



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I SPORTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and opening remarks.** Division I Sports Oversight Committee Chair Michael Kelly welcomed SOC members to the meeting.
2. **Committee focus for 2024-25.** The SOC reviewed the focus areas as it does at the beginning of each meeting:

Student-athlete experience | Equity, diversity and inclusion | Competitive fairness |
Student-athlete health and well-being | Fiscal planning
3. **Equity, diversity, inclusion and the student-athlete voice.** The SOC recognized National Girls and Women in Sports Day on Feb. 5, first observed in 1987 and Black History Month, originally a week-long observance created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson that President Gerald R. Ford expanded to a month-long observance in 1976.
4. **Review of recent reports.** The SOC approved the report from its Jan. 14 meeting.
5. **Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** The SOC received an update regarding the ongoing work of the Division I SAAC, including updates from the committee's discussion at the NCAA Convention and current strategic priorities.
6. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** The SOC heard an informational update on the Jan. 22 meeting of the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel meeting.
7. **Committee policies and procedures.** The SOC approved its policies and procedures document.
8. **Sport groups for subcommittee organization.** The SOC determined the groupings of sports within the committee's subcommittee structure. Each of the subcommittees will maintain appropriate oversight of assigned sports and make recommendations to the full Sports Oversight Committee on policy issues and legislative concepts.
9. **Legislative, blanket waiver and policy requests.**
 - a. **Fencing – separate women's championship - update.** The SOC received an update that its recommendation to create a women's fencing championship separate from the existing mixed fencing championships was supported by the NCAA Division I Council Coordination

Committee for recommended introduction into the June legislative cycle during the NCAA Division I Council's April meeting.

- b. **Recruiting calendar changes.** The SOC approved changes to the 2025-26 recruiting calendar for cross country, track and field and field hockey. The committee will consider changes to the men's lacrosse, women's soccer and men's wrestling recruiting calendars during its April meeting.
- c. **Sport-specific legislative requests.** The SOC will review the legislative requests from cross country and track and field, men's lacrosse and women's soccer at its April meeting.

10. **Finance update.** NCAA staff will provide a finance update at SOC's April meeting.

11. **Sport committee reports.**

a. **Beach volleyball.**

- **2025 championship site relocation.** The SOC reviewed the report from the beach volleyball committee meeting that was approved by the SOC committee's chair and vice chair on Jan. 27 to relocate the 2025 National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship from Huntington Beach, California to Gulf Shores, Alabama due to recovery efforts in the Southern California area after the recent wildfires.

b. **Women's bowling.**

- **Secondary selection criterion.** The SOC approved the use of match scores as a secondary criterion for at-large selection to the women's bowling championship and for seeding the championship bracket beginning with the 2026 championship.

c. **Women's gymnastics.** The SOC received the informational report from the women's gymnastics committee meeting.

d. **Women's ice hockey.** The SOC received the informational report from the women's ice hockey committee meeting.

e. **Women's lacrosse.** The SOC received the informational reports from the women's lacrosse committee meeting.

f. **Men's and women's rifle.** The SOC received the informational report from the men's and women's rifle committee meeting.

g. **Men's and women's swimming and diving.** The SOC received the informational reports from the men's and women's swimming and diving committee meeting.

h. Men's and women's tennis.

- **Automatic qualification waiver request from the Western Athletic Conference.** The SOC approved the tennis committee's recommendation that the Western Athletic Conference be granted automatic qualification to the 2026 NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championships despite having only four members sponsoring the sport during the 2025-26 academic year. Due to recent conference realignment, the conference is left with just four institutions sponsoring women's tennis, and the timing of these changes did not provide the conference time to return to five or six sponsoring institutions, thus negatively impacting championship access for their student-athletes. The tennis committee supported – as did the SOC – granting relief for one year and considering this the first year of the two-year grace period. The conference would need to have five eligible institutions for 2026-27 and six eligible institutions by 2027-28 or risk losing its automatic qualification. Should the conference have only four eligible institutions for 2026-27, no additional waiver will be granted.

i. Men's and women's track and field and cross country.

- (1) **2026 outdoor track and field West first round site relocation.** The SOC approved the sport committee's recommendation to relocate the 2026 outdoor track and field West first round from Sacramento to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville due to facility changes to the venue that will impact Sacramento's ability to host.
- (2) **2025 cross country Northeast regional championship site relocation.** The SOC also noted the informational update from the sport committee on the relocation of the 2025 cross country Northeast regional championship from Boston, Massachusetts to Hopkinton, New Hampshire. .

12. NCAA championship drug-testing program. The SOC received an update from the NCAA staff on the NCAA championship drug-testing program.

13. Future meetings.

- Wednesday, April 9, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern time (*videoconference*)
- Wednesday, June 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern time (*videoconference*)
- Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern time (*videoconference*)
- Monday, Oct. 6, from 4 to 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon Eastern time (*in-person in Indianapolis*)

Committee Chair: Michael Kelly, University of South Florida

Staff Liaisons: Brandy Hataway, Academic and Membership Affairs

Report of the NCAA Division I Sports Oversight Committee

Feb. 19, 2025, Meeting

Page No. 4

Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances
Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
Karen Metzger, Academic and Membership Affairs
Russell Register, Enforcement

NCAA Division I Sports Oversight Committee Feb. 19, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Joeleen Akin, Georgia Institute of Technology.	
Alisse Ali-Joseph, Northern Arizona University.	
Greg Christopher, Xavier University.	
Jennifer Condaras, Coastal Athletic Association.	
Christine Copper, U.S. Naval Academy.	
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.	
Joseph D'Antonio Jr., Coastal Athletic Association.	
Brad Hurlbut, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Kimberly Johnson, Texas Christian University.	
Michael Kelly, University of South Florida.	
Celene McGowan, The Ivy League.	
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.	
Elizabeth Rabb, Wofford College.	
Keeley Rasmussen, Long Beach State University (Student-Athlete).	
Allison Rich, University of New Hampshire.	
Claire Woods, Middle Tennessee State University (Student-Athlete).	
Absentees:	
Raymond Harrison Jr., North Carolina State University.	
Jenna Rogers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln (Student-Athlete).	
Matthew Sorbe, University of South Dakota (Student-Athlete).	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.	
Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances.	
Brandy Hataway, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Karen Metzger, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Russell Register, Enforcement.	
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jeff O'Barr, Amanda Conklin, Greg Johnson, Tracy McClendon, Lynda Tealer and Chad Tolliver.	