



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
MARCH 15, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

**a. Athletics Personnel – Noncoaching Staff Members with Sport-Specific Responsibilities – Limited On-Court or On-Field Activities – Women's Basketball.**

(1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council add women's basketball to the legislative proposal that would permit a noncoaching staff member with sport-specific responsibilities to participate in limited on-court or on-field activities (e.g., assist with drills, throw batting practice) during practice and competition involving student-athletes on a regular basis; further, to specify that a noncoaching staff member with sport-specific responsibilities is prohibited from signaling plays during practice and competition.

(2) Effective date. Immediate (for the request to add women's basketball to the legislative proposal).

(3) Rationale. The NCAA Division I Transformation Committee charged the NCAA Division I Modernization of the Rules Subcommittee with effectuating transformational change in modernizing the division's rules. This proposal allows institutions the necessary flexibility to support student-athletes during practice and competition with the number of staff members the institution deems most appropriate and codifies the application of a blanket waiver that recently expired, which was in effect for the previous three academic years (2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23). The proposal neither alters the definition of a countable coach nor increases the number of countable coaches an institution may employ but instead eliminates national regulation on an unnecessary limitation on the duties of noncoaching staff members with sport-specific responsibilities.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Conduct and Employment of Athletics Personnel – Definitions and Applications – Student Manager.**

(1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council introduce into the 2023-24 legislative cycle a concept that allows a student manager to also serve as a practice player.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. In all sports, the current legislation does not permit student managers to serve as practice players. A blanket waiver was in place for three years (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 seasons) that allowed student managers to be practice players, which allowed teams to maintain a bubble around their teams during the COVID-19 pandemic with essential personnel. Teams have found that having student managers as practice players has created a pool of which teams may draw from, which may include former high school girls' basketball players who are interested in staying connected to the game and becoming future coaches. In addition, student managers are convenient options to pull from when other practice players are not readily available. A survey conducted by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association indicated that more than 93% of Division I head coaches supported this legislation and more than 97% responded they would continue to include women as student managers. This request originated and is supported by the WBCA.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

## 2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

#### 1. Legislative actions.

##### a. **Recruiting – Off-Campus, In-Person Contact – Two-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes – Women's Basketball.**

(1) Proposed Legislative Change. The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee introduced into the June 2024 legislative cycle a concept to permit an institutional coaching staff member to have off-campus, in-person recruiting contact with a two-year college prospective student-athlete during the permissible recruiting periods.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. The WBCA proposed an updated women's basketball recruiting model which was adopted August 1, 2022. The new calendar does not permit off-campus contact with two-year or four-year prospective student-athletes. September and March contact periods are limited to contact with high school or prep school senior prospective student-athletes. The rationale for the women's basketball recruiting model specifically references the increase in numbers of student-athletes entering the transfer portal and the importance of coaches

developing strong relationships with their current student-athletes by ensuring they remain on campus. During a recent review of the recruiting calendar, the recruiting limitations related to two-year college prospective student-athletes was noted and perhaps was an unintended consequence of the new recruiting calendar. In addition, legislative research indicates that off-campus recruiting contacts with two-year college prospective student-athletes was not discussed for the focus was on high school prospective student-athletes. Permitting off-campus recruiting contact with two-year college prospective student-athletes will allow for more informed decision-making by both parties and will assist with an academic assessment that may need to be made (e.g., transcript evaluation). This proposal is supported by the WBCA.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary by institution.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Will allow two-year college prospective student-athletes to collect more information to help inform their college decision.

**b. Recruiting – Official Visits – Number of Official Visits – Institutional Limit – Women's Basketball.**

- (1) Proposed Legislative Change. The Women's Basketball Oversight Committee introduced into the June 2024 legislative cycle a concept to specify that an institution may provide 35 official visits in a rolling two-year average (up to 41 for national service academies) in women's basketball. Further, to specify that a national service academy shall not exceed 35 official visits prior to the initial National Letter of Intent signing date of the first year in each rolling two-year period.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, in women's basketball, the maximum number of permissible official visits an institution is permitted to provide is 24 over a rolling two-year period from August 1 through July 31. A blanket waiver was in effect to provide 30 official visits for women's basketball over the period of August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2023, to address the changes in NCAA legislation (e.g., one-time transfer exception, NCAA Transfer Portal). This blanket waiver has now expired and institutions have reverted back to the legislation of 24-visit maximum over the rolling two-year period. Recent legislative changes to the one-time transfer exception and notification of transfer windows require an increase in the annual number of official visits an institution may provide. The WBCA supports the legislation to be amended to provide for a maximum of 35 official visits in a rolling 24-month period. The

rationale for this number is linked to the maximum number of permissible scholarships in women's basketball (15) and the need for visits to offset the high rate of use of the transfer portal for women's basketball student-athletes in order to maintain rosters of a suitable size.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Costs associated with an increased number of official visits.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Time demands associated with student host duties for additional visits.

**c. Playing and Practice Seasons – Foreign Tours and Competition – Opponents – Division I Opponents – Women's Basketball.**

- (1) Proposed Legislative Change. The Women's Basketball Oversight Committee introduced into the June 2024 legislative cycle a concept to permit an institution to compete in one contest against a Division I institution during an institutional foreign tour.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. The College Basketball Summer Initiative Working Group was formed to develop recommendations designed to increase the exposure of women's basketball during the summertime period. The foreign tour legislation was identified as one area to consider expanding to allow increased exposure and to enhance the student-athlete experience. The working group supported allowing a Division I institution to play one contest against another Division I opponent during a foreign tour. Current NCAA foreign-tour legislation prohibits NCAA teams from competing against other American team as part of a foreign tour. In addition, a team is limited to 10 games during a foreign tour. Allowing one contest against a Division I team will assist with growing the game of women's basketball on the international front and to cultivate a new fan base for women's basketball. In addition, many foreign teams are loosely put together and at the last minute. Allowing one contests against a Division I team will provide at least one opportunity for a structured contest. Lastly, this proposal is supported by the WBCA.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Personnel - Designation of Coaches and Off-Campus Recruiting – Women's Basketball**

(1) Proposed Legislative Change. The Women's Basketball Oversight Committee introduced into the June 2024 legislative cycle a concept to permit six institutional coaching staff members to recruit off-campus at any time, subject to recruiting calendar restrictions.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Currently, the legislation limits the number of coaches who may recruit off campus to four of the six coaches. Allowing all six coaches to recruit off-campus will allow aspiring coaches to gain experience and to develop the pipeline for future coaches, especially for women and minorities. In addition, this legislative change would provide a larger pool for recruiters to help support work-life balance. All coaches will be required to received recruiting education and guardrails are in place with a limit on the number of recruiting person days. Lastly, this proposal is supported by the WBCA.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary by institution.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**e. Playing and Practice Seasons – Basketball – Qualifying Regular-Season Multiple-Team Event – Conference Limitation – No Conference Opponents**

(1) Proposed Legislative Change. The Women's Basketball Oversight Committee introduced into the June 2024 legislative cycle a concept to permit more than one institution from the same conference to participate in an event, provided the institutions from the same conference do not compete against each other during the event.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. The current legislation for qualifying regular season multiple team events limits participation to one team per conference in that same event during a four-year period. Participation in multiple-team events provides a once-in-a-lifetime athletic and educational experience and opportunity for participating student-athletes. However, the limitation on conference participation, in addition to, the recent increase in the size of conferences present challenges for teams to participate in. In 2023-24, 68 teams participated in 9 MTEs. This proposal would provide flexibility in the current legislation to stimulate the growth of additional MTEs, which in turn will increase the number of teams participating in MTEs. This will also assist schools with providing equitable opportunities for women's basketball student-athletes.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary by institution.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Would allow more student-athletes to engage in these types of impactful events.

2. **Blanket waiver request to exempt attendance at elite level events and national team activities during June, July, and August.** The Women's Basketball Oversight Committee directed the NCAA staff to issue a blanket waiver that would allow an institutional coaching staff member's attendance during June, July and August, at elite and junior level events (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.7.15) and national team activities [Bylaw 13.1.7.6.8-(a)] to be exempt from the 10 recruiting days for the summer of 2024 only. At the request of the WBCA, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Legislation Subcommittee reviewed and supported a blanket waiver for summer 2024, to allow permissible off-campus recruiters to attend Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games or World University Championships competition or the junior level equivalent competition in accordance with Bylaw 13.1.7.15 and national team activities per Bylaw 13.1.7.6.8-(a) during June, July and August, without using any of the 10 international recruiting days. Currently, permissible international evaluations that occur in June, July, and August, are capped at 10 recruiting days of which up to two institutional coaches may attend international scholastic and nonscholastic events during any contact or evaluation period and other permissible events which includes elite level events. In its support of a blanket waiver instead of permanent legislation, it was noted that due to the current Olympic year, many elite level events will be taking place in the next few months and there is a plan to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the women's basketball recruiting calendar. As a part of this review, the Legislation Subcommittee will review any permanent changes to the current legislation related to international recruiting.
3. **Feedback request on a proposal to move recruiting calendars to policy that will be maintained by the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee.** The Administrative Committee received an overview of a concept that would move recruiting calendars out of the legislation and be overseen by the appropriate NCAA Division I Council standing committees as opposed to being adopted through a formal legislative process. Overall, the Administrative Committee was generally supportive for it would allow for more nimble changes but discussed the need for an additional layer of ratification in order to eliminate any undue pressure on the Women's Basketball Oversight Committee members to bring about changes desired by various interest groups.
4. **Update and Request on Transfer Concepts.** The Administrative Committee received an update and provided feedback on the proposed concepts based on the work of the NCAA Division I Council Transfer Advisory Panel specific to the four-year undergraduate transfer review surrounding satisfactory academic progress, notification to transfer windows, and post-graduate transfer participation. In addition, the Administrative Committee received an update to potential changes to the notification to transfer portal. The Women's Basketball Oversight committee members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the final concepts within the next few weeks.

5. **Review of preseason exhibition contests and informal practice scrimmages legislation.** At the request of the WBCA, the Administrative Subcommittee was informed that the Legislative Subcommittee had discussed possible amendments to the current legislation that would increase the number preseason exhibition games and informal practice scrimmages and to allow the preseason exhibition games to occur against a Division I opponent. This topic is also coupled with the Women's Basketball Oversight Committee's discussion on waivers to allow for preseason exhibition contests against Division I opponents to raise funds for catastrophic events and social justice initiatives. An amendment to the preseason exhibition legislation would no longer necessitate the need for a waiver that was necessary to conduct exhibition contests against a Division I institution to raise funds for a catastrophic event or social justice initiative. No recommendations were made at this time to allow for more in-depth discussion at the WBCA Convention.

6. **Future meeting dates.**

- TBD.

*Committee Chair: Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara*

*Committee Vice Chair: Terry Gawlik, University of Idaho*

*Staff Liaisons: Meredith Cleaver, Championships and Alliances*

*Lynn Holzman, Championships and Alliances*

*Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs*

NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Administrative Committee Videoconference March 15, 2024
<b>Attendees:</b>
Ketra Armstrong, University of Michigan (nonvoting member).
Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Terry Gawlik, University of Idaho.
Julie Roe Lach, Horizon League.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Jackie Blackett, Columbia University-Barnard College
Olivia Summiel, Virginia Polytechnic State University.
<b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Binh Nguyen.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Khadian Kelly, Kelsi Mahoney, Courtney Moore, Amy Reis, Jared Tidemann and Meghan Wright.