



October 15, 2018

## NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Update

Division I women's basketball leaders are taking strategic steps to improve the game, and we want to keep you apprised of two significant developments. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the staff liaisons associated with either issue.

**1. Commission on College Basketball Recommendations:** During its Oct. 1-2 meeting, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee finalized its strategy for reviewing and considering action relevant to the Commission on College Basketball's recommendations. The committee established three subcommittees composed of oversight committee members (recruiting and event certification, professional athletics opportunities and diversity in coaching). Each of the three subcommittees will include additional membership representatives as ex officio members, who will provide special expertise and perspective. The anticipated timeline for each topic follows:



Staff contacts: Binh Nguyen, Meredith Cleaver and Lynn Holzman  
Committee chair: Rich Ensor, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference commissioner

**2. Development of NCAA Evaluation Tool for Women’s Basketball:** During the 2018-19 season, the Division I Women’s Basketball Committee will study and evaluate the NCAA Evaluation Tool (NET) with the goal of developing a NET specific to women’s basketball. As a reminder, in August the Division I Men’s Basketball Committee announced that a new metric, dubbed the NET, would be used for the 2018-19 season. Factors included in the men’s basketball NET ranking include: game results, strength of schedule, game location, scoring margin (capped at 10 points per contest) and net efficiency (offensive efficiency minus defensive efficiency).

The Rating Percentage Index (best known as RPI) will no longer be used to evaluate teams for the Division I Men’s Basketball Championship, nor will it be used as a factor for seeding or bracketing. However, the RPI still will be used for other NCAA championships, including women’s basketball in 2018-19. (See details about the use of the NET for Division I men’s basketball via this [link](#).) With the NET in play for the 2018-19 men’s basketball season, it provides an opportunity for women’s basketball to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation tool. It’s important to recognize that factors highlighted by the Division I Men’s Basketball Committee regarding team evaluation do not always translate to the women’s game. While the Division I Women’s Basketball Committee continues to seek out the best team evaluation options, one of the first steps in this analysis will be to dig further into data from recent years to help determine what factors should be emphasized when analyzing the resume of a team. As the Women’s Basketball Committee conducts this evaluation during the 2018-19 season, it will rely on analytics and data experts to guide its work. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Staff contacts: Rick Nixon, Meredith Cleaver and Lynn Holzman

Women’s Basketball Committee chair: Rhonda Lundin Bennett, University of Nevada, Reno, senior associate athletics director.

*This email was sent to NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners, NCAA Division I Conference Senior Women Administrators, NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee and the WBCA.*