



## NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Update - May 2020

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. NET Announcement.** On May 4, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee announced that beginning with the upcoming 2020-21 season, the NCAA Evaluation Tool will replace the Ratings Percentage Index as the contemporary sorting tool used to measure a team's quality and help evaluate team resumes for selection and seeding in the Division I Women's Basketball Championship. The use of the women's basketball NET was approved after a lengthy evaluation process, which included an analysis of women's basketball statistical data over a 10-year period by a team from Google Cloud Professional Services. The Division I Women's Basketball Committee concluded the NET algorithm built exclusively for women's basketball was an optimal ranking tool and should be used beginning with the coming season.

Story: <https://bit.ly/35QQ8Ae>

FAQ: <https://bit.ly/3fBmvqZ>

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
The NCAA Evaluation Tool (NET) for women's basketball is the contemporary sorting tool used to measure a team's quality and help evaluate team resumes for selection and seeding in the NCAA tournament. NET ranking is determined by who you played, where you played, how efficiently you played and the result of the game.

The NET ranking is one of many criteria used by the Division I Women's Basketball Committee in the selection and seeding of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. (Alphabetical Order)

- Availability of talent
- Bad losses
- Common opponents
- Competitive in losses
- Conference record
- Early competition versus late competition
- Head to head
- NET ranking
- Non-conference record
- Overall record
- Regional rankings
- Strength of schedule
- Significant wins
- Strength of conference

**NET INCLUDES:**  
Adjusted Net Efficiency and Team Value Index. Adjusted Net Efficiency reflects the overall efficiency of a team (point differential per possession), while Team Value Index measures the wins and losses. Both are adjusted for schedule, looking at games against Division I opponents only.

**1 ADJUSTED NET EFFICIENCY**  
Includes:

**EFFICIENCY =**  
OFFENSIVE EFFICIENCY (PTS/POSS) - DEFENSIVE EFFICIENCY (OPP PTS/POSS)

**STRENGTH OF OPPONENTS PLAYED**

**LOCATION OF GAME**  
(Home/Away/Neutral)

**2 TEAM VALUE INDEX**  
Algorithm set up to reward teams who beat other good teams. Results-oriented component of the NET.

BASED ON:

**WINS AND LOSSES**

FACTORS:

OPPONENT  
LOCATION  
WINNER

TEAM VALUE INDEX SCORE

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Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Rick Nixon

Team Selection Subcommittee chair: Debbie Richardson, senior associate commissioner, Atlantic 10 Conference

## 2. COVID-19 Information and Resources.

- The NCAA Sport Science Institute has developed and collected various resources related to COVID-19, including the resocialization of college sports. The webpage can be found [here](#).
- A weekly question and answer guide on compliance and regulatory questions is available to the membership on [ncaa.org](#) on the Division I Compliance page. This resource will be updated after the weekly NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee teleconferences.

Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver and Binh Nguyen

**3. Championship Site Selection Progress.** The process to select championship host sites for fall 2022 through spring 2026 is underway and includes Division I regionals and Women's Final Four (2025 and 2026 only), Division II Elite Eight and Division III semifinals and finals. Beginning in 2023, Division I will implement the two-site, eight-team regional format. The Division II and III finals will be held at the American Airlines Center in Dallas in conjunction with the 2023 Women's Final Four. All bids have been submitted and all NCAA championships host cities will be announced in October. Visit [ncaa.org/bids](#) for more information.

Staff contact: Meredith Cleaver

Committee and Site Selection Subcommittee chair: Diane Turnham, senior associate athletics director, Middle Tennessee

**4. Playing rules update.** The NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee conducted its annual meeting May 6-7. Since it was not a rules change year, the committee did not approve any new rules changes for the 2020-21 season. However, the committee agreed to continue experimenting with bench technology and the men's 3-point line next season. Data collected from the experimental rules will allow the rules committee to better evaluate and make more informed decisions regarding potential rules changes.

Staff contact: Rachel Seewald

## 5. NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee update.

**a. Commission on College Basketball and review for women's basketball.** The oversight committee received an update on the status of initiatives stemming from the review and further discussed and refined the former student-athlete fellow concept, which is designed to develop a pipeline for minority and female coaches in women's basketball. The committee will seek membership feedback on the fellow concept this spring and summer.

**b. NCAA Board of Directors' referral to examine the composition of NCAA Division I women's basketball related committees.** The committee received an update on the work of the joint working group with men's basketball tasked with initially reviewing the referral from the Board of Directors. The joint working group will continue its work on teleconferences this spring and have a formal concept for membership feedback in late spring/early summer.

Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Binh Nguyen

Committee chair: Lisa Campos, vice president for intercollegiate athletics, University of Texas at San Antonio

**6. 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.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 2019-24 STRATEGIC PLAN

**"WE TIP WITH EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY"**

**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.

**TEAMWORK**  
We achieve success in terms of what we accomplish together.

**INCLUSION**  
We embrace diversity and celebrate differences.

**PASSION**  
We aspire to be the best we can be in all we do.

**EXCELLENCE**  
We succeed in education, basketball and our lives.

**INTEGRITY**  
We honor and respect the game and each other.

**We're building our plan on the following goal areas:**

- Leadership**  
NCAA Women's Basketball leads within and beyond the sport to unify and strengthen the game and our community.
- Transformational Student-Athlete Experience**  
NCAA Women's Basketball shall be the gold standard for how participation in intercollegiate athletics serves as an integral component of the higher education experience and prepares student-athletes for life after college.
- Quality Competition**  
NCAA Women's Basketball shall administer and shape the game to showcase the commitment student-athletes and coaches devote to skill development and team play at the highest level.
- Memorable Championships**  
NCAA Women's Basketball Championships are the pinnacle of the student-athlete experience. We commit to providing the best and brightest stage on which to celebrate our game.
- Building Affinity**  
The unique identity of NCAA Women's Basketball is all about the connection people feel to the game, student-athletes and coaches.

**It's the time to execute strategies that lead us to victory.**  
With those as our guideposts, our strategic plan will elevate our game and our community. We're intentional about the steps we're taking to achieve our goals. We've set a course that will benefit those who play the game — and those who oversee it — in all three divisions for years to come.

**2019-20 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL YEAR ONE PRIORITIES**

**PROGRESS TO DATE**

**LEADERSHIP**  
Diversity, Professional Development and Retention.  
100% Women's basketball established a committee to advance diversity, professional development and retention of coaches, and increase opportunities for women and minorities.

100% USA National Team Collaboration.  
NCAA women's basketball teams were granted a waiver to allow exhibition competitions against the USA Basketball national team during the 2019-20 season. The collaborative effort celebrates and promotes the growth of women's basketball, and provides the opportunity for student-athletes to compete at the highest level of competition while preparing the USA Women's National Team for the 2020 Olympics in Japan.

100% Coaches Credentialing Pilot.  
Women's basketball coaches participated in the inaugural NCAA Coaches Credential Pilot study. This collaborative effort between the NCAA, WBCA and NABC was administered to inform future efforts to expand credentialing across NCAA sports. Evaluation of the first-year coaches credentialing pilot program will assess its effectiveness and help further define the program moving forward.

50% WBB Key Stakeholders Collaboration and Youth Basketball Participation.  
Monthly teleconferences are held with leadership of key stakeholders of the game (e.g. NCAA, USA Basketball, WNBA and ESPN) on ways to further engage and grow women's basketball fans, including a focus on youth sport development.

**QUALITY COMPETITION**  
Innovative Technology.  
100% Regular-season and conference tournaments received a playing rules review to use new technologies (e.g. live stats). Work continues with youth and playing rules committees to explore innovations to elevate the game.

**MEMORABLE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
New Division I Regional Format.  
100% A new four-site, eight-team per site regional model will be implemented for the 2023 championship. The new model will elevate and enhance the student-athlete experience, provide focused efforts to grow the sport in host cities, increase programming opportunities and align with strategic priorities (e.g., coach and coaching pipeline, student-athlete career development, health and well-being).

100% Conference Monitoring Program and Regional Advisory Committee (RAC).  
An annual evaluation program has been implemented to solicit conference feedback on the impact and success of the Conference Monitoring Program and RAC and ensure integrity in the team selection and seeding process.

**BUILDING AFFINITY**  
Digital Road Trip.  
75% To build interest in the game, the NCAA digital team created the Division I Women's Basketball National Media Day platform. The team produced a road to highlighting women's basketball student-athletes and coaches, evaluating pressroom awareness and capturing content to directly connect the women's basketball community through telling the sport's compelling story.

**UPCOMING PRIORITIES**

**LEADERSHIP**  
Coaches Credentialing Phase II.  
0% Women's basketball coaches from all three divisions are engaged in a process to create the framework for a Women's Basketball Coaches Credential as the model for coaches credentialing across other NCAA sports.

**QUALITY COMPETITION**  
Experimental Playing Rules Review.  
25% Review current experimental playing rules used during regular-season and conference tournaments, and evaluate the opportunity for use during women's basketball championships.

25% 2021 NCAA Playing Rules Cycle.  
Review and recommend playing rule changes specific to the use of technology during competition in the 2021 NCAA rules cycle.

**BUILDING AFFINITY**  
Media Advisory Group.  
25% Launch a media advisory group for national media to shape quarterly on women's basketball issues and the state of the game.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 2019-24 STRATEGIC PLAN

As we work to grow the sport, we encourage others to join us in being champions for women's basketball.

- View the strategic plan in its entirety at [ncaa.org/wbbstrategicplan](https://ncaa.org/wbbstrategicplan).
- View the year one progress report and upcoming priorities [here](#).

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, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association based on contact information in the [NCAA Directory](#).*