VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners, Division I Directors of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrators and Division I Men's and Women’s Basketball Head Coaches.

FROM: Dan Gavitt  
NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball.


As many of you are developing schedules for next year’s college basketball season, I wanted to make you aware of three current legislative proposals that may impact basketball scheduling beginning with the 2018-19 season.

First Contest Date

At the recommendation of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women’s Basketball Oversight Committees, the Division I Council introduced a proposal into the current legislative cycle that would move the first contest date to the Tuesday that is before the second Friday in November, which is three days earlier than the current date. This proposal will be voted on at the NCAA Convention in January 2018, and if adopted, will be effective August 1, 2018. For planning purposes, the proposed new contest dates for the next three years are included below:

- 2018-19 – Tuesday, November 6, 2018
- 2019-20 – Tuesday, November 5, 2019
- 2020-21 – Tuesday, November 10, 2020

First Practice Date

At the recommendation of the Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee, the Division I Council introduced a legislative proposal into the current legislative cycle that would permit women’s basketball to begin on-court practice 42 days prior to the institution’s first scheduled contest. This change would align the first practice date for men and women’s basketball. This proposal will be voted on during the NCAA Convention in January 2018, and if adopted, will be effective August 1, 2018, for the 2018-19 season.

Three-Day Required Athletically Related Activities Prohibition During Winter Break

At the recommendation of the Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Committees, the autonomy conferences intend to sponsor a proposal for the current autonomy legislative cycle that would establish a required, consecutive three-day period during an institution’s winter break in
which required athletically related activities would be prohibited for all basketball student-athletes. Each institution would be able to determine when the three-day break occurs. The proposal may also include a once in four-year exception when a team participates in a qualifying regular season multiple team event during its winter break period. This proposal will be voted on by the autonomy conferences at the NCAA Convention in January 2018, and if adopted, will be effective August 1, 2018, for the 2018-19 season. Please note that if adopted, the legislation would only apply to institutions that are members of the autonomy conferences and non-autonomy institutions and/or conferences that choose to “opt-in” to the legislation. However, due to widespread support from student-athletes, if the legislation is adopted, the men’s and women’s basketball oversight committees strongly encourage all institutions to provide the three-day break for their student-athletes.

Please contact Charnele Kemper, director of academic or membership affairs, with questions regarding men’s basketball at ckemper@ncaa.org or Binh Nguyen, director of academic and membership affairs, with questions regarding women’s basketball at bnguyen@ncaa.org.

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cc: Danielle Donehew  
Jim Haney  
Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee  
Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members