

## Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

**Title:** ADMINISTRATION OF NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS — INSTITUTIONAL POLICY — RELIGIOUS REASONS — DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION

**Supplement Proposal Number:** AR-1

**Category:** Administrative Regulation

**Status:** Adopted

**Intent:** To specify that an institution shall notify the NCAA national office before September 1 of each academic year of its institutional policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons.

**Administrative:** Amend 31.1.4.1 , page 247 , as follows:

[Division III]

"31.1.4.1 Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the *governing sports committee before the beginning of the championship in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused* **NCAA national office before September 1 of each academic year to be excused** from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution."

**Rationale:** Requiring an institution to notify the NCAA national office before September 1 of each academic year of its written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons will give the sports committees sufficient time to track the institutions under consideration for selection to a championship.

**Source:** NCAA Division III Management Council (Championships Committee).

**Effective Date:** Immediate

# Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

**Title:** EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS — CHAMPIONSHIPS — SELECTION PRINCIPLES

**Supplement Proposal Number:** AR-2

**Category:** Administrative Regulation

**Status:** Adopted

**Intent:** To add the championship selection principles guidelines to the executive regulations, as specified.

**Administrative:** Amend 31.3, pages 254-260 , as follows:

[Division III]

"31.3 SELECTION OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS PARTICIPATION. A list of the institutions in good standing shall be supplied by the Association's president to the chair of each governing sports committee and to the athletics director of the host institution. This list should be observed carefully to assure that no entries are accepted from or invitations extended to ineligible institutions.

[31.3.1 unchanged.]

**"31.3.1.1 Eligibility for Berths. Pools A, B and C will be determined as follows:**

**"(a) Pool A — Conferences that meet the automatic-qualification requirements per Bylaw 31.3.4;**

**"(b) Pool B — Independent institutions plus institutions from conferences that do not meet the automatic-qualification requirements, divided by the bracket-access ratio in that sport (the number of eligible institutions divided by the bracket size). For example, 358 eligible institutions divided by a 48-team bracket = 1:7.46. To determine Pool B, for example, a sport has 54 institutions that are in conferences that do not receive automatic qualification and 13 independents, for a total of 67 institutions. The bracket-access ratio in that sport is 1:7.46. As a result, there will be eight berths in Pool B (67 divided by 7.46 = 8.98 rounded to 8). If rounding is necessary, the number will be rounded down. An additional berth is only provided if the next whole number is achieved. If the number of institutions being considered in Pool B are less than the access ratio (e.g., three schools and a ratio 1:9), those institutions would be considered in Pool C.**

**"(c) Pool C. The bracket size minus the number of Pool A and Pool B berths. This would be a national selection based on a team's win-loss record within its region and conference. For example, a bracket of 48 minus (Pool A + Pool B) = Pool C.**

[31.3.2 unchanged.]

**"31.3.2.1 Pairings and Site Selection. The following criteria will be used for pairings and site selections:**

## Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

"(a) Once selected, teams shall be grouped in clusters according to natural-geographic proximity. Teams shall then be paired according to geographic proximity. A team may be moved to numerically balance the bracket if geographic proximity is maintained. Teams shall be paired and eligible according to geographic proximity (within 500 miles). An exception may be granted where there are not enough teams within the 500-mile radius to fill the region.

"(b) Teams may be seeded on a regional basis using the regional-selection criteria. However, geographic proximity shall take precedent over seeding.

"(c) Teams from the same conference shall not play one another in the first round as long as geographic proximity is maintained.

"(d) The highest seeded team that meets all selection criteria shall be selected as the host institution, provided geographic proximity is maintained.

"31.3.3 Criteria for Selection of Participants. *The following criteria, based on regional and conference competition and in priority order, shall be employed by a governing-sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition, and a governing-sports committee that wishes to use additional criteria must obtain Championships Committee approval before doing so:*

"(a) *Winning percentage, head-to-head results, results against common opponents;*

"(b) *Strength of schedule as demonstrated by regional opponents winning percentage;*

"(c) *Results against teams already in the tournament; and*

"(d) *If an analysis of the primary criteria, by the committee, does not result in a decision, the remainder of the institution's schedule (e.g. NAIA, Division I and II opponents, non-member institutions, and out-of-region play) may be evaluated. If a committee wishes to use a strength-of-schedule index, it must be based on regional opponents winning percentage and must be approved by the Division III Championships Committee.*

[31.3.3.1 through 31.3.3.6 unchanged.]

[31.3.4 unchanged.]

"31.3.4.1 General Requirements. To be eligible for automatic qualification, a member conference must meet the following general requirements:

[31.3.4.1-(a) through 31.3.4.1-(i) unchanged.]

"(j) **Conference Membership Deadline. To receive automatic qualification a conference must have its membership established and defined by April of the preceding academic year.**

"31.3.4.2 Additional Requirements. The conference must have:

# Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

"(a) Been a member conference of the Association for two consecutive academic years. *The Championships Committee may grant a No* waivers of the two-year waiting period **shall be granted**;

[31.3.4.2-(b) and 31.3.4.2-(c) unchanged.]

"(d) At least 50 percent of a conference's members must sponsor a minimum of three men's and three women's team sports. Single-sport conferences in existence before February 1, 1998**and who maintained its membership and automatic qualification**, do not have to meet this minimum sport-sponsorship requirement; and

[31.3.4.2-(e) unchanged.]

[31.3.4.3 through 31.3.4.4 unchanged.]

[31.3.5 unchanged.]

**"31.3.5.1 Selections of Berths.** After the determination of the automatic pool (Pool A) berths, the governing sports committee responsible for the selection of the balance of the championship field shall determine the Pool B selection followed by the Pool C selections. Berths for Pool B and Pool C shall be selected on a national basis, using regional-selection criteria. There shall be no predetermined regional allocations for Pools B and C. There shall be no maximum or minimum number of berths from one region and no conference shall receive more than one automatic berth.

**"31.3.5.2 Selection Criteria.** The governing sports committee responsible for the selection of the balance of the championships field shall select teams in Pools B and C based on the criteria below. The criteria of two or more teams shall be compared to determine the higher ranked team. An attempt shall be made to determine the ranking of two or more teams after consideration of the primary criteria (see Bylaw 31.3.5.2.1). If the evaluation of the primary criteria does not result in a decision, the secondary criteria will be used (see Bylaw 31.3.5.2.2). All the primary and secondary criteria listed will be evaluated (not listed in preferential order).

**"31.3.5.2.1 Primary Criteria — For Ranking and Selection (All Contests Leading up to NCAA Championships).**

**"(a) Win-loss percentage against regional opponents;**

**"(b) Strength-of-schedule index (only contests versus regional competition);**

Win on the road versus a team at or above .667	15 points
Win at home versus a team at or above .667	14 points
Win on the road versus a team at or above .500, but below .667	13 points
Win at home versus a team at or above .500, but below .667	12 points

## Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

Win on the road versus a team at or above .333, but below .500	11 points
Win at home versus a team at or above .333, but below .500	10 points
Win on the road versus a team below .333	9 points
Win at home versus a team below .333	8 points
Loss on the road versus a team at or above .667	7 points
Loss at home versus a team at or above .667	6 points
Loss on the road versus a team at or above .500, but below .667	5 points
Loss at home versus a team at or above .500, but below .667	4 points
Loss on the road versus a team at or above .333, but below .500	3 points
Loss at home versus a team at or above .333, but below .500	2 points
Loss on the road versus a team below .333	1 point
Loss at home versus a team below .333	0 points

"(1) The point totals for the strength-schedule index shall be calculated as follows:

"(a) Points for tied contests shall be calculated by taking the points which would have been awarded with a win, adding the points which would have been awarded with a loss and dividing by two;

"(b) The strength-of-schedule index shall be calculated by adding the total number of points and dividing by the number of games;

"(c) A neutral game shall be defined as being in neither team's locale and, as such, is awarded as if it were an away game; and

"(d) The strength-of-schedule index shall be calculated for ratings at the time of the ranking calls and using final results for selection purposes.

"(c) In-region head-to-head competition;

"(d) In-region results versus common regional opponents; and

"(e) In-region results versus regionally ranked teams will be considered as follows:

"(1) Opponents are considered ranked once they appear one time in the sport's official rankings; and

"(2) Conference postseason contests are included.

"31.3.5.2.2 Secondary Criteria — For Ranking and Selection.

"(a) Out-of-region head-to-head competition;

"(b) Overall Division III win-loss percentage;

## Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

"(c) Results versus common non-Division III opponents;

"(d) Results versus Division III teams ranked in other regions;

"(e) Overall win-loss percentage;

"(f) Results versus common out-of-region opponents;

"(g) Overall Division III strength-of-schedule; and

"(h) Should a committee find that evaluation of a team's win-loss percentage during the 25 percent of the season is applicable (i.e., end-of-season performance), it may adopt such criteria with approval from the Championships Committee.

**"31.3.5.2.3 Regional Alignments.** All members of a conference shall be placed in the same region for evaluation purposes, unless the Championships Committee has granted an exception. Members of those conferences granted an exception shall be placed in their natural geographical regions for evaluation purposes."

**Rationale:** This proposal codifies the selection principles used for NCAA championships. Placing this information in the NCAA Division III Manual provides more adequate notice to Division III institutions about championships selection principles.

**Source:** NCAA Division III Championships Committee.

**Effective Date:** Immediate

# Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

**Title:** CHAMPIONSHIPS — AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION — CONFERENCE ELIGIBILITY

**Supplement Proposal Number:** AR-3

**Category:** Administrative Regulation

**Status:** Ready for Consideration by Management Council

**Intent:** To amend automatic qualification principles for championships regarding conference eligibility, as specified.

**Administrative:** Amend 31.3.4, pages 256-258 , as follows:

[Division III]

"31.3.4 Automatic Qualification. The Championships Committee and the governing-sports committees annually shall award automatic qualification to those conferences that meet the requirements specified in Bylaws 31.3.4.1, 31.3.4.2 and 31.3.4.3.

[31.3.4.1 unchanged.]

"31.3.4.2 Additional Requirements. **To be considered eligible for automatic qualification, T**the conference must have:

**"(a) Been a multi-sport conference with a minimum of seven consistent members for a minimum of two years; the conference shall be immediately eligible for an automatic qualification when seven members of the conference sponsor that sport; or**

**"(a b)** Been a member conference of the Association for two consecutive academic years. No waivers of the two-year waiting period shall be granted;

**"(b c)** Conducted competition in the sport in question for *two consecutive years* **a two-year waiting period** at the time of its application for automatic qualification. *The Championships Committee may grant a waiver of the two-year waiting period;*

**"(1) A multi-sport conference that is in the process of fulfilling the two-year waiting period must maintain seven consistent conference members throughout the two-year waiting period.**

**"(2) The two-year waiting period begins when a minimum of seven consistent conference members are all eligible for the conference championship.**

**"(c d)** At least seven active **Division III** members that sponsor the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis *in the division in which automatic qualification is sought* and that are eligible for the NCAA **Division III** championship, and have at least seven active members that are eligible for the NCAA championship to participate in the process that determines the automatic qualifier. **Further, multi-sport conferences must have at least four core institutions;**

## Supplement No. 31 — October 2003 — Management Council — Administrative Regulations

"(1) For the purposes of this legislation, core refers to an institution that participates in conference competition in more than one sport in the conference seeking automatic qualification [See Bylaw 31.3.4.2-(e)].

"(2) Other Division III institutions, including those who participate in conference competition in only one sport, may fulfill the remaining sponsoring institutions needed by a conference for automatic qualification (i.e., to get a total of seven institutions). Non-NCAA Division III members of a conference may not count toward the minimum of four core institutions or the overall minimum of seven conference members that is needed; and

"(d e) At least 50 percent of a conference's members must sponsor a minimum of three men's and three women's team sports. **As of August 1, 2003**, single-sport conferences in existence before February 1, 1998, that maintained its membership and automatic qualification, do not have to meet this minimum sport-sponsorship requirement **must maintain its membership (e.g., minimum of seven original members); and.**

"(e) As of February 1, 2000, existing conferences that fail to meet all the requirements for automatic qualification specified in Bylaw 31.3.4 shall be required to fulfill all requirements for one year before receiving automatic qualification."

[31.3.4.3 unchanged.]

**Rationale:** These amendments will clarify requirements for conference automatic qualification. Inclusion of affiliate members will allow flexibility for conferences to take advantage of automatic qualification while adhering to the moratorium on awarding automatic qualifications to single-sport conferences. Implementing a two-year waiting period ensures continuity of membership within conferences prior to being awarded automatic qualification. It should be noted the championships committee has received several requests to combine groups of institutions and/or members of multiple conferences for the purpose of acquiring automatic qualification.

**Source:** NCAA Division III Management Council (Championships Committee).

**Effective Date:** Immediate