



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee Update.** The NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Football Championship be conducted from April 18, 2021, through May 15, 2021. Additionally, the championship bracket would be reduced from 24 to 16 teams and would include 10 automatic qualification teams and six at-large selections. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that completed fall competitions be considered when determining the field for the spring championship. The Football Oversight Committee agrees with the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee's position that if the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee considers larger bracket sizes for fall sports conducting a championship in the spring, there is support for a larger bracket for the Division I Football Championship.
2. **NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee Playing and Practice Season Subgroup Recommendation.** The Football Oversight Committee recommends that Council adopt temporary emergency legislation, effective on Monday, September 21, to implement the 2020-21 football playing and practice season framework the Football Oversight Committee developed for institutions that postpone competition to the spring. The recommended framework provides flexibility for practice time periods and permits up to eight regular-season contests to occur during a period of not more than 13 weeks, with the last regular-season contest occurring not later than April 17, 2021. Among its provisions, the recommended framework is intended to ensure that legislative requirements mandating specific days/time off (e.g., discretionary weeks) for student-athletes during a traditional season will apply in a comparable manner to a spring season.

The principles the Football Oversight Committee used to develop this framework are the protection of student-athlete health and safety and time demands; positioning the sport to return to its legislated playing and practice season model not later than the summer of 2021; providing the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) membership necessary flexibility to navigate the playing and practice season during the COVID-19 pandemic; maintaining legislated contest limits, whether those contests occur this fall or next spring; maintaining, as much as possible, established types of activity periods in the season and permitting a fall training opportunity for institutions competing in the spring.

Under this framework, the current preseason legislation requirements apply, providing institutions a preseason practice period that begins 29 days before the institution's first scheduled football contest, beginning with a five-day acclimatization period and allowing up to 25 on-field practices. Further, to prepare for the preseason practice period, during the two weeks (14 consecutive calendar days) immediately prior to the start of the preseason practice period, institutions may engage in up to 20 hours per week of non-

contact countable athletically related activities. Up to eight hours per week may be used for weight training, conditioning and film review (not more than two hours of film review per week). Up to one hour per day (not more than six hours per week) may be used for a walk-through, which may include the use of a football. And, up to one hour per day (not more than six hours per week) for meetings, which may include team meetings, position meetings, one-on-one meetings, etc. Finally, during this two-week period institutions are required to provide student-athletes at least two days off.

Additionally, the framework requires FBS and FCS institutions to complete all regular-season football competition during the fall in order to engage in a spring practice period. And, only institutions that do not begin the preseason practice period, begin the two-week period immediately prior to the preseason practice period or engage in any competition before January 1, 2021, may participate in a fall practice period ("Fall Ball") that applies the requirements of the spring practice legislation. Institutions that conduct "Fall Ball" must establish a period of at least 30 calendar days between the last day of "Fall Ball" and the date two weeks before the first day of preseason practice. The final week (seven consecutive calendar days) of that period must be a discretionary week and that period must include at least one more discretionary week.

Until December 31, unless an institution is in its preseason practice period, the two-week period immediately prior to the preseason practice period, its regular season or its "Fall Ball" period, countable athletically related activities are limited to not more than 12 hours (including up to five hours of non-contact skill instruction) per week. Further, not more than four hours of countable athletically related activities are permitted per day and student-athletes must be provided at least two days off per week.

During the development of the recommended framework, the Football Oversight Committee solicited feedback from the Prevention and Performance Subcommittee of the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS) with respect to health and safety concerns and considerations. The Football Oversight Committee is committed to supplementing and/or otherwise modifying the recommended framework to fully clarify its intent to prioritize the well-being of the student-athletes and otherwise satisfactorily address any concerns or considerations that may be identified by the Prevention and Performance Subcommittee. These additional clarifications and modifications, if any, will be included as part of in the final model that is presented to Council.

Finally, the Football Oversight Committee directed staff to coordinate with CSMAS, the American Football Coaches Association and conferences to evaluate broadly the 2020-21 schedule as it relates to student-athlete activity.

3. **Recruiting Dead Period.** The Football Oversight Committee recommends that Council extend the temporary recruiting dead period through October 31, 2020, and eliminate the 2020 fall evaluation period.

4. **Review of Midyear Enrollee Legislation.** The Football Oversight Committee discussed whether a midyear enrollee (e.g., a student-athlete initially enrolling at an institution for the spring 2021 term) should be eligible to compete in regular season and/or postseason football contests that occur before or during the student-athlete's initial term of full-time enrollment at the institution. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council adopt temporary emergency legislation to specify that initial midyear enrollee student-athletes are not eligible for competition in the 2020-21 academic year. The Oversight Committee will continue its discussion of the issue on its September 10 call and may modify its recommendation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of Football Oversight Committee's August 27, 2020, Report.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved its August 27, 2020, videoconference report.
2. **Feedback Request for Final Date of Competition for Conference Championship.** The Football Oversight Committee recommended approval on waiver requests to allow conference championships to be conducted not later than December 19, 2020.
3. **National Letter of Intent Signing Periods.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and did not support a change in the early National Letter of Intent signing period.
4. **Feedback to the NCAA Division I Working Group on Transfers.** The Football Oversight Committee deferred its discussion of this item to a future videoconference.
5. **Future Meetings and Teleconferences.**
 - a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, September 10; Videoconference.
 - b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, September 17; Videoconference.

Committee Chair: Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.

Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.

Kris Richardson, NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee September 3, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Mark Alnutt, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York.	
Whit Babcock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.	
Sandy Barbour, Pennsylvania State University.	
Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.	
Craig Bohl, University of Wyoming, AFCA Board of Trustees.	
Ryan Cassidy, Rutgers University, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Adam Cushing, University of Eastern Illinois.	
Greg Byrne, University of Alabama.	
Troy Dannen, Tulane University	
Jean Gee, University of Montana.	
Bret Gilliland, Mountain West Conference.	
Doug Gillin, Appalachian State University.	
Michael Hamrick, Marshall University.	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.	
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham.	
Kyle Moats, Missouri State University.	
Greg Seitz, Jacksonville State University.	
Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley Conference.	
Jennifer Williams, Alabama State University.	
Absentees:	
Patrick Fields, University of Oklahoma.	
Samantha Huge, College of William & Mary.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin and Kris Richardson.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Michael Bazemore, Geoff Bentzel, Amanda Conklin, Brian Hainline, Anthony Holman, Chris Howard, Chris Johnson, Greg Johnson, Jessica Kerr, Greg Pottorff, Anne Rohlman and Chad Tolliver.	