



MLS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

August 5, 2014



NCAA DI MEN'S SOCCER

Academic Calendar Year Proposal

REFORM PURPOSE STATEMENT



- The NCAA reform proposal is being driven by the NCAA DI Men's Head Coaches for the purposes of improving:
 - Improving the overall academic, athletic, & social quality of the student-athlete collegiate experience;
 - Positively impacting the recruitment, & retention of prospective, & current student-athletes, respectively, by offering them a model which meets their expectations for both academic & sport development;
 - Modernizing the collegiate paradigm from its' current state, to better parallel the administration of the sport of soccer, both domestically, and internationally;
 - Growing the sport of soccer domestically at the collegiate level, and in particular growing the NCAA College Cup to a level in which many believe can become an NCAA revenue sport;
 - Reforming an archaic collegiate soccer model for the good of the student-athletes, the fans, the institutions, & the NCAA.



PROPOSED MODEL (2016-17)



- **FIRST ALLOWABLE FALL PRESEASON PRACTICE**
 - August 19, 2016
- **FIRST ALLOWABLE FALL REGULAR SEASON CONTEST**
 - September 10, 2016
- **LAST ALLOWABLE FALL REGULAR SEASON CONTEST**
 - November 20, 2016
- **FIRST ALLOWABLE SPRING PRESEASON PRACTICE**
 - February 24, 2017
- **FIRST ALLOWABLE SPRING REGULAR SEASON CONTEST**
 - March 18, 2017
- **LAST ALLOWABLE SPRING REGULAR SEASON CONTEST**
 - May 7, 2017
- **CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 - April 29, 2017 through May 7, 2017
- **NCAA TOURNAMENT FORMAT**
 - **First Round**: Thursday, May 11, 2017
 - **Second Round**: Sunday, May 14, 2017
 - **Third Round**: Saturday, May 20, 2017
 - **Quarter-Final**: Saturday, May 27, 2017
- **NCAA COLLEGE CUP FORMAT**
 - **Semi-Final**: Friday, June 2, 2017
 - **Final**: Monday, June 5, 2017



CALENDAR DETAIL RATIONALE



- ❑ **Later September Start Date**
 - Either eliminates, or lessens the financial burden of preseason costs (housing, meals, etc.) when school is not in session
- ❑ **Limitation On “Mid-Week” Games**
 - Reduction in the amount of class time being missed by student-athletes.
 - Faculty Athletic Representatives at institutions support of the proposal is heavily based on this aspect
- ❑ **Minimum 3 Nights Between Games**
 - Scientific evidence supporting the physical well-being of the student-athletes is better with 72 hours of recovery time
- ❑ **March Start Date**
 - Compromise for potential weather issues, individual institutional academic calendars, etc.
- ❑ **Conference Championships Over 2 Weekends**
 - Respect for the integrity of conference championships, especially for conferences with a large number of institutions
- ❑ **NCAA College Cup**
 - Championship growth with games during better weather, and not competing against the two major sports (football & basketball) for relevance during the championships

PLAYER-DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS & NCAA SOCCER BENEFITS



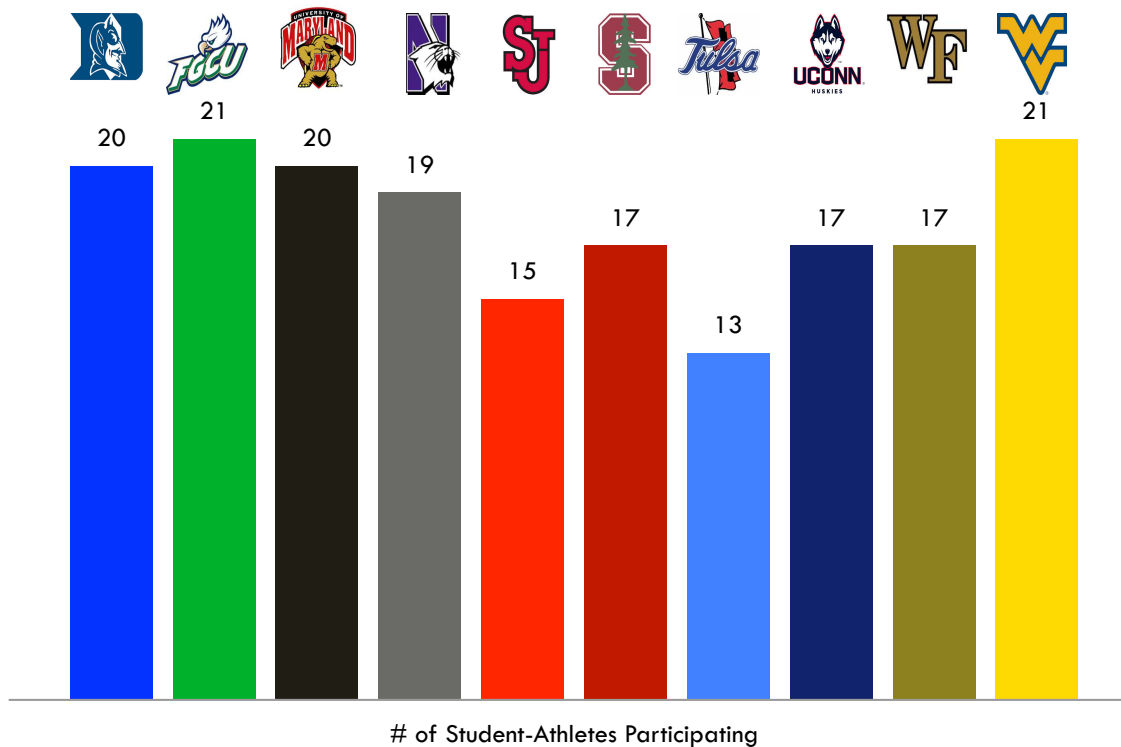
▣ PERIODIZATION

- Implementation of a proper periodization from August through May (with similarities to the German Bundesliga “winter break”)
- More training, less games in the fall semester
- Same training, more “meaningful” games in the spring semester
- Better on field product with easier rest, recovery, skill development, and training management
- Longer competitive season

▣ NCAA Soccer & the College Cup

- Championship growth with games during better weather in the months of May & June compared to games during mid-November to mid-December
- Increased TV/media exposure “opportunities” for the championship, without the burden of competing against NFL/college football and college basketball
- Potential to make college soccer an economically valuable and important property to the NCAA and the institutions athletic department
 - Through potential revenue generation, more media exposure, increased commercial value for the championships, increased attendance, etc.

STUDENT-ATHLETE PERSPECTIVE



- Survey was presented to 180 student-athletes from 10 institutions in May 2014
- Each coach presented the details of the Academic Calendar Year proposal to their student-athletes
- The NSCAA facilitated the distribution of the survey
- The NSCAA compiled the resulting data, which was returned anonymously

STUDENT-ATHLETE PERSPECTIVE



- During your high school years how many months per year were you involved in organized club or high school soccer – (practice and games/outdoor and indoor)?

- 62.92% 10-12 months
- 30.90% 8-10 months
- 3.37% 6-8 months
- 2.81% 4-6 months

93%

- During your high school years how many competitive games did you play per year (average-outdoor and indoor)?

- 18.54% 60-75 games
- 50.56% 45-60 games
- 25.84% 30-45 games
- 5.06% 15-30 games

95%

- As an NCAA Division I student-athlete, would you be supportive of an academic year season that would include a later August arrival for preseason training camp, and with one regular season game being played per week, primarily on weekends, in both the fall and spring semesters (total number of games played in both the fall and spring segments similar to the current fall-only schedule)?

- 77.53% Yes, fully supportive
- 8.43% Yes, but with concerns and/or questions
- 5.62% No, the current structure is sufficient
- 8.43% Maybe

86%

STUDENT-ATHLETE PERSPECTIVE



- Would your high school to college transition and adaptation in academics, soccer, and campus life have benefited from an academic year season schedule as presented in the sample calendar?
 - **82.76%** **Yes**
 - 17.24% No
- Do you believe your academic performance would benefit from a competition schedule that would minimize missed class time?
 - **83.91%** **Yes**
 - 16.09% No
- Do you believe your athletic performance would benefit from, be affected negatively by, or would not benefit at all by having a longer recovery time between games when compared to what is provided in the current fall competition format (proposal will recommend at least 3 nights for recovery)?
 - **94.83%** **Yes-would benefit**
 - 1.15% No-would have negative affect
 - 4.02% No-would not benefit
- If most games were played on weekends would your family and/or friends be more (or less) likely to attend games?
 - **85.06%** **More likely**
 - 0.57% Less likely
 - 14.37% No impact

STUDENT-ATHLETE PERSPECTIVE



- If most games were played on weekends do you think this would have positive impact on overall attendance and game atmosphere?
 - **85.06%** **Positive Impact**
 - 2.87% Negative Impact
 - 12.07% No Impact
- Would having few travel obligations for mid-week games make you more (or less) inclined to be involved in other school-sponsored student activities?
 - **77.91%** **More inclined to participate**
 - 8.14% Less inclined to participate
 - 13.95% Already have enough time to participate in non-athletic school-sponsored activities
- Do you support the idea of the NCAA tournament and College Cup being conducted in May and running through the first weekend in June, even if it means that if your team advances, you would be required to remain on campus after the academic term is finished?
 - **73.84%** **Yes**
 - 16.86% No
 - **9.30%** **Not Applicable (Academic Calendar extends beyond first weekend in June)**
- Do you think the NCAA tournament being played in May and concluding with the College Cup in the first weekend of June would increase excitement and visibility for the event and contribute to the growth and popularity of Division I college soccer?
 - **84.88%** **Yes**
 - 15.12% No
- Do you believe your overall collegiate experience would be enhanced through implementation of an academic year season model?
 - **76.16%** **Better overall collegiate experience**
 - 6.40% Worse overall collegiate experience
 - **17.44%** **No difference**

83%

94%

PROPOSAL CONTRIBUTORS



Organizational

-  ■ **Sasho Cirovski**
-  ■ **Ken Kavanaugh**
-  ■ **Rob Kehoe**
-  ■ **Marlon LeBlanc**
-  ■ **Todd Leyden**
-  ■ **Oliver Luck**
-  ■ **Kevin Payne**

Working Committee

-  ■ **Bob Butehorn**
-  ■ **Jeremy Gunn**
-  ■ **John Kerr**
-  ■ **Tim Lenehan**
-  ■ **Dave Masur**
-  ■ **Tom McIntosh**
-  ■ **Jay Vidovich**

Advisory Committee

-  ■ **Elmar Bolowich**
-  ■ **Bobby Clark**
-  ■ **Jim DeRose**
-  ■ **Kevin Grimes**
-  ■ **Mike Jacobs**
-  ■ **Ken Lolla**
-  ■ **Mike Noonan**
-  ■ **Ray Reid**
-  ■ **Russell Payne**
-  ■ **Jorge Salcedo**
-  ■ **Bob Warming**