REGIONALIZATION TALKING POINTS

✓ The Division II philosophy statement (as legislated in Division II Bylaw 20.10) indicates that a Division II member "believes in scheduling the majority of its athletics competition with other members of Division II, insofar as regional qualification, geographical location and traditional conference scheduling patterns permit."

✓ Regionalization is a Division II championships policy that requires sport committees to select a predetermined number of teams in each of the regions of the sports involved. This policy is based on an assumption that due to the regional nature of most Division II schools, sport committees should evaluate and select championships participants based on regional results, as opposed to a national evaluation in which head-to-head and common opponents' results are less prevalent.

✓ The Division II regionalization philosophy provides access to national championships from every region of the country. Regionalization does not guarantee that the best eight programs in the country will compete for a national championship but does guarantee that the different regions of the country will be represented at the championship by each region's best team.

✓ In addition, regionalization encourages a member school to compete against opponents within its region, instead of seeking contests against opponents outside the geographical region. This scheduling incentive is aimed at helping schools manage their regular-season travel budgets and limit missed class time for Division II student-athletes.

✓ With the approval of the new conferences, the Division II Championships Committee is required to place each conference in a geographic region for championships selections.

✓ Per Bylaw 31.3.4.5, to be eligible for automatic qualification, a conference must be a member of the Association for five consecutive academic years, unless granted a waiver by the Championships Committee.

✓ During its deliberations, the Championships Committee considered reviewing all regional placements for new conferences. The following factors were considered in totality as all factors must be considered together and not as stand-alone items (i.e., no one factor is more important than another):

- Conference membership and location of institutions.
- Number of institutions in each region to ensure fair access ratios to the championships.
- Size of each region (e.g., mileage between institutions).
- Possible future growth of new conferences.
- Maintaining no more than three AQ conferences in each region.
- A transition time for institutions to either adjust or begin scheduling institutions in their new region.

At no time during the deliberations by the Championships Committee did historical or perceived strength of conferences factor into the recommendation.

Please contact Roberta Page, Director of Championships and liaison to the Division II Championships Committee, with questions regarding regionalization.
DIVISION II REGIONALIZATION MODEL

The following regionalization model was approved June 2007 by the NCAA Division II Championships Committee with a mandatory implementation date of 2008-09.

**Principles for establishing regions:**

- Regions will be determined by state boundaries.
- A state may reside in more than one region.
- All opponents within your geographic region are in-region contests.
- Conferences will be assigned to specific regions for automatic qualification and post-season competition.
- Conference opponents will count as in-region contest regardless of geographic location.
- Opponents residing within your state regardless of conference affiliation are in-region contests.
- All opponents (regardless of conference affiliation) in states contiguous to your state are in-region contests.

The committee has approved the following principles and any changes or additions to these principles must be approved by the committee.

**Additional Principles:**

- Institutions in the state of Montana will be able to consider Nebraska and Colorado as contiguous states (and vice versa). (There are no Division II institutions currently in state contiguous to Montana’s southern border.)

- The west region may consider the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico as contiguous states (and vice versa).

- Institutions located in MINNESOTA and MICHIGAN may compete against each other and be considered as contiguous states (those contests count as in-region).

- Institutions located in Colorado and Texas are considered contiguous and may count competitions between these institutions as in-region contests.

- Institutions located in Texas and Mississippi are considered contiguous and may count competitions between these institutions as in-region contests.

- Institutions and conferences with a common mission (i.e. Historically Black Colleges and Universities) may consider inter-conference contests or independent contests against schools with similar missions as in-region, regardless of their geographic location and/or regional assignment.

- Institutions in the Atlantic and East Regions will be able to consider the District of Columbia as in-region contests.
### 2018-19 CONFERENCE REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION AND POSTSEASON COMPETITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>CONFERENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| West         | California Collegiate Athletic Association  
                Great Northwest Athletic Conference  
                Pacific West Conference                  |
| Central      | Great American Conference  
                Mid-American Athletic Conference  
                Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference |
| South Central| Heartland Conference  
                Lone Star Conference  
                Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference        |
| Midwest      | Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference  
                Great Lakes Valley Conference  
                Great Midwest Athletic Conference          |
| South        | Gulf South Conference  
                Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference  
                Sunshine State Athletic Conference          |
| Southeast    | Conference Carolinas  
                Peach Belt Conference  
                South Atlantic Conference                  |
| Atlantic     | Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association  
                Mountain East Conference  
                Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference      |
| East         | Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference  
                East Coast Conference  
                Northeast 10 Conference                      |

Note: as a point of clarification, an institution that is a single sport member of a conference will compete as a member of that conference for selection and ranking purposes.