



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MARCH 24, 2022, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Seeking conference feedback on concept to remove requirements for excluding a conference championship game from maximum number of football contests.** Mark Harlan, University of Utah, introduced a concept to remove the requirements that must be met for an FBS institution to annually exempt one conference championship game from its maximum number of football contests. The NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee agreed its FBS members would seek feedback on the concept from their conferences and that the Football Oversight Committee would discuss the feedback during its April 28 meeting. Then, the Football Oversight Committee will decide whether or not to recommend that the NCAA Division I Council adopt the change as noncontroversial legislation.
2. **NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee recommendation – automatic qualification for the 2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship.** The Football Oversight Committee received a recommendation from NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee to approve 11 conferences for automatic qualification (AQ) for the 2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship. The Football Oversight Committee agreed to defer action on the recommendation to its April 28 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - a. **Noncontroversial Legislation – Amend Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) opponent exception to Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) contest status legislation.**
 - (1) Recommendation. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to reduce the financial aid requirement an FCS opponent needs to satisfy for a win to count toward the FBS team meeting the definition of "deserving team" from 90% of the permissible maximum number of grants-in-aid per year in football during a rolling two-year period to 80% of the permissible maximum number of grants-in-aid per year in football during a rolling two-year period.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. Through a blanket waiver recommended by the Football Oversight Committee and approved by the Council, a win against an FCS opponent who met the 80% financial aid requirement was eligible for the exception during the 2020 football season. Allowing an FBS team to count one win against an FCS opponent who averages at least 80% of the permissible maximum number of grants-in-aid per year in football during a rolling two-year period provides more scheduling flexibility for FBS versus

FCS contests and continues to ensure the exception remains available for FCS programs that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to providing financial aid to their football student-athletes.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varies, depending on what agreements FBS and FCS institutions enter following this change.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. May produce more opportunities for FBS and FCS student-athletes to compete against one another.

b. Noncontroversial Legislation – Amend FBS contest status legislation to address situations where there is an insufficient number of deserving teams available for certified postseason bowls.

- (1) Recommendation. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to establish an exception to the contest status rule to address years when there is an insufficient number of institutions that satisfy the definition of a "deserving team." Specifically, if an insufficient number of institutions meet the definition of a "deserving team" pursuant to the contest status legislation to participate in postseason bowl games in a particular year, an institution that meets a condition set forth below shall be eligible to participate as an alternate in such a bowl game. All deserving teams must be selected before an alternate may be selected. All institutions that meet the first condition below must be selected before an institution that meets the second condition may be selected and so forth in descending order:
 - a) An institution that would have met the FCS opponent exception (Bylaw 18.7.2.1.1) but for the fact that one victory was against a FCS opponent that had not met the required average of the permissible maximum number of grants-in-aid per year in football during a rolling two-year period and the institution's waiver request, per Bylaw 18.7.3, was denied.
 - b) An institution that participated in 13 regular-season contests and finished the season with a record of six wins that count toward meeting the definition of a "deserving team" and seven losses.
 - c) An institution that is in its final year of reclassification from the FCS to the FBS and meets the definition of a "deserving team" pursuant to Bylaw 18.7.2.1 or the exception in Bylaw 18.7.2.1.1.
 - d) An institution that finished its season with a minimum of five wins that count toward meeting the definition of a "deserving team" and a maximum of seven losses but achieved a multiyear Academic

Progress Rate (APR) that permits postseason participation. Alternates identified pursuant to this condition shall be identified as eligible in descending order based on the institutions' multiyear APR.

1. If multiple institutions achieved the same multiyear rate, the institution with the highest single-year APR, beginning with the most recent reporting year and continuing until a higher rate is found, shall be identified as eligible first. An institution that is identified as an alternate must declare whether it will participate in a bowl game. An alternate institution that declares an intention to participate shall select an available bowl game in which to participate.
2. If an institution is unable to participate in a bowl game after accepting a bid, the bowl entity shall select an alternate from among the remaining FBS institutions with a multiyear APR that permits postseason participation to replace the team that accepted the bid and is no longer able to participate in the bowl game.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. This model, which is nearly identical to the legislated exception that expired in August 2020 and to the blanket waiver that was approved for the 2021 season, has served the sport well. It ensures all deserving teams are selected before any alternates and continues to use the APR as a meaningful, appropriate metric for determining which five-win and seven-loss teams can be selected as alternates if any such teams are needed. Finally, the model provides new flexibility for the rare circumstance when a team ends up unable to participate in a bowl game after accepting a bid to participate.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Varies, depending on the institution's win-loss record, multiyear APR and overall number of deserving teams each year. May result in additional costs associated with preparation for and participation in a certified postseason bowl game.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Provides more certainty for what FBS football student-athletes and their teammates need to achieve in the classroom and on the field to have the best chance to participate in a postseason bowl game. May result in additional time spent preparing for and participating in a certified postseason bowl game.

c. Noncontroversial Legislation – Permit, in football, up to two hours of noncontact skill instruction during summer athletic activities.

- (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit, in football, up to two of the permissible eight hours per week of summer athletic activity to be used for noncontact skill instruction. This change would permit the eight hours each week to be used for weight training, conditioning, up to two hours of review of practice and game film and up to two hours of noncontact skill instruction. A football is the only equipment that may be used during the noncontact skill instruction and no protective equipment may be worn.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This change provides football student-athletes opportunities to receive skill instruction during summer athletic activities, which is something student-athletes in other sports that allow summer athletic activities are already permitted to receive. Allowing football student-athletes to participate in noncontact skill instruction for up to two of the permitted eight hours of summer activities provides these opportunities for skill development without increasing student-athletes' time commitment to summer athletic activities and without engaging in additional contact-related activities. The use of a football provides flexibility when designing skill instruction activities and the prohibition on protective equipment emphasizes that the skill instruction is noncontact only.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varies, depending on whether the institution chooses to permit noncontact skill instruction.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides student-athletes additional opportunities for skill instruction and development without increasing the total time committed to summer athletic activities or time engaged in contact-related activities.

d. Noncontroversial Legislation – Permit an institution to commence official preseason football practice sessions, for the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team, 31 days before its first scheduled intercollegiate game.

- (1) Recommendation. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit an institution to commence official preseason football practice sessions, for the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team, 31 days before its first scheduled intercollegiate game.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This proposal provides institutions more flexibility in the preseason without changing football's acclimatization period or the limit of 25 on-field practices prior to the institution's first scheduled intercollegiate contest. This creates additional opportunities for institutions to provide student-athletes rest.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Increased costs associated with football student-athletes beginning preseason practice sessions two days earlier.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Football student-athletes would begin preseason practice two days earlier. By not increasing the number of on-field practices, the proposal provides institutions discretion to determine whether or not to provide football student-athletes additional opportunities for rest during the preseason.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of 2021-22 Council-governance proposals.** The Football Oversight Committee finalized its positions on several legislative proposals the Council is scheduled to vote on in April. The Football Oversight Committee forwarded its positions to the NCAA Division I Legislative Committee for consideration.
- 2. Football Oversight Committee subgroup updates.**
 - a. **Comprehensive recruiting review.** Jean Gee, University of Montana, provided an update on the subgroup's work. The subgroup is examining the annual signing and initial counter legislation and the football recruiting calendar, focusing on the spring evaluation period and the quiet period for midyear enrollees. The subgroup's next meeting is Thursday, April 7.
 - b. **Playing and practice seasons.** Mark Harlan, University of Utah, provided an update on the subgroup's work. The subgroup gathered feedback on three concepts and the Football Oversight Committee agreed to forward two of the concepts to the Council as noncontroversial legislation. A concept submitted by the Atlantic Coast Conference that would remove the limit on the number of football student-athletes permitted to participate in all preseason practice sessions was not supported by the Football Oversight Committee.

3. **Update on the NCAA Transfer Portal.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update on football student-athlete activity in the transfer portal. The update provided data from the last two years on the number of football student-athletes entering the portal, the percentage of transfer student-athletes who matriculated at another Division I or NCAA institution and the percentages of transfer student-athletes who enter the transfer portal with athletics aid and who receive athletics aid at another NCAA institution.
4. **NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee and NCAA Football Rules Committee update.** Troy Dannen provided an update from the NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee's March 1-2 annual in-person meeting. Ty Halpin, director of championships and alliances, provided an update on the NCAA Football Rules Committee's annual meeting. Proposed changes to the football rules are now in the comment period phase and will be considered by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel on April 20.
5. **New Football Oversight Committee member representing the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Board of Trustees.** Ken Niumatalolo, head football coach at the U.S. Naval Academy and member of the AFCA Board of Trustees, has been appointed to the Football Oversight Committee by the AFCA.
6. **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 videoconferences. The SACG's next meeting is on Monday, April 18.
7. **NCAA Division I Transformation Committee update.** Troy Dannen, Tulane University, provided an update on the recent meetings of the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee.
8. **Review of the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee's February 24, 2022, report.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved its February 24, 2022, videoconference report.
9. **Future meetings and teleconferences.**
 - a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, April 28, 2022; videoconference.
 - b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, May 12, 2022; videoconference.

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 March 24, 2022, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Mark Alnutt, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York.	
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.	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Heather Lyke, University of Pittsburgh.	
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham.	
Mack Rhoades, Baylor University.	
Terry Tumey, California State University, Fresno.	
Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley Conference.	
Eric Wood, Louisiana Tech University.	
Absentees:	
Ken Niumatalolo, U.S. Naval Academy, Head Football Coach.	
Chris Paul, University of Tulsa, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Chrissi Rawak, University of Delaware.	
Isaac Vance, Kent State University, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Hunter Yurachek, University of Arkansas.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kris Richardson and Ty Halpin.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lydia Bell, Amanda Conklin, Brandy Hataway, Chris Howard, Greg Johnson, Jessica Kerr, Susan Peal and J.P. Williams.	