



NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Update - August 2019

As Division I women's basketball leaders continue to focus on taking strategic steps to improve our game, we want to keep you apprised of significant developments. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the staff liaisons associated with the specific issue.

1. NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee Update from July 15-17:

a. Regional Format. The Division I Women's Basketball Committee completed its comprehensive review of regional format. Effective for the 2023 championship, a two-site regional format with eight teams at each site will be implemented. This adjustment to the regional format will:

- (1) Elevate and enhance the student-athlete experience.
- (2) Create opportunity for fan engagement, growth of the sport and the championship through an increased focus on developing annually two regional markets.
- (3) Support building the brand of women's basketball within the host cities.
- (4) Provide opportunities to expand established community programming and create new programming targeting strategic plan initiatives (for example, coach and officiating pipelines, student-athlete career development and health and well-being).
- (5) Enhanced broadcast coverage of the championship.

b. Site Selection. The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship will be included in the NCAA championship site selection process to award predetermined regional sites for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 and NCAA Women's Final Four sites for 2025 and 2026. Visit ncaa.org/bids when the process begins Aug. 26.

c. NCAA Evaluation Tool update. The committee conducted its annual assessment of the Rating Percentage Index system, noting that the RPI will remain the sole provider of supplemental data for the evaluation of teams for at-large selection and seeding of the 2020 championship bracket. The committee supported taking next steps so that the NCAA Evaluation Tool, known as the NET, is in place for the start of the 2020-21 season. Steps include analysis of women's basketball statistical data over multiple years to build the women's basketball algorithm, which includes:

- (1) Game results.
- (2) Strength of schedule.
- (3) Game location.
- (4) Scoring margin and net efficiency (offensive efficiency - defensive efficiency).

As assessment continues, the committee will solicit the feedback of the women's coaching community and other key stakeholders. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

d. Cooling-Off Period Changes. The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship will be following a new cooling-off period protocol in 2020. The cooling-

off period, established for coaches to be with their student-athletes in the locker room after the game, begins when the head coach reaches the locker room area immediately after the game or interview with ESPN, NCAA Radio Network and/or an institution's radio network.

(1) After first-round, second-round, regional and national semifinal games, the winning coach and designated players will be escorted to the postgame news conference room first, with the nonadvancing coach and designated players to follow at the conclusion of the winning team's interview. The cooling-off period is 10 minutes for the winning team and 20 minutes for the nonadvancing team.

(2) After the regional final and national championship games, the nonadvancing team will be escorted to the news conference room first following a 15-minute cooling-off period, while the winning team shall have a five-minute cooling-off period after reaching the locker room after the postgame awards ceremony.

Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Rick Nixon

Committee chair: Rhonda Lundin Bennett, senior associate athletics director, Nevada

2. Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Update:

a. Commission on College Basketball and Review for Women's Basketball. The three subcommittees have conducted teleconferences over the summer and will provide the oversight committee with an update at its October in-person meeting. The goal is to propose legislation for the 2019-20 cycle, if appropriate. The following are the areas under review by each subcommittee:



b. USA Women's National Team To Compete Against College Teams in Preparation for 2020 Olympics. In a collaborative effort to grow women's basketball and to assist with Olympic preparations, a waiver was approved and supported by the oversight committee and the WBCA to permit select college teams to compete in exhibition games in 2019-20 against the USA national team.

(1) This is part of an expanded USA women's national team training plan that will benefit the growth of women's basketball and has the support of important stakeholders. View the full release [here](#).

(2) The exhibition games will occur before two FIBA tournament windows (e.g., November, February).

- (3) Similar tours were conducted before the 1996, 2000 and 2008 Olympic games.
- (4) The competing collegiate teams selected by USA Basketball will be announced on a later date.

Staff contact: Lynn Holzman and Binh Nguyen
 Committee chair: Lisa Campos, University of Texas at San Antonio athletics director

3. Officiating Program.

a. Penny Davis Named NCAA Women’s Basketball National Coordinator of Officials. Davis comes to the position with a tremendous amount of officiating experience at every level, especially in Division I, where she has worked the NCAA Women’s Final Four multiple times. That combined with her work as an off-court training instructor, evaluator and officiating leader gives her a depth of background that will allow her to lead our officiating program. View the full release [here](#).

b. Future Meetings and Clinics Schedule.

- (1) Sept. 6-7, Conference Coordinators Meeting, *Indianapolis*.
- (2) Sept. 21-22, Regional Clinic, *Phoenix*.
- (3) Sept. 28-29, Regional Clinic, *Atlanta*.
- (4) Oct. 5-6, Regional Clinic, *Indianapolis*.
- (5) Oct. 18-19, Regional Clinic, *Philadelphia*.

4. 2019-24 NCAA Women’s Basketball Strategic Plan. The NCAA women’s basketball strategic plan is a game plan designed to guide decision-making in the sport across all three NCAA divisions. Our vision: Unify and grow the women’s basketball community; empower student-athletes to achieve their full potential; celebrate and elevate the game; and create an inspiring experience for all involved.



The values of teamwork, inclusion, passion, excellence and integrity drive the unique identity of NCAA women’s basketball. Values drive behavior, and sharing these values across all of women’s basketball is important.

As we work to grow the sport, we encourage others to join us in being champions for women’s basketball. Action plans and priorities will be communicated in the next few weeks.

- View the strategic plan and other related information at ncaa.org/wbbstrategicplan.

Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman, Binh Nguyen and Amy Reis

This email was sent to NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners, NCAA Division I Senior Woman Administrators, NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Head Coaches, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee and the WBCA based on contact information in the [NCAA Directory](#).

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