



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2 AND SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCES**

NONLEGISLATIVE ITEMS.

- **Fall sport championships conducted in the spring.** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee discussed issues around conducting the fall sport championships in the spring term and made the following recommendations for the NCAA Division I Council to consider for approval during its September 16 meeting.
 - **Bracket/field size.** The committee supports a 25% reduction in the bracket size for team sports to meet the directives of the NCAA Board of Governors in conducting the fall championships in the 2021 spring semester. The committee also supports providing all automatic-qualifying conferences access to the brackets, with the remaining spots allocated to at-large selections. Accordingly, the following table illustrates the committee's format related recommendations.

Sport	Original Bracket/ Field Size	Modified Bracket/ Field Size	Composition of Bracket (AQs/At Large)	Anticipated Championship Dates for Finals
M/W Cross Country	N/A*	255 per gender*	N/A	March 15, 2021
Field Hockey	16	12	10/2	May 7-9, 2021
Men's Soccer	48	36	24/12	May 13-17, 2021
Women's Soccer	64	48	31/17	May 13-17, 2021
Women's Volleyball	64	48	32/16	April 23-25, 2021
Men's Water Polo	4 + play-ins	6	6/0	March 20-21, 2021

**The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee recommended not conducting regionals for this year's championships, so the modified field size includes only participants at the finals.*

- **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed recommendations from sport committees and agreed to support maximum flexibility to allow teams to meet specified minimum contest requirements (which the committee already recommended reducing by 50% at a previous meeting). The committee also approved counting contests conducted in the fall term for all fall sport championships conducted in the spring thereby encouraging sport committees to consider all data available to them at the time of selections. The committee acknowledged possibly needing to revisit this topic if conditions warrant nearer the time the playing and practice seasons for these sports begin, but for now the committee supports providing maximum flexibility for selection purposes.

- **Championship sites.** The committee confirmed per the Board of Governors' directives all sites will be predetermined, and that the number of preliminary-round sites will be reduced to support health and safety and operational management of the championships this spring. The committee will finalize the brackets over the next several meetings in coordination with the sport committees.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Length of playing and practice seasons.** The committee acknowledged that recommendations regarding this issue are forthcoming from a subgroup composed of representatives from the committee, the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee, NCAA Division I Legislative Committee and the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
2. **Cross country championships.** The committee continued its discussions that were initiated during its August 26 videoconference specific to the conduct of the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships in the 2021 spring semester. Although committee members continue to express some concerns regarding conducting the cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field championships within such a short time span in the spring semester they remain supportive of maintaining the option to conduct the cross country championships in the spring. During committee members' discussions, one of the primary concerns cited was the potential negative impact on training for student-athletes, particularly those who run cross country and also distance events in track and field.

The committee reviewed feedback from the Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the coaches associations in order to determine how best to provide cross country only programs and cross country only student-athletes with a meaningful championships experience via the track and field championships. It was clear the cross country and track and field communities would prefer the committee remain nimble for another few weeks to allow for more discussion about winter and spring sport championships and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the logistics for conducting those three championships are not as complicated as they are for other sports, which makes a delay more feasible in this case.

The committee will continue reviewing the issue during its September videoconferences and October 5-6 quarterly meeting.

3. **Equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and the student-athlete voice.** Staff updated the committee on materials being provided to national officiating coordinators and conference assignors to make referees and officials aware of initiatives (including via playing rules such as uniform patches) to support the student-athlete voice this year. Staff also noted the ongoing work from the newly formed Championships Equity Action Team working on emphasizing the value of EDI and the student-athlete voice at all championship sites.

- 4. Future videoconferences.** The committee will conduct videoconferences September 9 and 23 before its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting October 5-6.

Committee Chair: Lynda Tealer, University of Florida

Staff Liaisons: Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances

Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee September 2-3, 2020, Videoconferences	
Attendees:	
Renee Baumgartner, Santa Clara University.	
Mark Benson, University of Albany.	
Amanda Braun, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.	
Keisha Dunlap, Conference USA.	
Mike Cragg, St. John's University (New York).	
Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference.	
Beth Goetz, Ball State University.	
Ted Gumbart, ASUN Conference.	
Ken Halpin, Winthrop University.	
Gerald Harrison, Austin Peay State University.	
Jeff Hurd, Western Athletic Conference.	
Megan Klavitter, Chicago State University.	
Doug Knuth, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Larry Lyons, Illinois State University.	
Luis Marcano, University of Delaware.	
Kris Pierce, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Nona Richardson, University of Utah.	
Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine.	
Lynda Tealer, University of Florida.	
Ingrid Wicker McCree, North Carolina Central University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Sharon Cessna and Jennifer Henderson.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Joni Comstock, Amanda Conklin, Jennifer Fraser, Robin Hale, Ty Halpin, Anthony Holman, Greg Johnson, Kevin Lennon, Carol A. Reep, Liz Suscha and Jerry Vaughn.	