-1	Consider Proposal No. 2025-1 as Expedited Legislation	Proposal No. 2025-1	Introduce Separate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships	Introduce Reclassification Process Refund Schedule	Introduce Honors Committee Name, Composition, and Duties	Table Women's Flag Football as an Emerging Sport	Introduce Men's Wrestling Exception for Elite Competition During First Term
America East Conference -- A. Rich	DI	1	A p p r o v e d	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
American Athletic Conference -- M. Kelly	NA	2		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Atlantic 10 Conference -- E. McLaughlin	DI	1		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Atlantic Coast Conference -- J. Currie	A	4		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ASUN Conference -- G. Harrison	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Big 12 Conference -- K. Johnson	A	4		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Big East Conference -- G. Christopher	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
Big Sky Conference -- T. Gawlik	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Big South Conference -- T. Coffey	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
Big Ten Conference -- J. Whitman	A	4		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Big West Conference -- K. Barsky	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Coastal Athletic Association -- S. Heilbron	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y					
Conference USA -- J. Senter	NA	2		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Horizon League -- S. Corder	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Ivy League -- J. Blackett	FCS	1		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference -- L. Liotta	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Mid-American Conference -- M. Alnutt	NA	2		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference -- N. Conner (alternate)	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A
Missouri Valley Conference -- J. Jackson	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mountain West Conference -- A. Beggin	NA	2		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Northeast Conference -- B. Hurlbut	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ohio Valley Conference -- N. Arrighi	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
Pac-12 Conference -- B. Corbin	NA	2		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Patriot League -- C. Copper	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Southeastern Conference -- J. Brooks	A	4		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Southern Conference -- E. Rabb	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Southland Conference -- H. Schroyer	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Southwestern Athletic Conference -- J. Cable	FCS	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Summit League -- B. Martin	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Sun Belt Conference -- J. Phillips	NA	2		Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A
West Coast Conference -- K. Massey	DI	1						Y	Y	Y	Y
Western Athletic Conference -- D. Knuth	DI	1		Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A
IA FAR -- D. Bruce		1		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Division I Conference Commissioner -- D. Butterly		1		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
FARA -- A. Ali-Joseph		1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FBS Autonomy Commissioner -- G. Sankey		4		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FBS Nonautonomy Commissioner -- J. Steinbrecher		2		Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
FCS Conference Commissioner -- J. D'Antonio		1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
SAAC -- A. Egbo		1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SAAC -- M. Page		1		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Yes/Adopt (Y)				58	50	57	50	60	61	52	43
No/Defeat (N)				3	10	4	0	0	0	4	0
Abstain (A)				0	0	0	8	1	0	1	11
No Vote Cast (Blank)				1	2	1	4	1	1	5	8
Total				62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
Y Percent				95.1%	83.3%	93.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	92.9%	100.0%

A = Autonomy; NA = FBS Nonautonomy