

A PROJECT OF THE JOHN 5, AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Explaining Proposed House Settlement and Impacts: Knight Commission Brief Released

The Knight Commission has produced a resource explaining the proposed *House v.* NCAA settlement. The settlement is both complex and not well understood, yet its implementation will have profound impacts on *all* Division I athletics programs and universities.

The Commission is a leadership group that provides resources on college sports governance, policy and finances. This resource is prepared from the Commission's independent viewpoint and is not intended to replace any NCAA resources. It also should not be viewed as legal advice.

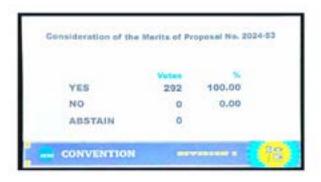
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OVERLOOKED & CHANGING REALITIES:
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HOUSE SETTLEMENT

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Historic Vote for Women's Basketball March Madness Performance Incentives



The Knight Commission commends the NCAA Division I membership for voting unanimously

to begin awarding financial incentives for women's basketball team appearances and victories in the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. The historic vote is both welcome and long overdue—the NCAA has provided similar performance awards for the success of Division I men's basketball programs in March Madness for several decades. The Commission called on NCAA and Division I leaders to make this policy change at the <u>national level three years ago</u>.

The Division I membership vote is a step in the right direction yet does not equalize performance incentives at the March Madness tournament for men's and women's basketball teams—victories by men's teams will still earn much larger awards. However, three Division I conferences – the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, the Southern Conference, and the Big Sky Conference – reward March Madness victories by women's basketball teams at a dollar level equal to that of their men's teams, demonstrating their commitment to rewarding performance by men's and women's basketball teams equally.

The Commission's <u>C.A.R.E. Champion program</u> recognizes these three conferences as leaders among their peers in their commitment to gender equity. Providing gender equitable incentives is one of the standards for achieving the C.A.R.E. Champion distinction, which includes meeting other values-based criteria that integrate education-based principles in financial incentives and athletics spending. These three conferences deserve special recognition for demonstrating that commissioners and college presidents can value success for their women's teams just as much as for their men's teams.







Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics | knightcommission.org