



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 23, 2019, MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Team discussion.** Committee members provided reports of teams under consideration for selection from their respective primary and secondary conference monitoring assignments.
2. **Championship format.** The committee will conduct a review of regional format to include number of sites and strategy of locations in response to key stakeholder feedback as a part of the NCAA women's basketball strategic plan development. The review will begin immediately and conclude no later than summer 2019 in preparation for the championship-wide bid process, which will begin in August. Additionally, the committee supported including the 2025 and 2026 Women's Final Four site selection as a part of the championship-wide process. The committee also supported a review of the non-predetermined hosting policy for first and second rounds specific to institutions whose home women's basketball facility is unavailable during the first and second round dates and may want to host in an alternate facility.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Executive session.** The committee conducted an executive session before the meeting.
2. **Vice president update.** Lynn Holzman highlighted meetings held on January 22 with the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee (WBOC) and Division I Strategic Planning and Vision Committee to provide an overview of the NCAA women's basketball strategic plan development. The Women's Basketball Strategic Plan Steering Committee will participate on a panel during the NCAA Convention session on January 24 titled "NCAA Women's Basketball Strategic Plan 2019-2024: From Tip-Off to the Final Buzzer". Ms. Holzman also provided an update on the WBOC's review of college basketball reform concepts and applicability to women's basketball.
3. **Update from the November 14-15 women's basketball committee meeting.** The committee approved the meeting report from their November 14-15 meeting. Rhonda Bennett highlighted key outcomes from the meeting including selection of Diane Turnham, senior associate athletic director and senior women's administrator at Middle Tennessee State University, as chair for the 2019-2020 season, formal invitation of Division II and Division III women's basketball committees to approve a Divisions I, II and III women's basketball joint championship in Dallas, Texas in 2023, and new ticket age limit policy in effect for the 2019 championship first and second rounds.

- 4. Update from January 22 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee meeting.** Ms. Bennett reviewed the discussions from the oversight committee's meeting at NCAA Convention. Discussions from that meeting were high level and included legislative items, women's basketball strategic plan and college basketball reform concepts.
- 5. Development of NCAA women's basketball strategic plan 2019-2024.** Sandy Hatfield Clubb and Carolyn Schlie Femovich of The Pictor Group provided the committee with a review of the plan development to date and led the committee through a brainstorming session to identify action plans to support the pillars, goals and strategies of the plan. The committee supported the continuous development of the plan and endorsed it in its current draft format.
- 6. Review of Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) rankings.** Rick Nixon reviewed the most recent reports from the RAC rankings. The committee noted the next series of calls are scheduled for February 6.
- 7. Team discussion.** Committee members provided reports of teams under consideration for selection from their respective primary and secondary conference monitoring assignments. Included in the discussion were feedback by committee members of games watched to date, a variety of metrics that included RPI, strength of schedule, Regional Advisory Committee rankings, review of injured and unavailable student-athletes, verbal feedback shared by the conference offices and future key games. The committee noted the first deadline for conferences to submit their conference monitoring reports is January 28.
- 8. Review of committee teams watched report.** Ms. Bennett reminded the committee of upcoming deadlines to for the games watched report, highlighting Feb. 6 for all games watched prior to February and March 6 for all games watched during February.
- 9. Review of Top 16 voting process.** The committee reviewed the plan for two public releases of the Top 16 in seed order. As a part of the public release, all teams will be assigned to regional sites using the bracketing policies and procedures. These reveals will take place during ESPN Big Monday game broadcasts on February 11 and March 4.
- 10. RPI/Selection/Bracketing Subcommittee report.** Debbie Richardson provided an overview from the subcommittee's most recent teleconferences and meeting including a continued focus and review of the NCAA Evaluation Tool. The committee will seek insight and feedback from the Division I men's basketball committee as it assesses current and future metrics.
- 11. Officiating Subcommittee report.** Leslie Claybrook reviewed the subcommittee's preparation for the 2019 championship and provided an update on the regular season.

## **12. Update on site selection.**

- a. First and second rounds.** The committee received an update on bids received for hosting first- and second-round games. NCAA staff will be reviewing all bids during the coming weeks and working with the bidding institutions to ensure that their bids meet the minimum requirements for hosting. The committee will receive a second update at its February meeting. The 2019 championship marks the fifth year of non-predetermined Top 16 seeds hosting the first and second rounds at their home women's basketball facility. The committee supported a review of the non-predetermined hosting policy specific to institutions whose home women's basketball facility is unavailable during the first and second round dates and may want to host in an alternate facility. During its summer meeting, the committee will review championship finances, proximity to the home facility, consideration of neutral versus on-campus and minimum capacity, among other criteria, relative to a proposed alternate facility.
- b. Regionals and Women's Final Four.** The committee reviewed the timeline for the upcoming NCAA championship site selection process to award predetermined sites for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 which is tentatively scheduled to begin in August 2019. The committee agreed it was important for women's basketball to be included in the championship-wide bid process and that a review of regional format to include number of regional sites and strategy of locations is necessary before the process begins. The committee will conduct the review which will include requesting feedback from key stakeholders as needed. The Division I women's basketball championship has already awarded regional sites through 2022 and Women's Final Four through 2024. The committee supported including the 2025 and 2026 Women's Final Four site selection as a part of the championship-wide process.

- 13. Update on 2019 Championship.** Rob Higgins and Claire Lessinger from the Tampa Bay Sports Commission provided a review of the 2019 Women's Final Four ticket sales and planning efforts, highlighting legacy programming for the 2019 Women's Final Four including the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beyond the Baseline program, expansion of Junior Journalism with Tampa Bay's established Press Pass program and plans to reach 90,000 grade school age students through the Read to the Final Four program. Though many other special events are planned, Ms. Lessinger highlighted Tourney Town, Salute, Bounce, Super Saturday, Party on the Plaza and red-carpet arrivals.

*Committee Chair:* Rhonda Bennett, University of Nevada, Reno, Mountain West Conference  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Meredith Cleaver, Women's Basketball  
Lynn Holzman, Women's Basketball

<b>NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee  January 23, 2019, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Ceal Barry, University of Colorado, Boulder; Pac-12 Conference.
Rhonda Bennett, University of Nevada, Reno; Mountain West Conference.
Ken Bothof, University of Northern Kentucky; Horizon League Conference.
DeJuena Chizer, University of Houston; American Athletic Conference.
Leslie Claybrook, Southeastern Conference.
Nina King, Duke University; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Teresa Phillips, Tennessee State University; Ohio Valley Conference.
Debbie Richardson, Atlantic 10 Conference.
Tamica Smith Jones, University of California, Riverside; Big West Conference.
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University; Conference USA.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Sandy Hatfield Clubb and Carolyn Schlie Femovich, The Pictor Group.
Rob Higgins and Claire Lessinger, Tampa Bay Sports Commission.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>
Meredith Cleaver and Lynn Holzman.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Dan Gavitt, Greg Johnson, Rick Nixon and Amy Reis.