



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 4, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Revised regional alignment for the 2021 Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a blended regional alignment for the 2021 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships, as follows:

Region	Composition
Atlantic	Mountain East Conference/Great Midwest Athletic Conference and members of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference still competing.
Central	Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association/Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
East	East Coast Conference/Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and members of the Northeast-10 Conference still competing.
Midwest	Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference/Great Lakes Valley Conference.
South	Gulf South Conference/Peach Belt Conference and members of the Sunshine State Conference still competing.
Southeast	South Atlantic Conference/Conference Carolinas and members of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference still competing.
South Central	Lone Star Conference/Great American Conference.
West	Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference/Pacific West Conference and members of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference still competing.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate, and only for the 2021 championships.
- (3) Rationale. While the current participation numbers in men's and women's basketball are relatively strong, the pandemic has affected sponsorship and participation frequency in every region. The proposed blended alignment provides as equitable an approach as possible for teams to advance to their respective championship. The

following charts illustrate how inequitable the regions would be within their traditional alignment compared with the proposed blended alignment.

Traditional Regional Alignment							Total
Atlantic	MEC	12	CIAA	0	PSAC	3	15
Central	MIAA	14	NSIC	16	GAC	12	42
East	ECC	6	CACC	7	NE-10	1	14
Midwest	GLIAC	12	GLVC	15	GMAC	12	39
South	GSC	13	SIAC	9	SSC	3	25
South Central	RMAC	14	LSC	16			30
Southeast	SAC	13	CC	11	PBC	12	36
West	PWC	11	GNAC	2	CCAA	0	13

Blended Regional Alignment									Total
Atlantic	MEC	12	GMAC	12	PSAC	3	CIAA	0	27
Central	MIAA	14	NSIC	16					30
East	ECC	6	CACC	7	NE-10	1			14
Midwest	GLIAC	12	GLVC	15					27
South	GSC	13	PBC	12	SSC	3			28
South Central	LSC	16	GAC	12					28
Southeast	SAC	13	CC	11	SIAC	9			33
West	RMAC	14	PWC	11	GNAC	2	CCAA	0	27

- (4) Estimated budget impact. May vary depending on teams selected.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation levels the playing field in each region and makes advancement opportunities more equitable under the circumstances this year due to COVID-19. Also, while some student-athletes will face different regional opponents under this alignment, the change may in fact offer a refreshing change of pace from a competitive perspective.

b. Minimum contest requirements for men's and women's indoor track and field.

- (1) Recommendation. To eliminate the minimum number of contests required for championship selection purposes in indoor track and field and require only one qualifying mark for the 2021 championships.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, and only for the 2021 championships.
- (3) Rationale. Normally, the minimum number of contests for selections is three with 10 participants. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, access to indoor tracks has

been limited. The committee believes eliminating the minimum contest requirement will provide sponsoring Division II institutions more flexibility and offer student-athletes the opportunity to more easily meet the selection standard. The committee also notes the same action was taken recently for Division I indoor track and field.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation may increase participation by sponsoring Division II institutions that may have been concerned about meeting the previous standard.

c. Uninvited relay alternates in men's and women's indoor track and field.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve reducing the number of uninvited relay alternates allowed to participate in the 2021 Division II Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships to one per relay, with expenses continuing to be paid by the institution.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, and only for the 2021 championships.
- (3) Rationale. Division II track and field normally allows institutions with selected relays to bring up to four uninvited relay alternates to compete in qualified relays., Given the already reduced field size for the 2021 indoor championships, the Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee recommended reducing the number of alternates per relay to one. The Championships Committee supports the recommendation with the understanding that while it would increase the number of participants at the championships (at most by 20 to 24 per gender), the facility hosting this year's championships is large enough to safely accommodate the additional participants.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None to the NCAA, as expenses for uninvited relay alternates are covered by the institution.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides more student-athlete opportunity and adds flexibility for managing relay event participants.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Steve Card welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its January 21 videoconference as presented.

- 3. COVID-19 testing update.** Staff noted that Diamond Health, which has been selected as the testing provider responsible for implementing a comprehensive COVID-19 testing process at Division II championships, is asking institutions to provide information about potential event participants in advance in order to effectively manage the process. All member schools that plan to have teams/individuals participate in any round of NCAA championships must provide information as specified for all sports by February 12. In addition, each team is required to designate an individual as the “team health officer,” who will be responsible for ensuring that student-athletes and travel party members adhere to all testing and safety protocols.

The committee also reviewed the testing protocols that will be in place prior to and during NCAA championships this academic year (see the chart below). The categorization of sport by transmission risk is based on consensus from the NCAA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group, the AMSSM COVID-19 Working Group, and the Autonomy 5 Medical Advisory Group.

Sport Transmission Risk Level	Testing Before Arrival (Institutions Responsible)	Testing Upon Arrival (NCAA Responsible)
LOW – Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Outdoor Track & Field, Rifle, Rowing, Skiing, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Beach Volleyball	Negative antigen within one day of arrival, or negative PCR within two days of arrival.	Testing upon arrival and quarantine until confirmed negative, then every other day while on site.
INTERMEDIATE – Baseball, Fencing, Indoor Track & Field, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball	Negative antigen within one day of arrival, or negative PCR within two days of arrival.	Testing upon arrival and quarantine until confirmed negative, then every other day while on site.
HIGH – Basketball, Football, Ice Hockey, Volleyball, Water Polo, Wrestling	Continued cadence of testing three times weekly on non-consecutive days (antigen or PCR, confirmed negative), with a negative PCR within two days of arrival.	Testing upon arrival and quarantine until two consecutive tests are confirmed negative, then daily testing while on site. (Will require two days of testing before practice/competition.)

- 4. Winter sports sponsorship update.** The committee continued reviewing the most recent sponsorship numbers obtained with the help of a Division II Conference Commissioners Association survey and participation data from the NCAA statistics staff, coaches associations and sport-specific NGBs and agreed to continue conducting winter sport championships as planned with the reduced brackets/field sizes previously approved. (See Attachment A for a detailed description of the data for all winter sports.)

5. Sport committee reports.

- a. Men's and women's basketball.** Championships Committee members reviewed and supported the men's and women's basketball committees' recommendation to use a blended regional alignment for the 2021 championships in order to redistribute region members more equitably in light of sponsorship and participation attrition due to COVID-19 (see Action Item 2-a).

The Championships Committee also approved the following recommendations from the basketball committees:

- Adjusted the Regional Advisory Committee assignments for 2021 to reflect the blended regional alignment noted in Action Item 2-1. With this change, RAC members would be responsible for evaluating teams competing during the regular season in the blended regional alignment;
 - For championships selection purposes in 2021, schools "under consideration" will be listed in alphabetical order for the first two scheduled ranking calls rather than in rank order due to the limited data available (the listing would return to rank order on the third ranking call leading into selections as more games are played); and
 - Authorized staff to grant waivers according to the criteria outlined for institutions not meeting the minimum number of contests for selections rather than processing them through the Championships Committee, since waiver requests are anticipated (the waiver form is provided as Attachment B).
- b. Women's basketball.** The Championships Committee approved waiving the following requirements for officials and evaluators due to COVID-19 and the limited number of available games for officiating and travel concerns for evaluators:
- Officials must officiate a minimum of five women's games within their conference (two of which must be between conference opponents) or eight Division II women's games to be eligible for the work the postseason.
 - Evaluators will travel to an adjacent region to serve as the official's evaluator.
- c. Men's and women's track and field.** The Championships Committee supported the sport committee's recommendations to reduce the minimum number of contests for championship selections in 2021 to one qualifying mark, and to reduce the number of uninvited relay alternates allowed to participate in this year's championships to one per relay (see Action Items 2-b and 2-c above).

6. Future meetings/videoconferences.

- February 25-26 (quarterly meeting via videoconference).

- June 10-11, 2021 (quarterly meeting via videoconference).
- September 13-14, 2021 (quarterly meeting potentially in person; Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Steve Card, Western Washington University; Great Northwest Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances
Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division II Championships Committee February 4, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Reid Amos, Mountain East Conference.	
Kristy Bayer, Emporia State University.	
Steve Card, Western Washington University.	
Dick Christy, University of North Carolina at Pembroke.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Terri Holmes, Northern State University.	
Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State University (Management Council chair).	
Grace Martin, West Virginia State University (Division II SAAC representative).	
Matt Kilcullen, Mercy College.	
Courtney Lovely Evans, Palm Beach Atlantic University (Management Council vice chair).	
Carrie Michaels, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.	
Carol Rivera, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances.	
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.	
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	

John Baldwin, Donisha Carter, Liza Erwin, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Gronau, Leslie Havens, Anthony Holman, Ryan Jones, John Kuzio, Corbin McGuire, Jennifer Rodgers, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red and Ryan Tressel.

**Division II Winter Championship Sponsorship/Participation Information****Men's Basketball**

Conferences Participating	Total Institutions Participating	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
16	214	303	70.6%

*Data provided by the CCA.

Games played through Feb. 2, 2021: **956**

Games played through Feb. 2, 2020: **3,459**

- Number of contests completed per institution:
 - 11+ games – 59 institutions
 - 7-10 games – 85 institutions
 - 4-6 games – 40 institutions
 - 1-3 games – 20 institutions
- 204 teams have competed in at least one game and institutions must have at least 11 games to be eligible for selections.

Women's Basketball

Conferences Participating	Total Institutions Participating	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
16	214	304	70.4%

*Data provided by the CCA.

Games played through Feb. 2, 2021: **967**

Games played through Feb. 2, 2020: **3,353**

- Number of contests completed per institution:
 - 11+ games – 69 institutions
 - 7-10 games – 85 institutions
 - 4-6 games – 33 institutions
 - 1-3 games – 18 institutions
- 205 teams have competed in at least one game and institutions must have at least 11 games to be eligible for selections.

Men's Indoor Track and Field *(As of Jan. 25)*

Average number of meets competed per institution	Number of institutions competing in at least one meet	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
1.8	75	176	42.6%

*Data provided by TFFRS.

- Currently, three institutions have hit the selections requirement of three meets with 10 participants and 36 institutions have competed in two meets with 10 participants.
- To be eligible for selections, a student-athlete or relay team must meet a performance standard. Currently, there are six of 17 events that would not meet the desired minimum event size of 10 student-athletes or teams due to the performance standards not being met. Of those six events, the following is a breakdown of student-athletes/teams that have hit the performance standard to be eligible for selections:
 - four have nine student-athletes;
 - one relay has six teams; and
 - one relay has three teams.

Women's Indoor Track and Field *(As of Jan. 25, 2021)*

Average number of meets competed per institution	Number of institutions competing in at least one meet	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
1.78	78	201	38.8%

*Data provided by TFFRS.

- Currently, four institutions have hit the selections requirements of three meets with 10 participants and 33 institutions have competed in two meets with 10 participants.
- To be eligible for selections, a student-athlete or relay team must meet a performance standard. Currently, there are seven of 17 events that would not meet the desired minimum event size of 10 student-athletes or teams due to the performance standards not being met. Of those seven events, the following is a breakdown of student-athletes/teams that have hit the performance standard to be eligible for selections:
 - one has eight student-athletes;
 - two have seven student-athletes;
 - one has six student-athletes; and
 - one relay has three teams and two (one event and one relay) have two student-athletes/teams.

Men's Swimming and Diving (*As of Jan. 27, 2021*)

Total Meets this season	Average number of meets competed per institution	Number of institutions competing in at least one meet	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
139	3.6	39	76	51.3%

*Data provided by USA Swimming.

- The number of meets includes virtual and other non-bona fide competitions that would **NOT** be eligible for selections, as there is not a way to separate out those meets at this time.
- Not all meets listed met the selections requirement of 11 participants.

Women's Swimming and Diving (*As of Jan. 27, 2021*)

Total Meets this season	Average number of meets competed per institution	Number of institutions competing in at least one meet	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
164	3.2	51	102	50%

*Data provided by USA Swimming.

- The number of meets includes virtual and other non-bona fide competitions that would **NOT** be eligible for selections, as there is not a way to separate out those meets at this time.
- Not all meets listed met the selections requirement of 11 participants.

Wrestling (*As of Feb. 3, 2021*)

Total Meets this season	Average number of meets competed per institution	Number of institutions competing in at least one meet	Sports Sponsorship	Participation Percentage
138	3.2	42	63	66.7%

*Data provided by the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

- 14 institutions have not competed as this time but still plan to compete during regular season.
- Institutions do not have to compete during the regular season to be eligible for post season.
- Over a third less meets scheduled for 2021 season up to this point, compared to 2020 season.

2021 Division II Basketball Minimum Contest Requirement Waiver Request

Institution: _____

Conference: _____

Gender (M or W): _____

Contests completed: _____

Please complete the following grid with your team's original schedule and outcome.

Contest	Date	Opponent	Was contest completed, cancelled or postponed? If cancelled or postponed, what was the reason for the cancellation/postponement?)
<i>Example</i>	<i>12/2/20</i>	<i>Division II University</i>	<i>Cancelled. Our institution was in COVID-19 protocol.</i>
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Other pertinent information regarding your waiver request:

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Director of Athletics signature (required): _____ Date: _____

RETURN FORM BY 8 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME FEBRUARY 28

TO: Roberta Page, Director of Championships and Alliances

rpage@ncaa.org