



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I STRATEGIC VISION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 10, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **Legislative Action Items.**

- a. Minimum Participants for Sports Sponsorship in Men's and Women's Golf.**

- 1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council introduce expedited legislation in men's and women's golf, to reduce, from five to four, the minimum number of participants required to satisfy sports-sponsorship requirements.
- 2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- 3) Rationale. In a typical golf competition, team scores are recorded by counting the lowest four scores from the five competing student-athletes. However, institutions are not required to compete with five student-athletes to count team scores, as any team with at least four competing student-athletes will count in the team standings, but without the benefit of removing their highest score. Given that teams can participate and win events with only four competing student-athletes, the men's and women's golf committees feel that participation by four student-athletes should satisfy sports-sponsorship requirements; this adjustment would also eliminate any potential confusion between countable contests for championship selections and for sports sponsorship.

This recommendation will not harm participation opportunities, as there is a clear competitive disadvantage to competing with only four student-athletes, as compared to five; as such, coaches and administrators on the committees feel that teams would continue to maximize their playing opportunities and continue to utilize the competitive advantage that accompanies a fifth competing student-athlete whenever possible.

- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. If a team is impacted by injuries or mid-season transfers but still has four players to compete during the season, this adjustment would allow the institution to count those contests towards sports sponsorship.

- b. Minimum Contests for Sports Sponsorship in Men's Gymnastics.**

- 1) Recommendation. That the council introduce expedited legislation in men's gymnastics, to reduce, from nine to eight, the minimum number of contests required to satisfy sports sponsorship requirements.

- 2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- 3) Rationale. Approximately half a century ago, the schedule for men's gymnastics competitions was established, but the landscape of men's gymnastics has transformed significantly. NCAA men's gymnastics adheres to international-level regulations, demanding athletes to compete at the highest levels of difficulty. By reducing the mandatory number of contests by one, coaches could utilize that day for recuperation, thereby enhancing the well-being of student-athletes.

Further, the maximum number of contests remains fixed at 13, allowing programs to maintain a full competition calendar if they so desire. As the men's gymnastics community strives to establish new collegiate programs across all three divisions of the Association, reducing the minimum number of contests would simplify the process for newly established programs to meet the minimum requirements as they develop their programs.

Lastly, in collaboration with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Thinktank, the men's gymnastics committee has been actively seeking partnerships to optimize fan engagement, increase attendance, and enrich the overall experience of student-athletes during the NCAA championships. One of the potential partnerships the pilot group coalesced around was a co-located championship model that would pair the NCAA championship with a USA Gymnastics junior regional championship in the same city on the same weekend through separate bid processes. A requirement of this partnership would be to move the NCAA championships a week earlier than it currently is, and in turn shorten the regular season by a week. Reducing the minimum number of required contests by one would support this endeavor and also enhance student-athlete welfare.

- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. The reduction would provide student-athletes with additional recovery time between meets, thereby enhancing their well-being.

**c. Single-sport Conference Football Voting.**

- 1) Recommendation. That the council introduce expedited legislation to amend current legislation regarding NCAA Football Championship Subdivision single-sport voting requirements to permit a single-sport conference to be eligible for voting rights if it plays a full round-robin conference schedule OR conducts a conference schedule that includes at least eight contests against unique conference opponents.

- 2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- 3) Rationale. Based on the current composition of FCS conferences, not all existing single-sport FCS conferences are able to play a full round-robin schedule due to the size of the conference. Establishing a minimum number of conference games that must be played to maintain voting rights as a single-sport conference would permit larger conferences that have historically had voting rights to maintain those voting rights while also maintaining an option for smaller conferences to retain voting rights by participating in a full round-robin schedule.
- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Multisport Conference Requirements.**

- 1) Recommendation. That the council introduce expedited legislation to amend multisport conference requirements to allow men's individual sports for which a conference conducts a conference championship to satisfy sports sponsorship criteria.
- 2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- 3) Rationale. Current multisport conference-sports sponsorship standards were adopted in January 2011 and require conferences to have a minimum of 12 sports with at least six men's sports, one of which must be men's basketball. In addition to basketball, the conference shall sponsor football or two other men's team sports. A minimum of seven members must sponsor basketball and a minimum of six members shall sponsor five other sports, including football or two additional men's teams sports. The five men's team sports, other than basketball and football, have varying levels of interest across the United States and in some regions, sport sponsorship may be declining. Further, ice hockey and lacrosse have been sponsored by numerous single-sport conferences reducing opportunities for multisport conferences to sponsor the sport. By eliminating the two-male-team-sport requirement, conferences will have greater flexibility to meet the 12-sport requirement. Further, this would give conferences greater flexibility to add a conference member if an institution were to leave the conference, without the burden of asking schools to add sports.
- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Comprehensive Review of Membership Requirements.** In its final report, the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee and NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee Membership Subgroup recommended that Strategic Vision and Planning Committee conduct a comprehensive review of membership requirements. During its April meeting, the committee continued its discussions from its January meeting regarding: (1) Institutional reclassification processes: Reclassification of NCAA Division II and III institutions to Division I; (2) Single-sport conference membership requirements; (3) Football single-sport conference voting requirements; (4) Transition of authority for Football Championship Subdivision to Football Bowl Subdivision reclassification process; and (5) Multisport conference membership requirements. The following additional information outlines specific next steps.
  - a. **Institutional reclassification processes: Division II and III institutions to Division I.** The committee continued its review of the reclassification process for institutions moving from Division II or III to Division I based on objective standards. The committee will continue discussing a three-year transition process for reclassifying institutions from Division II to Division I and a four-year transition process for Division III to Division I with the possibility to accelerate the process if elevated objective benchmarks are achieved. The committee will select a working group to develop detailed processes and categories of focus and provide its concepts to the committee for review at its June meeting.
  - b. **Single-Sport Conference Requirements.** The committee continued its discussion on issues related to requiring an application and a separate annual fee for each sport conference, including separate gendered sports and the appropriate minimum number of Division I programs that must be included in each new single-sport conference. Within the next several months, the committee will request feedback from the membership and other stakeholders on concepts related to future requirements for single-sport conferences.
2. **Holistic Model for Student-Athletes and Attestation Update.** The committee received an update on annual and once-every-four-year attestation submission requirements related to the Holistic Model for Student-Athletes and confirmed that multidivisional schools are required to complete both annual and once-every-four-year attestation submission requirements to fulfill Division I membership obligations. The committee will discuss details regarding membership access to new attestations aligned with the Holistic Model for Student-Athletes at its June meeting.
3. **Access to Division I Championship When No Championship is Available.** The committee reviewed current legislation that permits NCAA Division II members to compete in Division I championships in sports for which no championships are conducted in Division

- II. The committee asked staff to reengage the discussion on this topic in conjunction with follow-up discussions on single-sport conference requirements during its June meeting.
4. **Project Division I.** The committee received an update on the review of the structure of Division I announced by NCAA President Baker in early December. Feedback provided by the committee will be shared through the formal Project Division I feedback process.
  5. **Membership Landscape Update.** NCAA staff provided an update on current membership issues and developments.
  6. **Strategic Vision and Planning Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved committee policies and procedures, effective immediately.
  7. **Reclassification Applications and Annual Report Teams.** The committee reviewed its individual and team assignments in preparation of the receipt of reclassification applications and annual reports.
  8. **Legal Update.** The committee received a general legal update from NCAA Office of Legal Affairs representative Michele Forte-Osborne.
  9. **NCAA Division I Institutional Performance Program update.** The committee received an update from staff on the status of the Institutional Performance Program.
  10. **Committee Reports.** The committee reviewed the following reports:
    - a. NCAA Honors Committee March 22, 2024, meeting report.
    - b. NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics February 7, 2024, meeting report.
    - c. NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee February 14, 2024, report.
    - d. NCAA Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee January 3, 2024, meeting report.
    - e. NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee February 26-27, 2024, meeting report.
    - f. NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports December 11, 2023, and February 19-20, 2024, meeting reports.
    - g. NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity December 7, 2023, meeting report.

## 11. Review of Future Meeting Schedule.

- June 24 (4 to 7 p.m. Eastern time) and June 25 (8 a.m. to noon Eastern time; Indianapolis, Indiana.

*Committee Chair:* Mark Jackson, Villanova University.  
*Staff Liaisons:* Troy Arthur, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Jenn Samble, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Angela Tressel, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Jerry Vaughn, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee April 10, 2024, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Nicole Arrighi, Tennessee State University.	
Tim Coffey, Longwood University.	
Mark Jackson, Villanova University.	
Quinn Millerd, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Jennifer Strawley, Elon University.	
Josh Whitman, University of Illinois	
Kristin Williams, Mid-American Conference.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Jason Cable, Alabama State University.	
Robin Harris, The Ivy League.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Dr. Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
Erik Price, Pac-12 Conference.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Troy Arthur, Jenn Samble, Angela Tressel, and Jerry Vaughn.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Geoff Bentzel, Amanda Conklin, Mike Massa, Michele Forte-Osborne, Amy Wilson.	