



SPORT SESSION DISCUSSION

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INSTRUCTIONS.

TEST QUESTIONS.

1. Which athlete of the year was awarded the U SPORTS Female Athlete of the Year last month?
 - a. AUS - Kendra Woodland, UNB, Hockey
 - b. RSEQ - Jessy Lacourse, Laval, Cross Country / Track and Field
 - c. OUA - Sarah Gates, McMaster, Basketball
 - d. CW - Tatum Amy, Mount Royal, Hockey

2. Which athlete of the year was awarded the U SPORTS Male Athlete of the Year last month?
 - a. AUS - Andrew Peverill, Saint Mary's, Cross Country / Track and Field
 - b. RSEQ - Pablo Collin, McGill, Swimming
 - c. OUA - Gabe Mastromatteo, Toronto, Swimming
 - d. CW - Jordan Canham, Alberta, Volleyball





General/Business Plan.

Please answer Y or N or add words in word cloud format on your device when prompted

Where does U SPORTS provide the highest return in governing National Championships?

A Business Plan for National Championships will be created in 2023-2024 season

Please check all that apply

- ☐ Professionalism of National Level Competition
- ☐ Encouraging elevated Coaching Standards in University Sport (ex. min Coaching Certification to compete at a U SPORTS National Championship)
- ☐ Officiating Development through National Championships?
- ☐ Leader in growing a national and consistent University Broadcast strategy
- ☐ Leader in ensuring the growth in University Sport in Canada?
- ☐ Valued and engaged partner in the Canadian Sport System
- ☐ Other – *please list*





General/Business Plan. Continued.

What do you see as the strengths of a National Championship?

Please write your answer (word cloud)

What do you see as the weaknesses of a National Championship?

Please write your answer (word cloud)

What do you see as the opportunities of a National Championship?

Please write your answer (word cloud)

What do you see as the challenges of a National Championship?

Please write your answer (word cloud)



Topic #1: National Championship Dates.

U SPORTS is reviewing the U SPORTS National Championship schedule / dates to help support conference schedules and to spread out championships on different weekends. Ideally, these changes would take place beginning in 2024 – 2025.

NOTE: This information will be discussed with the conference offices to determine possibilities and impacts on conference schedules/playoffs as well as championship hosts.

We would like to discuss the impacts of moving the Championships as listed on the next slide...





National Championship Dates.

Red – championship was moved back 1 week / Green – championship was moved up 1 week.

Sport	Current Week/Date 2023 / 2024	Proposed Week/Date 2024/ 2025	Proposed Week/Date 2025/ 2026
FALL			
WOMEN'S RUGBY	05-Nov-23	10-Nov-24	09-Nov-25
CROSS COUNTRY	12-Nov-23	09-Nov-24	08-Nov-25
WOMEN'S SOCCER	12-Nov-23	17-Nov-24	16-Nov-25
MEN'S SOCCER	12-Nov-23	17-Nov-24	16-Nov-25
BOWL GAMES	18-Nov-23	23-Nov-24	22-Nov-25
VANIER CUP	25-Nov-23	30-Nov-24	29-Nov-25
WINTER			
SWIMMING	09-Mar-24	22-Feb-25	21-Feb-26
TRACK & FIELD	09-Mar-24	01-Mar-25	28-Feb-26
WOMEN'S BBALL	11-Mar-24	09-Mar-25	07-Mar-26
MEN'S BBALL	11-Mar-24	09-Mar-25	07-Mar-26
WOMEN'S VBALL	18-Mar-24	16-Mar-25	14-Mar-26
MEN'S VBALL	18-Mar-24	16-Mar-25	14-Mar-26
WOMEN'S HOCKEY	18-Mar-24	23-Mar-25	21-Mar-26
MEN'S HOCKEY	18-Mar-24	23-Mar-25	21-Mar-26

Would you be supportive of the following changes to the championship schedule:

Please check all that apply

- ☐ As proposed above.
- ☐ Fall Changes only.
- ☐ Winter changes only.
- ☐ Move M&W hockey championships only.
- ☐ Vanier Cup and bowl games only





Topic #2: National Championship Host Rotation.

Would you support a U SPORTS National Championship conference host rotation?

Currently all team sports are awarded based on the best bid and no host rotation.

Example: Women's Volleyball would be hosted in 2025/26 in AUS; 2026/27 in RSEQ; 2027/28 in OUA & 2028/29 in CW (U SPORTS would conduct a bid processes within the applicable conference)

Please check all that apply

- ☐ In all sports
- ☐ In Market Driven Sports only (Football, Basketball, Hockey, Volleyball)
- ☐ In Non-market Driven sports (Soccer, Rugby)
- ☐ In Individual sports only (Cross Country, Track & Field, Swimming)

What would be the benefits of a U SPORTS National Championship Conference Host Rotation?

Please write answers (word cloud)

What would be the challenges of a U SPORTS National Championship Conference Host Rotation?

Please write answers (word cloud)





National Championship Host Rotation. **Continued.**

Without a conference rotation.... from a **participating** team perspective would you be supportive of awarding a national championship host:

Please check the ones you support

- ☐ For 2 consecutive years
- ☐ For 3 or more consecutive years
- ☐ Prefer to travel to different hosts/locations
- ☐ The best bid should be awarded hosting rights regardless of the years.



National Championship Host Rotation. **Continued.**

Would you be supportive of an additional berth being assigned to a conference that is hosting a championship over a performance or participation criteria?

Y or N

This would increase fan attendance. Example: (Host, Champion, 1 additional berth) regardless of berth structure.



Topic #3: National Championship Bid Process.

In preparation for the next call for bid submissions (Early 2024) which bid timeline is ideal for your preparation:

A bid process typically takes 3 months from call for interest to selection of best bids.

Please check one or both, based on what you support

- ☐ Open bid process at the same time for fall and winter championships
- ☐ Stagger the bid process for fall (*example: bid calls September/ Selection December*) and winter championships (*example: bid calls February/ Selection April*)





National Championship Bid Process. Continued.

Do you feel U SPORTS should consider benefits provided to participating teams as part of the national championship host bid packages?

Recently, there has been more emphasis on selling out the venue and fan experience over providing cost savings to participating teams.

Y or N

If a host were to provide benefits to participating teams as part of their bid package what is most important :

Please rank 1-5 (1 highest)

- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Meals
- ☐ Hotel rooms
- ☐ Sold out venue
- ☐ Any benefit that reduces the financial costs to participating teams



Topic #4: National Championship Berth Criteria. **Assigned Berth - Definition.**

As per U SPORTS PRINCIPLES, the following applies to Berth Criteria.

- Berths will reflect the strength of the Conference
- Competition at the very highest level and performance at key competitions is the ultimate measure for success. Where student-athletes and teams are most likely to be striving for their highest outcome of the season.

Consistent in all Berth Structures:

1 Host + 3/4 Conference Champions (Earned berth) + Assigned berths



National Championship Berth Criteria.

Past Success.

We have compiled results from the past 10 years National Championships (Gold, Silver, Bronze medalists) and believe this is a better measurement of past success than a single year's championship results.

Currently, past success – past medallists is used as a berth structure in Women's Soccer and women's volleyball

*On the next slide we will show the comparison between previous years medallists against past performance.
We would like to know if you are in support of past success as a means for an assigned berth?*

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National Championship Berth Criteria.

Past Success.

Sport	2022 - 2023			TOTALS - 3 YEARS				TOTALS - 10 YEARS			
FALL	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	CW	OUA	RSEQ	AUS	CW	OUA	RSEQ	AUS
WOMEN'S RUGBY	RSEQ	OUA	RSEQ	0	3	6	0	3	11	11	5
WOMEN'S SOCCER	RSEQ	RSEQ	OUA	4	2	3	0	13	6	8	2
MEN'S SOCCER	CW	CW	RSEQ	2	1	4	2	7	6	9	8
WINTER											
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	OUA	OUA	CW	3	5	0	1	9	13	4	4
MEN'S BASKETBALL	OUA	AUS	OUA	3	4	0	2	7	20	0	3
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	CW	CW	AUS	7	1	0	1	23	3*	3	1
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL	CW	RSEQ	OUA	5	1	3		17	8	5	
WOMEN'S HOCKEY	CW	RSEQ	CW	3	2	4	0	10	4	14	2
MEN'S HOCKEY	AUS	CW	OUA	3	2		4	10	7		15

Which do you support as **measuring past success?** You can only choose one.

- ☐ Previous years medallists
- ☐ Last 3 years medallists
- ☐ Past 10-year performance based on medals



National Championship Berth Structures.

Participation.

Participation is currently awarded to the conference with the highest participation ratio per sport. Currently the ratio is 50% more than the smallest conference in each sport for a maximum of 2 berths. Used in Women's Soccer, Women's and Men's Basketball, Men's Hockey, and Men's Volleyball.

- Some members believe that participation berths is a recognition of the strength of their conference and is a more difficult pathway for those teams to qualify for a national championship.
- Some members believe that participation berths should not be based solely on the ratio but should contain a performance component as well.

The same can be said for conferences with few members. Currently, there is no ratio assigned for conferences with few participation numbers.

Example: Women's Hockey.

- Should a ratio be used for conferences with less than 50% than a larger conference?

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National Championship Berth Structures.

Participation.

Do you support consideration given to Participation #s in determining a berth

- ☐ *No*
- ☐ *Yes, for highest participation, an entire berth spot*
- ☐ *Yes, for lowest participation, a cap on berth spot*
- ☐ *Yes but as part of a Weighted % in a formula*

What is the best ratio to represent participation:

- ☐ *50% more than the smallest conference*
- ☐ *50% more than 2 conferences*
- ☐ *50% or more of the teams participating in the sport.*



National Championship Berth Structures.

Equal Representation.

Currently 2-2-2-2 used in Women's rugby, Men's soccer and Women's hockey for allocation of berths.

Sport	TOTALS - 3 YEARS				TOTALS - 10 YEARS				CHANGE	3 YR TO 10 YR
	CW	OUA	RSEQ	AUS	CW	OUA	RSEQ	AUS		
FALL										
WOMEN'S RUGBY	0	3	6	0	3	11	11	5	NO	
MEN'S SOCCER	2	1	4	2	7	6	9	8	YES - 2ND OVERALL	CW TO AUS
WOMEN'S HOCKEY	3	2	4	0	10	4	14	2	NO	

Do you support the use of equal representation to determine berth format in championships with 4 conference participation?

Y or N

For U SPORTS National Championships that have an equal representation berth structure (2 representatives from each conference) should these championships have a host rotation or best bid?

- ☐ Host rotation
- ☐ Best bid





National Championship Berth Structures.

At-Large Berths.

An At-large berth is defined as a team that does not automatically qualify for the National Championship as a conference champion or host. Currently awarded in the sports of Men's and Women's Basketball and is based on several criteria. In Men's Basketball there are 10 criteria and in women's basketball 4 criteria.

Note: Martin Timmerman creates the calculation of the at-large berth criteria in men's and women's basketball as well as the seeding criteria for Men's Volleyball.

Do you support at-large berths as a means of an assigned berth?

Y or N

Would you support at-large berths as a means for ALL assigned berths?

Y or N

What could be some of the drawbacks of increasing the number of at-large berths? (EX. travel coordination, etc.)

At large berths are determined after conference playoffs

Please write your answers (word clouds)



National Championship Berth Structures.

Please tell us what you feel is the definition of an assigned berth:

- ☐ Participation based
- ☐ Past Performance Data
- ☐ Previous year's medallist only
- ☐ Previous three years medals

In assigning the final berths to the championship, which of the following is best:

Please rank in order

- ☐ Past success, participation, at-large berths
- ☐ Participation, past success, at-large Berths
- ☐ Past success, at-large berths
- ☐ Participation, at-large Berths
- ☐ At-large Berths



National Championship. **Format.**

We have two sports that are looking at altering formats which may increase the total championship days.

(1) The MHKY STSC feels the 8-team format causes several issues including 'one and done', facility issues (including team rooms), and limits host capability. They are looking at 6-team format, starting on Wednesday

(2) Rugby STSC is looking at changing format due to health & safety. To meet the world rugby recommendation of 4 clear days between matches, the schedule would be Thursday, Tuesday, Sunday. An increase of 6 days. The increase in costs, # of days away from schools may not be feasible. Would you support a change to a 4-team national championship format (4 conference champions) with a conference host rotation.

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THANK YOU

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NEXT STEPS.