NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2024-50 --Playing and Practice Seasons -- Basketball -- First Contest Date and 22-Week Season

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NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2024-50 established a uniform start date for men's and women's basketball. An institution may begin playing in outside competitions starting the Monday of the 22nd week prior to the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championship game.

Question No. 1: What are the new first contest dates for men's basketball beginning with the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer:

	Current Start Date	New Start Date	Men's Final Four
2025-26	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Monday, November 3, 2025	April 4 & 6, 2026
2026-27	Tuesday, November 10, 2026	Monday, November 2, 2026	April 3 & 5, 2027
2027-28	Tuesday, November 9, 2027	Monday, November 1, 2027	April 1 & 3, 2028
2028-29	Monday, November 6, 2028	Monday, October 30, 2028	March 31 & April 2, 2029
2029-30	Monday, November 5, 2029	Monday, November 5, 2029	April 6 & 8, 2030
2030-31	Monday, November 4, 2030	Monday, November 4, 2030	April 5 & 7, 2031

Question No. 2: What are the new first contest dates for women's basketball beginning with the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer:	**Current Start Date**	**New Start Date**	**Women's Final Four**
2025-26	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Monday, November 3, 2025	April 3 & 5, 2026
2026-27	Monday, November 10, 2026	Monday, November 2, 2026	April 2 & 4, 2027
2027-28	Tuesday, November 9, 2027	Monday, November 1, 2027	March 31 & April 2, 2028
2028-29	Monday, November 6, 2028	Monday, October 30, 2028	March 30 & April 1, 2029
2029-30	Monday, November 5, 2029	Monday, November 5, 2029	April 5 & 7, 2030
2030-31	Monday, November 4, 2030	Monday, November 4, 2030	April 4 & 6, 2031

Question No. 3: What is the rationale for the change to the first contest date for men's and women's basketball?

Answer: Currently, the length of the basketball playing season fluctuates between 21 and 22 weeks based on the timing of the championship game. This legislation makes the playing season consistent at 22 weeks every year.

Question No. 4: Does this change to the first contest date in men's and women's basketball change the "Preseason Practice –- On Court Practice" legislation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: May a team use the exception to the required day off for civic engagement (see NCAA Bylaw 17.1.7.6.1 Exception – Championship Segment) to engage in countable athletically related activities on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (Election Day)?

Answer: Yes.