

CONFERENCE INPUT TO DI MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA  
*Response to Leadership Council Report, May 6 and 11, 2009*

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The multisport conference is the foundation of the NCAA DI governance structure, automatic bid structure, and compliance structure and is rightly positioned in the proposed DI membership process as a gatekeeper in the new membership model. As such, a more comprehensive definition of a multisport conference is appropriate.

**NCAA Division I - Multisport Conference Standards**

1. Institutional Members  
A multisport conference shall consist of no fewer than seven (7) active Division I members.
2. Conference Sports Sponsorship
  - a) A multisport conference shall sponsor a minimum of 12 NCAA DI sports.
  - b) A multisport conference shall have a minimum of seven (7) active members participate in men's and women's basketball.
  - c) A multisport conference shall sponsor a minimum of six men's sports. In each of these six sports, a minimum of six active members shall compete.
  - d) A multisport conference shall sponsor a minimum of six women's sports. In each of these six sports, a minimum of six active members shall compete, or a minimum of five active members for an emerging sport.
  - e) In addition to men's basketball, a multisport conference shall, at a minimum, sponsor either football, with a minimum of six active members competing in football, or sponsor two additional men's team sports, with a minimum of six active members participating in each of these two sports.
  - f) In addition to women's basketball, a multisport conference shall sponsor at least two additional women's team sports, with a minimum of six active members participating in each of these two sports.
3. Regular Season Conference Competition
  - a) Basketball: Basketball teams shall participate in a regular season conference schedule of a double round robin, or a minimum of 14 regular season conference contests.
  - b) Minimum Required Team Sports (other than basketball) [2.c), 2.f) above]: In the team sports sponsored to meet the minimum team sports sponsorship requirement, teams shall compete in a minimum regular season conference schedule of five contests. At least five of the regular season conference contests must be a home game hosted by one of the two competing teams (non neutral site).
4. Officiating. A multisport conference shall provide oversight of the officiating programs for selecting, training and assigning officials for its men's and women's basketball programs.
5. Compliance. A multisport conference shall have a comprehensive compliance program.
6. Continuity. A multisport conference shall establish continuity by meeting the defined standards of a multisport conference (as defined in items No. 1 through 5 above) for a period of eight consecutive years. If a conference establishes continuity, it may be considered for multisport membership in Division I through the defined legislative process.
7. Core. A multisport conference that is recognized in the NCAA Governance Structure shall be considered a core conference. A core conference shall:
  - a) Have representation and voting standing in the NCAA DI Governance Structure
  - b) Be eligible to submit nominees for and have its delegates serve on NCAA DI committees
  - c) Receive AQ into NCAA championships that offer AQ, provided the conference competes with a minimum of six active participants in the sport
  - d) Receive conference grant funds
  - e) Receive, on behalf of its members, SAF/SAOF funds