



**Collegiate Men's Volleyball Sustainability Committee**  
NCAA DI and DII men's volleyball championship sustainability

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Dear NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee Members,

Last Spring, the American Volleyball Coaches Association, USA Volleyball and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee assembled a men's volleyball sustainability committee charged with exploring and establishing long-term concepts to help sustain men's volleyball opportunities at the collegiate level.

**RECOMMENDATION:** On behalf of this group of sport leaders, we strongly advocate for an NCAA National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship that is customized to ensure regional/conference stability within the men's volleyball ecosystem. Given the geographic proximity and conference footprints of schools sponsoring DI and DII men's volleyball, the committee recommends an eight-team field size with automatic qualification access afforded to each of the six participating/growing conferences, and two at-large post-season seats. Given the turbulence of the pandemic and continued financial challenges facing athletics departments, the committee believes this format is critical to aiding in sport sponsorship and stability. Before efforts are made to trim and/or eliminate post-season opportunities, the committee encourages further cooperation with USA Volleyball and First Point Volleyball Foundation to explore funding alternatives, creative partnerships and/or event efficiencies [Supplement G-5].

**RATIONALE:** In addition to being the fastest growing boys team sport in America (63,000+ boys currently playing), the collegiate men's volleyball landscape has added 13 programs (3 DI and 10 DII) since 2018. When the NCAA Championship Finance Review Working Group recommended the sport's field size be reduced to four teams, it did so based on 2017-18 participation data (46 teams). To date, NCAA DI and DII men's volleyball programs total 59 programs, which satisfies NCAA bracket expansion. Further, the current seven-team bracket format poses logistical challenges, competitive equity concerns and hinders fan support. NCAA championship access is a key driver in sport sponsorship decisions, and we feel strongly that in addition to the five existing automatic qualifiers, the sport's first conference of historically black colleges and universities (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) should similarly be afforded access to the championship given to the number of teams it sponsors.

Together, we can position the sport for future success and continue to provide sport opportunities for generations to reach their athletic and academic dreams. With additional program growth on the horizon, the Collegiate Men's Volleyball Sustainability Committee is eager to continue to engage the NCAA DI and DII Men's Volleyball Committee to creatively identify avenues to sustain and propel growth.

Sincerely,

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VP for Intercollegiate Athletics  
Pennsylvania State University

**Jamie Davis**

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USA Volleyball

**Martin Jarmond**

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