



Today we are asking that the Northwest D1 men's team that finishes 3rd in Regionals on April 28th decline the bid to the National Championships. And we are asking each subsequent team that is offered that bid in each region to similarly decline the bid.

It has now been four consecutive years that BYU CHI men's team has earned a bid during the regular season. The list of other teams that have achieved this consistent success in the men's D1 division reads like a list of ultimate blue bloods: UNC, Oregon, Pitt, Carleton, UMASS, UW, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

In these four years, seniors Nolan Hutchings, Devon Terry and Ben Hodson played on the A-team that earned each bid but never got the chance to defend it. Four times have captains explained to the team our options to play or not play in the series and how that affects our team, our region and the entire men's D1 landscape. Four times at Fall orientation meetings have coaches explained to the potential team members that we will not be accommodated and that our season will end early. Four times have coaches and captains, despite the guaranteed early exit, continued to demand excellence and accountability on and off the field from those that commit to the program and produce one of the most talented and promising teams in the country.

During this four year stretch, the bid was given to the Southeast once in 2016, via FSU, where Auburn earned a trip to Nationals and ultimately finished tied for fifth. In 2017 and 2018, the bid was given to the Northwest region, where Oregon State and Victoria earned a trip to Nationals and ultimately finished tied at 17th.

There are needs to consider for many teams. There are concerns of additional costs and travel, and the already-limited-availability of our sport to a privileged few. These concerns of long-term accommodation are real and must be addressed with long-term solutions. However, we have allowed the existence of these undefined, future challenges to prevent us from moving forward incrementally in meaningful conversation that would approach a solution that works for all.

As such, we are asking that the D1 men's team that finishes third at Northwest Regionals decline the bid. It is a great year—formats 10.2 and 10.3 are identical so your pathway for a bid to Nationals remains unchanged. It does not cost your team an additional dime. It does not take an additional hour away from your studies. It is your chance to say, loud and clear, that an accommodation for BYU that does not unfairly negatively impact your school is an accommodation worth making. Oregon, Washington, Victoria, UBC and all: we ask that you please commit now to decline our bid.

If these teams sign on, and commit to decline our bid to Nationals, the bid will fall to the South Central. These teams have had amazing regular seasons. And they will get a chance to compete at Regionals for one of two bids to Nationals. Should our extra bid fall your way, please decline it. BYU earned it for the Northwest with our play during the regular season, just as Colorado and Texas earned bids for your region. It will not cost you any additional money, time, or competitive imbalance. Colorado, Texas, Colorado State, Texas Tech and all: Please commit now to decline our bid.



If the Northwest and South Central decline our bid, each region's qualifiers will have their chance to take our bid. Please, do not take our bid. The appeal of a bid is real: the extra weeks of practice, the attention individual players get at Nationals, the immortal signifier of 'Nationals-qualifier' qualifying your team and your personal playing resume for years to come is real. The experience your team gets competing under the brightest lights on the biggest stage is real. But it rings hollow if you take our bid. Competing these last four years against teams that have the privilege of using our bid to improve as a team at Nationals is a struggle that has made us stronger.

And then what? One hundred and twenty teams play at Regionals and only nineteen accept a bid to Nationals? One hundred and one schools pass up the chance to cash in on a chance to play for a national championship and what happens next? We do not know.

Maybe USA Ultimate offers it to each team that played at their conference championships. Maybe each of those teams turn down the bid. Maybe USA Ultimate then offers that bid to BYU. Maybe we achieve the pinnacle of the college sport. Maybe we make it to quarters.

Maybe USA Ultimate adheres to the letter of the law, noting that by forfeiting we are removed from any further consideration for series play and the bid falls unclaimed. The Format Manual has planned for this exact scenario, with a nineteen team, one bid format. Nineteen teams compete at the national championships, with a team being crowned champion that avoided having to beat BYU. For the five teams in the top ten that have all lost to BYU this year, maybe that signifies an easier road to the title game.

We ask that teams decline our bid not to gain a competitive advantage for ourselves, but to participate in the series while adhering to our religious beliefs and in accordance with our university policy.

Three years the bid has gone to other schools. We politely 'contest' the call that we again maintain status quo and instead insist that we send the bid back to the thrower. We have ceded best perspective three consecutive times and, in 2019, implore that you decline our bid.