



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
April 28, 2022, MEETING**

KEY ITEM.

- **NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee recommendation – automatic qualification for the 2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship.** The Football Oversight Committee agreed to defer action on the recommendation to allow the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) members of the Football Oversight Committee to meet and develop a recommendation for the Football Oversight Committee to consider during its May 12 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

- **Noncontroversial Legislation – Amend Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) annual contest for conference championship exemption legislation.**

- (1) Recommendation. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to remove the FBS requirements that must be met to annually exempt one conference championship contest. This will provide discretion to each FBS conference to determine the method for identifying the participants in its conference championship game.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Football is the only sport that has requirements that must be satisfied to exempt a conference championship game from the participating institutions' maximum number of contests. Eliminating the FBS round-robin, regular-season requirement for exempting the conference championship game would permit each FBS conference to determine its own conference championship selection criteria.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varied, depending on any schedule changes made in response to this change.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Blanket Legislative Relief Waiver to Waive Annual Signing (FBS) and Initial Counter (FBS/FCS) Limits for 2022-23 and 2023-24 Academic Years.**

- (1) Recommendation. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council approve a blanket legislative relief waiver to waive the annual signing (FBS) and initial counter (FBS/FCS) limits for the 2022-23 and

2023-24 academic years. The blanket waiver would permit institutions to award athletics aid (National Letter of Intent, institutional offer of athletics aid) based on the overall counter limit (85) and, in FCS, the annual equivalency limit (63).

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The combined impact of the expanded availability of the one-time transfer exception in football and the COVID-19 season of competition extension provided to many student-athletes has contributed to an increased number of football student-athletes in the NCAA Transfer Portal. Institutions that have not awarded athletics aid to the maximum number of overall counters can find themselves unable to award additional athletics aid, particularly to incoming student-athletes, because the institution has already awarded aid to its maximum number of initial counters. Additionally, in FBS, an institution may have limited options for awarding additional athletic aid due to already reaching its annual signing limit. Waiving the annual signing and initial counter limits for two academic years will provide institutions maximum flexibility during that time to award athletic aid, providing additional opportunities for incoming and current student-athletes to receive athletics aid.

While the waiver is in effect, the Football Oversight Committee will collect and review data regarding institutional recruiting practices and the number of counters on FBS and FCS rosters. The Football Oversight Committee will also continue to monitor NCAA Transfer Portal trends. The information gathered will inform what legislative recommendation the Football Oversight Committee makes to govern football counters after the waiver expires.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varies, depending on the number of additional awards an institution is able to make.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. At some institutions, there will be additional opportunities for student-athletes to receive athletic aid in football. During the time the initial counter and, in FBS, annual signing limits are waived, the flexibility may result in institutions over signing prospective student-athletes and may increase in the number of football student-athletes reporting they no longer have a participation opportunity at their current institution.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Comprehensive recruiting review subgroup update.** Jean Gee, University of Montana, provided an update on the subgroup's work. The subgroup is developing a concept that, if adopted, will permit FCS programs to conduct football on-campus evaluations in June 2022. If the concept is supported, the subgroup will develop a legislative recommendation to permit FCS programs to conduct football on-campus evaluations in future years.
2. **NCAA Division I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group update.** Mark Alnutt, University of Buffalo, provided an update on recent NCAA Division I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group (FSACG) videoconference. During its April 18, 2022, meeting, the connection group discussed two concepts the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee referred to them.

The FSACG supported a concept that would provide more than one opportunity during the academic year for student-athletes to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal and use the one-time exception. The student-athletes supported multiple transfer windows because the concept would provide student-athletes the flexibility to evaluate their current situation at different times during the academic year.

The connection group also discussed a concept to provide institutions the discretion to determine a day off during the academic year for student-athlete to focus on education and to promote civic engagement.

3. **Feedback on a NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Transfer Concept.** The Football Oversight Committee provided feedback for the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee on a concept that could establish a specified time period when a student-athlete may enter the NCAA Transfer Portal and use the one-time transfer exception to be immediately eligible at the next institution.

The Football Oversight Committee noted that some outcomes related to this concept, such as the consequence of a student entering the NCAA transfer portal during a designated window but not finding a "match" (e.g., signing an offer of admission or financial aid or enrolling at the new institution) during that window, should be consistent across sports. As for transfer windows for football, the Football Oversight Committee supported establishing two transfer windows (Fall and Spring). Todd Berry shared a concept previously developed by the American Football Coaches Association that would establish a five-week transfer window that begins on the last Sunday in November and a second five-week window that begins on April 15. Those windows would provide a consistent start and end date for all schools, align with the current football recruiting calendar and provide opportunities for campus visits. The Football Oversight Committee noted that the first transfer window in the AFCA's model would need extended to ensure student-athletes who participate in their final contest near or after that five-week period have time (e.g., five business days) to enter the transfer portal after that final contest. The Football Oversight Committee also noted the importance timing the transfer windows to provide student-athletes appropriate time to decide whether to enter the transfer portal, provide programs

a clearer understanding of which student-athletes intended to remain at the institution. The Football Oversight Committee also supported maintaining current legislation that permits an institution to reduce or cancel athletics aid during the period of the award and reduce or not renew athletics aid for the following academic year or years, beginning with the end of the regular academic term in which a student-athlete provides written notification of transfer.

4. **Feedback on a Legislative Relief Waiver.** The Football Oversight Committee provided feedback to the Council on a request from the membership for blanket legislative relief from summer school enrollment requirements for incoming and continuing student-athletes participating in 2022 summer athletic activities. The Football Oversight Committee, noting the importance of an academic requirement for participating in summer athletic activities and the membership's interest in providing additional flexibility for student-athletes participating in summer athletic activities, supported a blanket legislative relief waiver that would permit an institution to allow a student-athlete who is academically eligible to compete during the 2022-23 academic year to participate in 2022 summer athletic activities without being enrolled in summer school. The Football Oversight Committee also supported the blanket waiver permitting an institution to provide expenses up to the amount a student-athlete would have received if enrolled in summer school to student-athletes who satisfy the blanket waiver and participate in summer athletic activities.
5. **NCAA Division I Governance update.** Amanda Conklin, director of Division I governance, provided an update on the recent actions of the Council and meetings of the NCAA Board of Governors.
6. **NCAA Division I Transformation Committee update.** Troy Dannen, Tulane University, provided an update on the recent meeting and survey the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee sent to the membership.
7. **Review of the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee's March 24, 2022, report.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved its March 24, 2022, videoconference report.
8. **Future meetings and teleconferences.**
 - a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, May 12, 2022; videoconference.
 - b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, May 26, 2022; videoconference.
 - c. Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14, 2022; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Committee Chair: Sandy Barbour, Pennsylvania State University.

Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.

Kris Richardson, NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee April 28, 2022, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Mark Alnutt, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York.	
Ray Anderson, Arizona State University (alternate).	
Sandy Barbour, Pennsylvania State University.	
Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.	
Thorr Bjorn, University of Rhode Island.	
Troy Dannen, Tulane University.	
Jean Gee, University of Montana.	
Doug Gillin, Appalachian State University.	
Heather Lyke, University of Pittsburgh.	
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham.	
Ken Niumatalolo, U.S. Naval Academy, Head Football Coach.	
Chrissi Rawak, University of Delaware.	
Mack Rhoades, Baylor University.	
Terry Tumey, California State University, Fresno.	
Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley Conference.	
Eric Wood, Louisiana Tech University.	
Hunter Yurachek, University of Arkansas.	
Absentees:	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Chris Paul, University of Tulsa, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Isaac Vance, Kent State University, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kris Richardson and Ty Halpin.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, Anthony Holman, Chris Howard, Chris Johnson, Greg Johnson, Jessica Kerr, Chad Tolliver and J.P. Williams.	