

2004 NCAA Convention Proposal No. 69 – Q & A

What is the purpose of the proposal?

The proposal is intended to permit independent institutions to provide their student-athletes the same kind of season-ending opportunity conference members enjoy.

Why is the proposal necessary?

Current NCAA legislation provides an exemption to contest limitations for season-ending conference championship events. No such exemption exists for independents.

Who would decide if a postseason championship would be held in a given sport?

Athletic directors of independent institutions that sponsor a given sport would be contacted to determine interest in a postseason independent championship. Those institutions would determine whether to conduct a championship and, if so, its format.

Would independents conduct a postseason championship in every sport?

No. Championships would be conducted only in those sports in which there is sufficient interest. A survey conducted by the Association of Division III Independents showed interest in sports (e.g., baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball) sponsored by the largest number of independent institutions.

When would independent championships be played?

Just as with conference championships, postseason play for independent institutions would be held after the end of the regular season and prior to the date of selection for NCAA championships in a given sport.

How many teams would be allowed to participate?

Independent institutions sponsoring competition in each sport would determine whether a season-ending championship would be conducted in that sport and, if so, the format of the event.

In those sports with many sponsoring institutions (e.g., baseball, women's basketball) independents might decide to create four regional four-team tournaments (with no further advancement opportunity). In each region, selection most likely would be based on regular-season records.

In another sport (e.g., swimming), sponsoring institutions may decide that the relatively fewer number of participating schools and potential travel costs might make a season-ending event for independents impractical. Or they might decide to conduct only two regional events (East and West), if sites could be identified within a reasonable distance of the participating institutions.

Would independent institutions be required to take part?

No.

Why are fencing and football not included in this proposal?

Fencing was not included because current legislation already permits this competition to be exempted. Football was not included because a championship is not feasible.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Call the Association of Division III Independents at 816-474-7264, or contact John Leavens via e-mail: jleavens@d3independents.org.

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