



2024 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide

(Last Updated: December 8, 2023)

Please note this is the final edition of the 2024 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide. A hard-copy version of the guide will not be distributed at the Convention in Pheonix, Arizona. The delegates should plan accordingly.

**DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
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NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-1 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Football -- Preseason Practice and First Contest -- First Permissible Contest

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation surrounding the first permissible contest date?

Answer: Currently, in the sport of football, an institution may participate in its first permissible contest with outside competition the Thursday preceding September 6.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation surrounding the first permissible contest date?

Answer: If adopted, in the sport of football, an institution would be able to participate in their first permissible contest with outside competition one week prior to the Thursday, preceding September 6. [See Question No. 3 below]

Question No. 3: If adopted, when will an institution be permitted to participate in their first permissible contest for the 2024 football season?

Answer: For the 2024 football season, the Thursday preceding September 6 is September 5, 2024. Therefore, if adopted, an institution would be able to participate in its first permissible contest on or after Thursday, August 29, 2024.

The chart below outlines the first permissible contest under current legislation and the first permissible contest in future years if the proposal is adopted.

Year	First Permissible Contest under Current Legislation	First Permissible Contest if Division II Proposal No. 2024-1 is Adopted
2025	September 4, 2025	August 28, 2025
2026	September 3, 2026	August 27, 2026
2027	September 2, 2027	August 26, 2027
2028	August 31, 2028	August 24, 2028
2029	August 30, 2029	August 23, 2029

Question No. 4: If adopted, how will this proposal amend the first permissible practice date?

Answer: Currently an institution may begin participating in preseason practice 24 days before the first permissible contest date or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

If adopted, an institution would utilize the **institution's first contest date**, as opposed to the first permissible contest date, to determine when the 24 days would begin. The legislation would still permit an institution to begin their preseason practice 10 days before the institution's first day of classes.

For example, for the 2024 football season, if an institution schedules its first contest on August 29, 2024, an institution would be permitted to begin its preseason practice period on August 5, 2024, or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

The chart below outlines when an institution may begin participating in preseason practice in future years if Division II proposal is adopted.

Year	Institution's First Contest Date	Start of Preseason Practice
2025	August 28, 2025	August 4, 2025 or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.
2026	August 27, 2026	August 3, 2026 or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.
2027	August 26, 2027	August 2, 2027 or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.
2028	August 24, 2028	July 31, 2028 or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

2029	August 23, 2029	July 30, 2029 or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.
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[Note: The chart above outlines the start of the preseason practice period based on an institution participating in its first contest one week prior to the Thursday, preceding September 6. The start of the preseason practice period may vary depending on when an institution schedules its first permissible contest].

Question No. 5: If adopted, is an institution required to participate in its first contest one week prior to the Thursday preceding September 6?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: If adopted, would this proposal change or eliminate the seven-day acclimatization period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: If adopted, would this proposal change activities that must occur after the seven-day acclimatization period [see NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.11.3.4 (preseason activities after acclimatization period)]?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: If adopted, will this proposal amend the maximum number of contests in the sport of football?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: If adopted, will the date of the Division II Football Championship change?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-2 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Softball -- Number of Contests -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional and Student-Athlete -- Championship and Nonchampionship Contests.

Question No. 1: Under current legislation, how many softball contests may an institution and student-athlete participate in during the playing season?

Answer: An institution and student-athlete may participate in a maximum of 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the nonchampionship segment and championship segment.

Question No. 2: If adopted, will this proposal amend the maximum number of contests in the sport of softball?

Answer: Yes. An institution and student-athlete may participate in eight contests (games and scrimmages) during the nonchampionship segment and 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the championship segment.

Question No. 3: If adopted, will an institution and student-athlete be required to participate in any contests during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: If an institution does not participate in all eight contests during the nonchampionship segment, may an institution participate in the remaining contests during the championship segment?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If adopted, will this change the number of discretionary exemptions an institution may exempt from their maximum number of contests?

Answer: No. An institution will still be permitted to exempt no more than three discretionary exemptions listed in NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.21.7.4 (discretionary exemptions).

Question No. 6: If adopted, will this proposal change when an institution may participate in a discretionary exemption?

Answer: No. See NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.21.3.2 (exceptions).

Question No. 7: If adopted, may softball student-athletes miss class to participate in competition during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No. However, NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.1.6.9.2.2 (exception -- nonchampionship segment travel to/from Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or Canada), permits student-athletes on a team sport to miss class time for

competition in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or Canada against an institution located in those areas, once every four years.

Question No. 8: If adopted, will this proposal amend NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.1.6.2 (daily and weekly hour limitations – nonchampionship segment)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: If adopted, will this proposal amend NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.1.6.6 (required days off -- nonchampionship segment)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 10: If adopted, will this proposal amend the 45-day window during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No. [See NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.21.8-(b) (nonchampionship segment activities)].

Question No. 11: If adopted, will the contests played during the nonchampionship segment count towards championships selection?

Answer: No.

Question No. 12: If adopted, will the contests played during the nonchampionship segment count towards an institution's and student-athlete's statistics for NCAA purposes?

Answer: No.

Question No. 13: If adopted, will an institution still be required to adhere to the playing rules while participating in its softball contests (e.g., seven innings) during the playing and practice season (eight contests during the nonchampionship segment and 56 contests during the championship segment)?

Answer: Yes; however, it is not mandatory for the playing rules to be used in scrimmages or other forms of practice with outside competition. [See NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.33 (playing rules)].

Question No. 14: If a student-athlete participates in contests during the nonchampionship segment, but does not participate in any contests during the championship segment, will the student-athlete use a season of competition?

Answer: No, provided the student-athlete was certified as eligible (e.g., amateurism, enrolled full-time) prior to participation during the nonchampionship segment.

Question No. 15: If adopted, will contests played during the nonchampionship segment be included in the medical hardship calculations (standard denominator and 30%)?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-3 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Minimum Sponsorship for Division II Championships -- Minimum Number of Sponsoring Institutions and Three-Year Grace Period

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, the minimum number of Division II institutions required to maintain and/or establish a Division II Championship is 40 in women's sports and 50 in men's sports. Further, if a sport falls below the minimum number of institutions required to maintain a Division II Championship, the championship is automatically discontinued.

However, a Division II Championship in any Olympic sport and a Division II Championship in the sports of men's and women's lacrosse are exempt from meeting the minimum number of institutions required to maintain a Division II Championship.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: The minimum number of Division II institutions required to maintain and/or establish a Division II Championship will be 35 for both men's and women's sports. Further, a three-year grace period will be established for a sport that falls below the 35-minimum threshold. Finally, the exceptions for men's and women's lacrosse and the Olympic sports will be eliminated.

Question No. 3: What are the current sponsorship numbers for Division II Championship sports?

Answer: The chart below outlines the sport sponsorship numbers for Division II Championship sports for the 2022-23 academic year.

Sport	Number of Active Division II Institutions Sponsoring
Men's Cross Country	262
Women's Cross Country	282
Women's Field Hockey	35
Football	161
Men's Soccer	198
Women's Soccer	250
Women's Volleyball	281
Men's Basketball	291
Women's Basketball	292
Men's Swimming and Diving	74
Women's Swimming and Diving	97
Men's Indoor Track and Field	180
Women's Indoor Track and Field	205
Men's Wrestling	64
Baseball	246
Men's Golf	203

Women's Golf	186
Men's Lacrosse	74
Women's Lacrosse	109
Women's Rowing	12
Softball	270
Men's Tennis	144
Women's Tennis	199
Men's Outdoor Track and Field	221
Women's Outdoor Track and Field	250

Question No. 4: Which Division II Championship sports, if any, do not have 35-sponsoring institutions?

Answer: Women's rowing.

Question No. 5: Will current Division II Championships that don't meet the 35-minimum threshold be grandfathered in?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: If adopted, may a Division II Championship be established in a sport that currently has a National Collegiate Championship if it meets the 35-minimum threshold?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 7: What are the current Division II sport sponsorship numbers for National Collegiate sports?

Answer: The chart below outlines the sport sponsorship numbers for National College Championship sports for the 2022-23 academic year.

Sport	Number of Active Division II Institutions Sponsoring
Women's Beach Volleyball	17
Women's Bowling*	36
Men's Fencing*	1
Women's Fencing*	1
Women's Gymnastics*	4
Men's Ice Hockey	6
Women's Ice Hockey	4
Men's Rifle*	2
Women's Rifle*	2
Men's Skiing*	6
Women's Skiing*	7
Men's Volleyball	28
Men's Water Polo	7
Women's Water Polo	10

* Individual team sports

Question No. 8: If adopted, will the minimum number of institutions required to establish and/or maintain a National Collegiate Championship change?

Answer: No. The minimum number of institutions required to establish a National Collegiate Championship will remain 50 in men's sports and 40 in women's sports across all three divisions.

Question No. 9: What is the process for a sport that participates in a National Collegiate Championship to establish a Division II Championship?

Answer: Once the Division II Championships Committee confirms a sport has met the 35-minimum threshold, a review process will begin to evaluate whether a Division II Championship should be established.

This review will include a budget analysis, Division II Legislation Committee feedback on any sport-specific legislation (e.g., playing and practice seasons, financial aid, etc.) that may need to be amended and membership feedback. Based on that review, the Championships Committee may recommend to the Division II Management Council and Division II Executive Board (effective February 1, 2024) to sponsor legislation to establish a Division II Championship.

Further, under NCAA Division II Bylaw 9.3.10.1 (division championship), a division championship may be established by a majority vote of all Division II members present and voting at the NCAA Convention.

Question No. 10: Once a Division II Championship is established for a sport, will the dollars used to fund the championship be pulled from the budget of current Division II Championships?

Answer: No. Funding for any new Division II Championship will be approved by the NCAA Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.

Question No. 11: If an emerging sport does not have the minimum number of institutions required to establish a National Collegiate Championship (50 for men and 40 for women), but meets the 35-minimum threshold required to establish a Division II Championship, may a Division II Championship be established?

Answer: No. If there is only one championship offered, it must be a National Collegiate Championship. An emerging sport must have the required 40 institutions to establish a National Collegiate Championship first before it can establish a Division II Championship.

Question No. 12: Once a Division II Championship is established for a sport, may an institution choose to participate in the National Collegiate Championship for that sport?

Answer: No.

Question No. 13: If a sport does not meet the 35-minimum number of institutions required to maintain the Division II Championship, will a waiver opportunity be available?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 14: How will sponsorship be determined to confirm that a sport meets the 35-minimum threshold?

Answer: The Championships Committee will review the sport sponsorship report annually as reported by the membership to the NCAA research staff. This report is typically published in early October.

Question No. 15: If adopted, when will the three-year grace period begin?

Answer: The three-year grace period will begin in the academic year the Championships Committee confirms that the sport has fallen below the 35-minimum threshold.

For example, if the Championships Committee confirms a sport has fallen below the 35-minimum threshold in October 2024, the 2024-25 academic year would be the first year of the grace period. The 2025-26 academic year would be the second year and the 2026-27 academic year would be the third year. The championship would be discontinued after the 2026-27 academic year.

Question No. 16: If the proposal is adopted at the 2024 Convention, when is the earliest a Division II Championship may be discontinued?

Answer: The 2027-28 academic year based on the confirmation of sports sponsorship by the Championships Committee occurring in the 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 17: If a sport falls below the 35-minimum threshold and the championship is discontinued, may a Division II program participate in a Division I or Division III Championship?

Answer: Under NCAA Division II Bylaw 7.3.2.1.2.1 (participation in Division I Championship), a Division II institution may participate in a Division I Championship in sports where there is not a Division II Championship. A Division II institution is required to declare its intent to participate in the Division I Championship by June 1.

It would not be permissible for a Division II institution to participate in a Division III Championship.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-4 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Criteria for Selection of Participants -- Automatic Qualification -- Automatic Qualification in all Team Sports Other Than Football

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, the sport committees have the option of recommending to the Division II Championships Committee when and if to apply automatic qualification to their selection processes. If approved by the Championships Committee, the sport will have automatic qualification and then each conference must request automatic qualification for the conference from the respective sport committee.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: Team sport committees (other than football) will be required to apply automatic qualification to their selection process for those Division II conferences that meet the requirements in NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.3.1 (requirements -- division championship). It will no longer be an option on whether to recommend automatic qualification. Conferences will still be required to annually request automatic qualification from the respective sport committee.

Question No. 3: If adopted, when will all team sports (other than football) have automatic qualification?

Answer: The 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 4: Which Division II sports currently have automatic qualification?

Answer: The following sports currently have automatic qualification:

<u>Men's Sports</u>	<u>Women's Sports</u>
Baseball	Women's Basketball
Men's Basketball	Women's Golf*
Men's Golf*	Women's Soccer
Men's Soccer	Softball
Men's Tennis*	Women's Tennis*
	Women's Volleyball

*Individual team sports.

Question No. 5: Which Division II team sports (other than football) currently do not have automatic qualification and how many conferences sponsor those sports?

Answer: The following team sports (other than football) do not currently have automatic qualification.

<u>Men's Sports</u>	<u>Women's Sports</u>
Men's Lacrosse	Women's Field Hockey
	Women's Lacrosse
	Women's Rowing

The chart below notes the number of conferences that would meet the requirements in NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.3.1 (requirements --division championship) if adopted.

<u>Men's Sports</u>	<u>Women's Sports</u>
Men's Lacrosse - 8	Women's Field Hockey - 3
	Women's Lacrosse - 11
	Women's Rowing - 0

Question No. 6: If adopted, will there be future discussions surrounding regional alignment for women's field hockey and men's and women's lacrosse?

Answer: Yes. The sport committees will make the necessary recommendations to the Division II Championships Committee regarding any necessary changes to regional alignments prior to the 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 7: How does a Division II conference become eligible for automatic qualification for a Division II Championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.3.1 (requirements -- division championship), to be eligible for automatic qualification in any Division II Championship, a member conference must meet the following general requirements:

(a) Been a multisport voting member conference of the Association for five consecutive academic years [see Bylaw 7.3.5.1.3 (voting rights and other conference active membership privileges)]; and

(b) Have at least six active members that sponsor the sport at the varsity intercollegiate level in which automatic qualification is sought and that are eligible for the NCAA championship, and have had at least six active members that are eligible for the NCAA championship participate in the process that determines the automatic qualifier. Institutions that are affiliate members of a conference in a particular sport may be used to satisfy the sponsorship requirement for automatic qualification in that sport.

Question No. 8: If adopted, will this proposal change the requirements for a Division II conference to qualify for automatic qualification?

Answer: No. [See Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.3.1 (requirements -- division championship)].

Question No. 9: If adopted, how will this proposal impact bracket sizes in team sports?

Answer: If adopted, the Championships Committee will establish a policy that specifies that no more than 60% of a team's bracket may be made up of automatic qualifiers. If a sport reaches a 50% threshold, the committee will also establish as policy that bracket expansion be considered. However, should a sport exceed the 60% threshold while being considered for bracket expansion, the committee may maintain automatic qualification while the field size is being addressed.

Note: As part of the 2024-27 triennial budget process, the Championships Committee has recommended bracket increases for the field hockey and men's and women's lacrosse championships effective for the 2024-25 academic year. If approved by the Division II Management Council and Division II Presidents Council in January 2024, these sports would be in line with this policy.

Question No. 10: Does this proposal impact automatic qualification requirements for National Collegiate Championships?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-5 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Criteria for Selection of Participants -- Earned Access -- Football -- Earned Access for All Football-Sponsoring Conferences

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, earned access only applies if a conference that is not currently represented in the bracket has a team within the top nine in the super region. A conference whose highest ranked team is outside of the top nine is not granted earned access to the field.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: All football-sponsoring conferences will be represented in the bracket. This proposal will also require that the highest-ranked team in a football-sponsoring conference that is not already represented in the bracket be included. Therefore, earned access will be determined by the Division II Football Committee, as opposed to the team being selected by the conference.

Question No. 3: If adopted, when will the Division II Football Committee begin utilizing the new earned access process?

Answer: The 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 4: How does a Division II football-sponsoring conference become eligible for earned access for the Division II Football Championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.4.1 (requirements), to be eligible for earned access to the football championship, a Division II football-sponsoring conference must meet the following general requirements:

- (a) Been a multisport voting member conference of the Association for five consecutive academic years; and
- (b) Have at least six active members that sponsor football at the varsity intercollegiate level in which earned access is sought and that are eligible for the NCAA championship, and have had at least six active members that are eligible for the NCAA championship participate in the process that determines possible earned access. Institutions that are affiliate members of a Division II football-playing conference may be used to satisfy the sponsorship requirement for earned access in football.

Question No. 5: If adopted, will this proposal change the requirements for a Division II football-sponsoring conference to qualify for earned access?

Answer: No. [See NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.4.1 (requirements)].

Question No. 6: In the last ten years, how many times has a football-sponsoring conference been left out of the bracket?

Answer: Four.

Question No. 7: If adopted, will the Division II Football Committee discuss regional alignment?

Answer: Yes. The committee has already begun this review due to the anticipated addition of a 16th sponsoring conference in 2025.

Question No. 8: If adopted, how will this proposal impact the bracket size in the sport of football?

Answer: If adopted, the Division II Championships Committee will establish as policy a 60% threshold for earned access in the bracket. To mitigate the possibility of exceeding the 60% threshold, the committee will also establish as policy that bracket expansion be considered at the next budget opportunity whenever the sport reaches a 50% threshold. However, should the sport exceed the 60% threshold while being considered for bracket expansion, the Championships Committee may maintain earned access while the field size is being addressed.