



## NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships Proposal Overview

### CSCAA's Proposal to Modernize the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships

#### Objective:

Developed in collaboration with Division I coaches, administrators, and industry leaders, this two-part proposal aims to elevate the value and reach of the NCAA Championships while remaining cost-neutral and aligning with modern media and broadcast demands.

#### Key Format Changes:

- **Increased Emphasis on Preliminaries**

Final standings for places 9–16 will be determined from prelims.

Top 8 finishers advance to finals to compete for the national title—heightening primetime competition.

- **Streamlined Award Ceremonies**

Shift awards presentations to improve event flow and meet linear broadcast needs.

- **Enhanced Diving Coverage**

Split diving finals into two shorter segments—improving visibility, pacing, and viewer experience.

#### **Reordered Events to Maximize Engagement**

Schedule the most exciting events on the final days to build competitive momentum and align with ESPN recommendations.

#### Updated Qualification Process:

- **Create one NCAA Qualifying Standard**

- Swimmers who win their conference championship and meet the standard earn an automatic berth.
- Remaining spots will be filled based on times and rankings, consistent with the current process.

#### Timeline of Support & Consensus:

- **May 2024** – CSCAA Board and membership recommend exploring changes to enhance the championships.
- **June–Dec 2024** – Initial drafts prepared for review.
- **Feb 2025** – Industry leaders meet in Indianapolis to open lines of communication and collaboration.
- **Mar 2025** – DI coaches meeting at NCAA Championships; CSCAA receives full support to move forward.
- **Mar 2025** – USOPC confirms alignment on the effort to elevate and grow the sport collegiately.
- **May 2025** – Proposal presented and discussed at CSCAA Annual Meetings. Feedback collected.
- **May 2025** – Updated draft shared with CSCAA membership, USA Swimming & USA Diving for feedback.
- **May 2025** – Final proposal presented to stakeholders and reviewed in an open Town Hall.
- **June 2025** – Proposal approved by the NCAA Swimming & Diving Committee.
- **July 2025** – ESPN reaffirms the proposal as a necessary step toward achieving linear TV coverage.

#### Future Timeline:

- **Aug 2025** – Proposal submitted to the NCAA Sport Oversight Committee as an action item. *If approved:*
  - **Aug 2025** – CSCAA begins implementation planning with the NCAA Division I Committee and ESPN.
  - **Mar 2026** – Implementation begins at the NCAA Championships.
  - **Apr 2026** – Post-event review with ESPN and the NCAA Division I Committee.
  - **Mar 2027** – First NCAA Division I Championships with linear broadcast exposure.