



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 15-17, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Video review requirement for hosting preliminary rounds.

- (1) Recommendation. That any institution interested in hosting any round of the Division III Women's Basketball Championship be required to provide a video review setup. The minimum requirements would be one camera angle and a rewindable stream.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The championship semifinals/final have used video review for many years, which has added value to those tournament games. The committee recommends requiring video review capabilities for all rounds and host sites to ensure a consistent student-athlete experience. Further, it is important for coaches to have consistent procedures throughout the championship, so they are not navigating rules and policies they are unfamiliar with for the first time during the semifinals and final. The use of video review is becoming more common in conference games and conference tournaments, given the increase in technology and streaming capabilities. Many Division III institutions stream home competitions and currently are able to rewind the stream, even if they do not currently use video review. The only additional equipment needed is an additional laptop or iPad at the scorer's table. The committee does not think this would be cost prohibitive for institutions. Further, many institutions can use hard-wired internet at the scorer's table, which reduces any concern about internet reliability for streaming. During the NCAA tournament, there is an alternate official at the table that would be there to help with video review procedures.

Based on an informal poll, twelve conferences indicated using video review during the regular season in some capacity, and another five indicated using video review for postseason competition. There were a few other conferences considering video review in the future and several did not respond.

Having the ability to use video review to determine game outcomes (e.g., whether a shot is released before time expired), is paramount for the integrity of the sport. The committee strives to facilitate an elevated experience during championship competition for student-athletes, coaches and spectators. Given the increasing use of video review during the regular season and conference tournaments, the committee

presumes that the lack of video review for the preliminary rounds is a diminished experience for many participating teams. Most institutions have the ability to provide this service, thus the committee feels strongly that video review should be provided throughout all rounds of the championship and that it is a reasonable expectation for prospective hosts.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This effort is to raise the quality of the student-athlete experience for all rounds of the championship.

b. Future joint championship in 2028.

- (1) Recommendation. That the 2028 Division III Women's Basketball Championship take place at Gainbridge Fieldhouse or alternate venue in Indianapolis as part of the Women's Final Four.
- (2) Effective date. March/April 2028.
- (3) Rationale. The women's basketball committee embraces the tremendous opportunity for Division III women's basketball to participate in a joint championship with Divisions I and II. The joint championship would provide an outstanding student-athlete experience for the two teams that advance to Indianapolis, as well as the opportunity for greater exposure for the division at the Women's Final Four. The committee acknowledges that the Division III Championship Committee, during its September 2018 meeting, agreed to the concept of staging the Division III Women's Basketball Championship in conjunction with the Women's Final Four twice over a 10-year period. The other joint championships in 2016 (Indianapolis) and 2023 (Dallas) provided exceptional experiences for the Division III student-athletes. The Division III Women's Basketball Committee expects a similar experience will be offered in 2028 and looks forward to another joint championship in Indianapolis. The Women's Basketball Coaches Association supports continuing future joint championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$250,000.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The student-athletes who advance to the championship game would be able to participate in several activities surrounding the Women's Final Four, including the Salute, an introduction during the semifinals of the Women's Final Four, involvement with in-venue and game presentation opportunities at the Division I championship game, and the winning team being introduced during the Division I championship game as the Division III national champion. These experiences provide lifelong positive memories. The student-athletes who advance to the championship would miss four additional days of class time to attend the championship; however,

the committee asserts the impact of missing class time is mitigated by the ability to conduct academic pursuits via online platforms.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2023 annual meeting report.** The NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee reviewed and approved the 2023 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **National and regional advisory committees (RAC).** The committee reviewed the national committee roster and the RAC roster and noted term expirations and immediate openings.
3. **Review of 2024 championship.**
 - a. **Process review.** The committee reviewed the various videoconferences, selections, rankings and other items in the championship planning process and execution. The committee decided to implement or continue the following items:
 - Continue to conduct the RAC ranking calls on Monday and conduct the national ranking calls and publish rankings on Tuesdays;
 - Continue to release the top-16 reveal in conjunction with the men's committee.
 - Continue to conduct the prospective host call prior to selections and instructed staff to coordinate with the men's committee to conduct the prospective host call jointly as an efficient use of time for the attendees;
 - Continue the site representative call following selections to touch base with the assigned site representatives and be a resource for them to ask questions;
 - Staff stated it has initiated conversations with human resources to produce an RAC orientation and Site Rep orientation as part of the NCAA Learning Portal. The goal is to have these orientations assigned with a designated completion date
 - Continue the bracket working group's efforts, which have significantly improved the bracketing process. Gabby Lisella was appointed to lead the group for 2025.
 - Continue assigning the game times for preliminary rounds. The committee made a few adjustments to the staggered start times; and
 - Recommended to move the committee call to discuss the sectional hosts to 10 a.m. Eastern time Saturday to talk through scenarios based on the remaining teams.
 - b. **Preliminary rounds.** The committee reviewed the preliminary-round procedures and survey feedback and recommended the following:
 - Instructed staff to send a letter to one host outlining items that generated negative feedback.
 - Voted to require video review as an expectation for hosting (see Action Item 2-a. above).
 - Voted to remove the Thursday administrative meeting conducted after schools are on site as most agenda items are already covered on the virtual pod calls on

Monday/Tuesday. The committee instructed staff to add a few items to the virtual pod calls to ensure all items are addressed during that call.

- Adjusted the practice and shootaround times to be consistent at 90 minutes and 75 minutes, respectively. Previously, the manuals listed a minimum time, but having a standardized time is preferred.

c. **Finals site.** The committee reviewed the finals site and survey feedback. While most items remained unchanged, the committee did make the following recommendations:

- Instructed staff to get feedback from the four participating teams' head coaches if they prefer a banquet for the four teams or individual team dinners.
- Removed the pre-championship meeting at the finals site. Many of the items discussed are duplicative or could be addressed at the practices or shootarounds. In the past, the main reason to meet in person was to submit the roster for the weekend. Now that rosters can change from Friday to Saturday and more student-athletes can practice and warm up, a formal submission is no longer needed before game day.
- Removed the in-person advancing team meeting held after the second semifinal. Many agenda items can be addressed on the participating teams' virtual call after sectionals and/or at shootarounds (i.e., confirm uniform color, confirm arrival times for the game, and officiating assignments). The thumb-drive with the semifinals game film, which was given to coaches at the in-person meeting, now will be delivered to the team hotel by the assigned committee liaison.
- The semifinalists conference call which takes place on Monday after sectionals will be held at 10 a.m. Eastern time (previously was held at noon Eastern time).
- Staff was instructed to request that the official merchandiser provide both men's and women's sizing to sell at the championship. Women's sizing was not available at the 2024 women's championship, and the committee feels that is not inclusive of all attendees.

4. **NPI and Division III Championship Committee topics discussion.** The committee welcomed Laura Peterson-Mlynski, and Tim Danehy, NPI, and J.P. Williams joined virtually.

- a. **Division III Championship Committee topics.** The committee inquired about a few items that were under discussion after the 2023 annual meeting and received some updates to in-region waiver process, high-cost city designations, and providing video review as a requirement for hosting. Mr. Williams said that in-region waivers were receiving additional attention, and that high-cost city designation is still under discussion. The committee noted its recommendation to require video review as an expectation for hosting (see Action Item 2-a above).
- b. **NPI.** Mr. Danehy provided a walkthrough of the NPI system and adjusted the dials per committee requests. The committee discussed the current NPI dials and not having a metric that directly accounts for head-to-head results. The committee expressed an interest in having a head-to-head metric, as that could influence rankings for teams in scenarios where

their NPI's are very close. The committee also discussed the introduction of a threshold of a minimum number of games that are considered in the NPI ranking process.

The committee expressed concern about the timeline for implementation and stressed the importance of communication and educating the membership of the new ranking and selection tool.

Overall, the discussion was enlightening, and the committee looks forward to additional time with Mr. Danehy this spring and summer to work on setting the dials for the upcoming season.

5. **Women's basketball presentation.** Lynn Holzman, NCAA vice president of women's basketball, discussed current issues in the sport. Sandy Hatfield Clubb from the Pictor Group joined via Microsoft Teams as a guest of the committee. Ms. Hatfield Clubb and Holzman asked the committee questions related to their current work in revisiting/updating the women's basketball strategic plan.
6. **Officials.** Donnie Souders, Division III women's basketball national coordinator of officials, presented his annual report. The committee reaffirmed its position regarding not assigning an official who has worked many games with one team (regular season and postseason) and be deemphasized the need to track that information. The committee noted a couple of concerns from the semifinals/final for Mr. Souders to address.
7. **Division III governance presentation.** Eric Hartung, NCAA director of governance and policy, joined the committee to provide updates from the NCAA Convention as well as other initiatives underway in Division III. In particular, he discussed the ever-changing landscape of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and transfers.
8. **Preview of the 2025 Championship.** The committee adjusted the approach of championship week by moving the community engagement to the off day (Friday) because of the length of the practice day and the number of responsibilities teams have that day. The committee also decided not to award the mini-trophies on the court to the semifinalist or runners-up.

The committee then welcomed several members of the 2025 and 2026 local organizing committee (City of Salem, Old Dominion Athletic Conference and Roanoke College) who joined the meeting virtually. The committee explained its desire to move community engagement to Friday and asked for ideas they may have for the banquet. The hosts explained the plan they have for the 2024 Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship banquet to use a banquet space, as well as the pinball museum and the arcade. The hosts told the committee they would report back how it went to consider whether women's basketball would like to replicate it. The committee also suggested that the hosts secure a pep band to play at the semifinals and final.

9. **Review automatic qualification applications.** The committee reviewed the applications and noted that several conferences had not submitted their forms. Staff was instructed to contact those conferences missing forms and request submission. The committee will review all of the applications at its summer meeting.
10. **2026-27 and 2027-28 Bid process.** The committee reviewed the submitted bids for the upcoming cycle and made a list of top contenders. More detailed discussion will take place in late June or early July when the committee will meet to finalize its recommendations.

The committee has received an invitation from the Division I Women's Basketball Committee to join Division I and Division II in a joint championship held at the 2028 Women's Final Four in Indianapolis. The committee voted to accept the invitation (see Action Item 2-b above).
11. **Manuals.** The committee will reconvene in the summer to review manuals as other agenda items took priority during its time at the annual meeting.
12. **Dates of future meetings.** The committee will determine a time to meet in the summer to discuss bids and review manual. The 2025 annual meeting will be conducted April 14-16.

Committee Chair: Bethany Dannelly, Washington and Lee University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

Staff Liaison: Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Women's Basketball Committee April 15-17, 2024, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bethany Dannelly, Washington and Lee University.	
Tom Emberley, Farmingdale State College.	
Kristin Hughes, Smith College.	
John Jones, Hanover College.	
KJ Krasco, Middlebury College.	
Gabrielle Lisella, Rowan University.	
Rebecca Mullen, Atlantic East Conference.	
Suzy Venet Pietz, University of Mount Union.	
Kendra Whitehead, Hardin-Simmons University.	
Megan Wilson, University of Dubuque.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Brad Bankston, Old Dominion Athletic Conference, 2025 and 2026 cohost.	

Tim Danehy, NPI.
John Farmer, Roanoke College, 2025 and 2026 championship venue.
Carla Flaherty, Roanoke College, 2025 and 2026 championship venue.
Sandy Hatfield Clubb, Pictor Group.
Carey Harveycutter, City of Salem, 2025 and 2026 cohost.
J.J. Nekoloff, Old Dominion Athletic Conference, 2025 and 2026 cohost.
John Shaner, City of Salem, 2025 and 2026 cohost.
Donnie Souders, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.
Stacey Staley, Old Dominion Athletic Conference, 2025 and 2026 cohost.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Hartung, Governance and Policy.
Lynn Holzman, Women's Basketball.
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.