



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 21, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Revised championship format for baseball.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the following changes in format and dates of selection and competition for the 2021 NCAA Division II Baseball Championship, creating one round of regional competition, with winners advancing to the finals site:

	Current	Proposed
Selections	May 16	May 23
Regionals	May 20-22	May 27-30
Super Regionals	May 28-29	N/A
Finals	June 5-12	June 5-12

- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2021 championship only.
- (3) Rationale. Changes to selections and championship dates became necessary to accommodate the reduced bracket for 2021 and the recommendation from the COVID-19 advisory panel to consolidate preliminary-round sites. Because regional bid allocations (based on access ratio) will be smaller in each region (between four and six teams), regional competition can be completed with single-weekend, double-elimination tournaments rather than be spread over two weekends (with both a regional and super-regional round) as with a full bracket. The recommendation essentially eliminates the super-regional round, moves selections back one week to provide institutions more regular-season scheduling opportunities, and keeps the finals dates the same.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The reduction in teams, and elimination of a weekend of preliminary-round competition, will decrease total expenses for the championship.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed changes will provide the best student-athlete experience possible under the circumstances.

b. Revised championship format for softball.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the following changes in format and dates of selection and competition for the 2021 NCAA Division II Softball Championship, creating one round of regional competition, with winners advancing to the finals site:

	Current	Proposed
Selections	May 9	May 16
Regionals	May 13-15	May 19-21
Super Regionals	May 20-21	N/A
Finals	May 27-31	May 27-31

- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2021 championship only.
- (3) Rationale. Similar to the baseball recommendation above, changes to selections and championship dates became necessary to accommodate the reduced bracket for 2021 and the recommendation from the COVID-19 advisory panel to consolidate preliminary-round sites. Because regional bid allocations will be smaller in each region (from eight to six teams per region), regional competition can be completed with single-weekend, double-elimination tournaments rather than be spread over two weekends (with both a regional and super-regional round) as with a full bracket. The recommendation essentially eliminates the super-regional round, moves selections back one week to provide institutions more regular-season scheduling opportunities, and keeps the finals dates the same.

The recommendation is slightly different from the baseball proposal in that the softball proposal seeks to conduct the regionals Wednesday through Friday, May 19-21 (with Saturday, May 22 being the “if necessary” day) instead of the typical Thursday through Saturday, May 20-22 (with Sunday, May 21 being the “if necessary” day). With teams arriving at the finals site on Tuesday, May 25, it is necessary to move the regional competition back a day to provide more rest for advancing teams and accommodate for any weather issues that might occur during the regional round. Adjusting to finish on Friday, May 21 would mirror the finish date of the current super-regional finish date and would be no change to turnaround time for traveling to the finals site.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The reduction in teams, and elimination of a weekend of preliminary-round competition, will decrease total expenses for the championship.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed changes will provide the best student-athlete experience possible under the circumstances.

c. Super-region contingency plan for wrestling.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a contingency plan in the event a super region site cannot host due to COVID-19 issues (e.g., local health officials not allowing the event to occur) that would use the pre-seeding typically done for super regions site to determine wrestlers advancing to the finals site.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2021 championship only.
- (3) Rationale. The contingency process would be used only if an entire super region is not able to compete due to any type of event restrictions. The plan would in essence be a selection of that specific super region going to the finals site. With so many unknowns remaining with the pandemic, it is prudent to have a contingency plan in place.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation is merely a backup plan in case a super region is not able to compete. Under such circumstances, the contingency selection process presents the best option for the student-athletes.

d. Contingency plan for qualifier adjustments in wrestling.

- (1) Recommendation. Allow the Division II Wrestling Committee to adjust the qualifier allocations within each super region while still complying with the recently reduced maximum number of qualifiers (132).
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2021 championship only.
- (3) Rationale. With at least two super regions already having fewer teams competing than usual, and the potential of positive tests and contact tracing causing additional teams to opt out before the championships, it may become necessary to adjust the qualifier allocation. The process would deploy a formula based on the percentage of teams in each super region. While the resulting number of qualifiers for each super region may not be “clean” (e.g., taking the top one, two or three qualifiers from each weight class), the contingency plan will feature at-large spots that would be determined by the coaches (much like the seeding meetings) within each super region. This is not a national at-large selection, but a super region at-large selection, which while potentially challenging should be more manageable.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The contingency recommendation helps ensure a consistent advancement opportunity across all super regions if necessary.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Steve Card welcomed the group and introduced new members Grace Martin, Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative and volleyball student-athlete at West Virginia State University, and Marcus Clarke, Division II Management Council representative and senior associate commissioner at the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its January 7 videoconference as presented.
3. **COVID testing update.** NCAA Championships and Alliances Managing Director Anthony Holman updated the committee on the partnership with Diamond Health/Vivature, Inc. to administer testing at championship events, particularly the various testing protocols that will apply to travel parties when they arrive at the championship site and throughout their participation in the event.
4. **Championships bid portal.** Staff updated the committee on the bid process for predetermined preliminary-round sites in men's and women's basketball. The bid portal will close January 25, with site announcements expected the week of February 8.
5. **Winter sports sponsorship update.** The committee continued reviewing the most recent conference sponsorship data obtained through the NCAA statistics staff and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association, noting that the committee must be in a position to make recommendations regarding the conduct of winter sports championships by its February 4 meeting.
6. **Sport committee reports.**
 - a. **Baseball.** Championships Committee members reviewed the baseball committee's January 7 report and supported the change in format and dates of selection and competition for the 2021 Division II Baseball Championship as noted in Nonlegislative action Item No. 2-a.
 - b. **Softball.** The committee reviewed the softball committee's January 13 report and supported the change in format and dates of selection and competition for the 2021 Division II Softball Championship as noted in Nonlegislative action Item No. 2-b.
 - c. **Men's and women's track and field.**

- **Championship format.** The committee supported the Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee's preference for maintaining a three-day schedule for the 2021 Division II Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships. The 2021 championships were set to be part of the Division II National Championships Festival. During a festival year the indoor championship operates on a three-day schedule, but due to COVID-19 the festival was canceled. The track and field committee still feels it is necessary to keep the three-day structure to comply with testing, venue capacity and social distancing measures outlined in the Return to Championships Guidelines.
- **Uninvited relay-only competitors.** Because the Championships Committee during its January 7 meeting decided not to support a request to allow uninvited relay-only competitors to participate in the 2021 Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships at the institution's expense, the committee agreed to ask the track and field committee to comment on taking the same action for the 2021 Division II Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships.

d. Wrestling.

- **Report recommendations.** The committee reviewed the wrestling committee's January 15 report and supported the recommendations noted in Nonlegislative action Item Nos. 2-c and 2-d.
- **2021 final site.** The Americas Center St. Louis has been selected to host the 2021 Division II Wrestling Championships.
- **Pre-approval of super regional sites.** Approve the Division II Wrestling Committee securing at least two new super regional hosts, as hosts for Super Regions 1 and 6 have both confirmed they are unable to host due to the pandemic, and authorize the committee to select additional replacement sites as necessary.

7. Future meetings/videoconferences.

- February 4, 2-3:30 Eastern (via videoconference).
- 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 January 21, 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 (Management Council representative).	
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, Eric Breece, Donisha Carter, Liza Erwin, Terri Gronau, Leslie Havens, Anthony Holman, Ryan Jones, Corbin McGuire, Jennifer Rodgers, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red and Ryan Tressel.	