Answers to Questions Not Answered Live Due to Time Constraints

Note: Several questions submitted via the Q&A feature by attendees were not answered live due to time constraints. WBCA staff captured and submitted those questions to the NCAA. Here are their responses.

General statement regarding the 2020-21 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Seasons: The 2020-21 men’s and women’s basketball seasons and NCAA championships will be different than any in our history. However, the college basketball experience this year can and will be fulfilling and memorable for student-athletes. Prioritizing the health and safety of student-athletes, coaches and officials, the plan developed by the Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Committees is intended to provide the greatest opportunity to conduct the upcoming season successfully in an uncertain environment. The unified plan is designed for teams to have ample practice time and preparation for a modified yet representative regular season of both nonconference and conference competition leading into the NCAA basketball championship. The delayed start of the season to Thanksgiving week is intended to provide at least six weeks of competition when the vast majority of campuses will be in a break period and/or conducting virtual instruction. While there is no one solution during the COVID-19 pandemic that may satisfy every perspective, we collectively believe that this comprehensive and thorough package provides the best plan with the information available at this time.

Question No. 1: Has any thought been to those of us who’s facilities are still shutdown making it extremely difficult for the health and safety of our athletes to get physically and mentally ready for that early of a start with the uncertainty of reopening?

See statement above.

Question No. 2: Is there discussion on moving the NCAA championship dates back since our schedules are moved back?

At this time, the NCAA is committed to and is planning to conduct the championship on the established dates with the announcement of teams on Selection Monday, March 15.

Question No. 3: To Cori’s point, some of those institutions and counties are still on a state’s watch list that is preventing from opening to allow all members of the team from being on campus. What will the NCAA do for these members if this is adopted?

See statement above.

Question No. 4: Will teams, game management staff and referees be covid tested prior to games? Or will their be any certain universal protocol set by the NCAA so all venues are safe?
Women’s basketball will utilize NCAA championships safety and testing guidelines as established by the Sport Science Institute in consultation with the NCAA Medical Advisory Panel. Additionally, proactive work is being done to determine the necessary implementation plan for each NCAA women’s basketball championship site.

Question No. 5: Are bubbles being considered for games?

For regular season competition, working off of baseline standards relating to testing protocols and under local, state and federal health authorities, how and where to conduct games is managed by institutions and conferences.

Question No. 6: If someone was “in the process of being hired” prior to September 7th are they able to participate in managerial duties?

Based on the waiver, the individual must have been in place by September 7. Consideration for mitigating circumstances may warrant an additional review. Please reach out to your institution’s compliance office for additional assistance.

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