



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 3, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.

- NONE.

2. NONLEGISLATIVE ITEMS.

a. **NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships – schedule adjustment.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adjust the start of swimming competition at the NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships from Wednesday to Tuesday evening to conduct the men’s and women’s 800-yard freestyle relays.
- (2) Effective date. 2023 NCAA Division II Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships.
- (3) Rationale. The change is desired due to the removal of the student-athlete banquet, which typically took place on Tuesday evening and now presents the opportunity to balance the competition schedule throughout championship week. The 800 free relays have traditionally been conducted on Friday evening, which has been the longest day of championship competition. Beginning competition on Tuesday evening will not create any logistical challenges for student-athletes and coaches as teams are arriving on site for practice on Sunday or Monday. Overall, this adjustment will provide additional recovery opportunities for student-athletes racing in multiple events.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. There also is no estimated budget impact for this adjustment. Although competition will begin one day earlier, individual sports do not cover per diem for the full duration of championship competition because each student-athlete does not compete each day. Likewise, officials are paid a flat rate for the championship week and would not receive additional funds.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Competitors in the 800 free relays will benefit from additional rest and recovery time by having those races conducted on Tuesday instead of during an already crowded Friday schedule.

b. **Championships team replacement policy – seeding of replacement team.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt the revised team sport replacement policy for teams not able to compete after selections [Attachment].
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for championships beginning in fall 2022.
- (3) Rationale. The change amends where a replacement team is placed in the bracket so that rather than just take the seed line of the team being replaced, the replacement team would be placed in the bracket at the sport committee's discretion (i.e., to align with rankings) so as not to disadvantage higher-seeded teams that have earned that status.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The policies help manage and maintain the integrity of the bracket and the student-athlete championship experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Reid Amos welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved reports from its October 6 videoconference and October 14 electronic vote as presented.
3. **Triennial budget update.** The committee received an update on discussions during the recent Division II Presidents Council meeting in preparation for the 2023-26 triennial budget cycle, which included the Council's approval of a concept the NCAA Division II Planning and Finance Committee proposed regarding future allocations. These include a 5% annual increase in the travel budget, as well as the following increases into the triennial budget over the remainder of the media rights agreement period (fiscal years 2025, 2028 and 2031):
 - \$10 increase in per diem.
 - 1% increase for committee expenses.
 - 3% increase for game operations.
 - \$1,050,000 increase for championships enhancements.
4. **Swimming and diving report.** The Championships Committee approved a recommendation from the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee to adjust the start of swimming competition at the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships from Wednesday to Tuesday evening to conduct the men's and women's 800-yard freestyle relays, effective with the 2023 championships. (See Action Item No. 2a)

5. **Team replacement policy.** The committee reviewed and approved editorial changes to the team replacement policy that have been made to align with how Division II used this policy during the years impacted by the pandemic. The committee also adjusted one of the components of the policy regarding the seeding of replacement teams. (See Action Item No. 2b)
6. **Elite 90 presentation at joint championships.** The committee reviewed the issue of when the Elite 90 should be awarded at joint championships. In 2016 during the joint women's basketball championships with Divisions I and III, the Divisions II and III Elite 90 awards were based on the two teams participating in the championship game in Indianapolis. The committee discussed whether that should continue but ultimately agreed that the Elite 90 recipient should be honored at the Elite Eight site as in "normal" years. If the recipient is a member of one of the teams that advance to the championship game in joint championship years, that individual would be recognized in additional ways (e.g., videoboard recognition) at the final site.
7. **Joint lacrosse championships update.** The Championships Committee during its September meeting had asked the Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee's to provide a status update regarding concerns about conducting the Divisions II and III women's championship games at venues other than Gillette Stadium for the men's and women's lacrosse joint championships in 2025 and 2026. The Divisions II and III Women's Lacrosse Committees believe that including four of the six championships at one site (all three divisions' men's finals and the Division I women's finals) and conducting two of the championships at nearby campus sites (the Divisions II and III women's championship games) will provide a much different experience for those student-athletes. Staff noted that the six committee chairs convened via videoconference on November 1, and while the group did not reach a consensus one way or another, it did agree to continue collaborating on the best way to provide the best student-athlete experiences in future years, whether it be via a joint championship for both genders or not.
8. **Implementation Committee referrals.**
 - a. **Review of legislation versus policy.** The committee reviewed an updated draft of a document that combines Bylaws 18 and 31 to create a significantly revised overarching championships bylaw that moves several existing bylaws to policy. The committee intends to finalize its review by February 2023 to allow for an August 1, 2023, effective date (i.e., for the 2023-24 NCAA Division II Manual).
 - b. **Football earned access history.** Among concepts the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee referred to the Championships Committee is to develop a championships structure that among other things focuses on access ratio and automatic qualification (AQ) privileges (in addition to the appropriate number of sponsoring institutions to create and maintain a championship). The Championships Committee reviewed the recommendation at its September meeting and requested a legislative history as to why football awards

earned access for championships participation instead of automatic qualification to help inform its review.

The intent of the original earned access proposal that became effective in 2004 (the year in which the championship bracket expanded to 24 teams) was to allow the NCAA Division II Football Committee to award earned access to the championship to Division II football-playing conferences with at least six members from which at least one member finishes in the top 10 of the final regional rankings. The rationale stated that although access must be earned annually, conference champions will usually secure access to the championship in most years. Also, given that at the time automatic qualification was reserved only in those sports that had a championship bracket of 48 or more teams, the football community considered earned access as a welcome alternative. The legislation underwent minor adjustments in 2009 (requiring the conference member to finish in the top eight rather than top 10 of the region), 2012 (only be made available to conference that had six active members but also offered a grace period for conferences with five) and 2013 (clarified conference requirements).

The committee noted that the Implementation Committee focused its discussion regarding automatic qualification on sports that don't have it at all and did not express particular concern with football's earned access model. Rather, the discussion within the Implementation Committee focused on the challenges presented when some sports have AQ and some don't, and that there is an expectation among many in athletics that winning your conference should be rewarded with a postseason experience. The Championships Committee acknowledged that, but agreed that an AQ model would not be in football's best interests. Members did note, however, that there may be an opportunity to adjust earned access to ensure inclusion of all conferences and that this discussion on the historical perspective was helpful as the committee continues to deliberate what the best championship model should be across sports in the future for Division II sports.

9. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- December 8, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- January 5, 2023, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- February 23-24, 2023 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- June 26-27, 2023 (meeting via videoconference).
- September 14-15, 2023 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Reid Amos, Mountain East Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances
Angela Red, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division II Championships Committee November 3, 2022, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Reid Amos, Mountain East Conference.	
Kristy Bayer, Rockhurst University.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Courtney Lovely Evans, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.	
Carol Rivera, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Cade Smith, University of Alabama at Huntsville.	
Jerry Wollmering, Truman State University (Management Council Vice Chair).	
Absentees:	
Matt Kilcullen, Mercy College.	
Thomas Webb Jr., Western New Mexico University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	
Angela Red, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Terri Gronau, Maritza Jones and Liv Sappington.	



**NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM
REPLACEMENT POLICY**
Updated November 4, 2022

The Division II Championships Committee approved the team replacement policy considering the possibility of unforeseen circumstances impacting championship fields. The policy will be implemented in accordance with the terms set forth below when, despite its best efforts, a team within the championship field is impeded or hindered from participating in the championship for reasons beyond its control.

The following tenets are fundamental to implementation of the Team Replacement Policy:

- Once the brackets are finalized and released, the championships will not be reseeded, nor will the brackets change.
- A reasonable effort will be made to ensure full fields are in place before the start of the championships. No replacement teams will be introduced after the championships begin.
- Every eligible automatic qualifying conference should have the opportunity for at least one team in the championship field.
- Beyond the goal of having at least one team from every conference, replacement teams must be among the best teams being considered for an at-large bid.

Due to the time needed to coordinate travel and other participation logistics, the following provisions constitute the team replacement policy:

1. Before to the announcement of the championship fields and brackets.

- a. Should an automatic qualifier, as determined by each conference, be unable to participate in its first game of the championship, the conference may designate a replacement team, as determined by its declared AQ policy submitted prior to the start of its conference tournament or final weekend to designate its AQ.
- b. The replacement AQ team shall be appropriately seeded and placed into the bracket prior to announcement of the championship fields and brackets.
- c. Any potential at-large team that is determined by the institution to be unable to participate in its first game of the championship must notify the respective sport committee prior to announcement of the bracket.

2. After the announcement of the championship fields and brackets.

- a. Conferences may replace its AQ, if it is unable to participate, with the conference's preapproved contingency replacement team. The replacement team from the conference will take the place of its fellow conference member in the same place on the bracket.

- b. For any at-large team unable to participate, the policy for replacing that team is as follows:
 - (1) The top teams not selected as at-large teams for the original field shall be considered a potential replacement team.
 - (2) The replacement team will be placed in the bracket based on the final rankings compared to the teams in the field. For example, if the eight seed in the region was an automatic qualifier and the replacement team was ranked higher, the replacement team would be placed in the bracket as the seven seed.

The deadline for consideration of replacing a team unable to participate is within 24 hours after the selection announcement. No replacement teams will be introduced into the NCAA championship bracket after this deadline.

Once the tournament/championship has begun, no team will replace a team that can no longer participate in the championship. Its opponent would advance to the next round via the NCAA's no-contest rule.

If a team must withdraw once competition has begun, opponents would advance to the next round via the NCAA's no-contest rule.

In the event one or both teams do not have enough players to compete in the final of a championship, the following policy would take effect:

- If one team is unable to compete in the final, the sport committee will declare the competition as a no-contest and the available team will be the champion.
- If both teams are unable to compete in the final, the competition will be declared a no-contest and the two teams will be declared co-champions.