



**NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
REPORT FROM THE NCAA BOWLING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 29, 2019, MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Automatic qualifiers.** The committee seeks approval of automatic qualifier (AQ) conferences for the third year of AQ implementation. There will be seven AQ conferences for 2020.
2. **Championship format.** The committee reviewed the play-in format that was used this year, as well as the potential increase in bracket size that has been formally proposed. Discussions revolved around how this format would look, as well as how to communicate the potential change to the membership. The committee recommends that the final ranking, as determined by the committee during selections based on the selection criteria be used to determine lane choice for the tournament. The team with the higher ranking will have lane choice for the duration each match.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; East Coast Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Northeast Conference; Southland Conference; and Southwestern Athletic Conference.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. This will be the third year that women's bowling will have automatic qualification, with a decrease of one conference from the previous year, bringing the total to seven automatic qualifying conferences.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Continued opportunity for student-athletes to compete in the postseason.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. 2018 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2018 committee report as submitted.
- 2. National and regional advisory committees.** The committee reviewed committee rosters and noted new national committee appointments and the need to possibly find regional advisory committee member replacements. Committee members will continue to seek interested administrators and coaches to fill these vacant regional advisory committee positions.
- 3. Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Competition Oversight Committee took in 2018-19 relevant to the sport. Championship formats and expansion continue to be the main topics of conversation, and committee members have asked staff to continue to update them as decisions are made on their current proposal related to bracket expansion.
- 4. Review sport sponsorship and conference alignments.** The committee reviewed the 2018-19 sport sponsorship list and was pleased to note several institutions that may be adding the sport in the coming years. In addition, the committee discussed the newly approved NCAA Division III single-sport member conference the Central Intercollegiate Bowling Conference (CIBC) which will be effective September 1, 2019.
- 5. Regular-season forms and process.** The committee reviewed forms and processes for regular-season tournaments and score reporting, and asked staff to make noted updates to improve efficiencies.
- 6. Selections.** The committee reviewed the selection process that is in place and recommended no changes at this time. Members expressed the desire to improve the selection show by increasing the amount of team-specific data/coverage that is used, as well as possibly including livestreaming of team selection parties, as well as possible interviews with selected teams' coaches or the chair of the committee. The committee also placed a strong emphasis on ensuring that the student-athlete's names are pronounced correctly during the selection show. Staff will work with broadcasting staff and partners to determine what improvements can be made.
- 7. 2019 championship.** The committee reviewed the championship and commended the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and the Mid-American Conference for its efforts in hosting the championship. The committee agreed that the host and facility staff provided exceptional service to provide for a quality student-athlete experience. The committee also made recommendations to improve this experience in future years and asked staff and the committee chair to work with future hosts to implement these changes, including schedule timing updates, awards presentation procedures, championship match presentation and banquet enhancements/protocols.

The committee also reviewed the opening-round matches that were hosted by Prairie View A&M University, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore and the Mid-American Conference. The committee appreciated their efforts in making these matches feel like a part of the championship and sought on continuing to improve these opening-round matches moving forward.

- 8. Officials.** The committee reviewed the officials that attended the opening-round matches, as well as at the championship, and agreed that they all did a nice job conducting competition according to current rules. Staff assigned officials to all opening-round and championship matches. This ensured that all participating officials at the during the opening rounds and at the final site had passed the officials test and cleared the background check pilot program. The committee recommended that an additional official be brought on to shadow either an opening-round match or the championship in order to continue to grow the depth of the official pool.
- 9. Championship format.** The committee discussed the format change that was implemented this year and discussed the challenges with four opening-round matches. Staff presented the concern of institutions actively not submitting bids in an attempt to avoid competing in opening-rounds matches. The committee agreed that collectively there will be more education provided to the women's bowling stakeholders in order to have more bids to host opening-round matches in the future. More bids to host opening rounds is advantageous to the member institutions because it will provide the committee more options for opening-round match ups. While there were still concerns with finding quality facilities on short notice, the committee was pleased with the outcome of this year's matches and will continue to provide support in finding host facilities in future years.

There continues to be concern from the committee with the size of the bracket compared to the number of AQs being awarded for the 2020 championship. Members remain hopeful that the current proposal to increase the size of the bracket will be supported and implemented prior to next season. The committee discussed how this increased bracket format would be structured, given the need for opening-round hosts, as well as a communication plan to the membership on the process of how hosts will be selected, and how teams will be placed in to the bracket.

The committee also addressed concerns about the bracketing principles regarding seeding of the final bracket. The committee felt the best solution to the inability to seed the entire bracket is to use the final committee ranking as defined by the selection criteria to determine which team will have lane choice for the duration of each mach. The team with the higher ranking will have lane choice for the duration of each match.

- 10. Playing Rules.** Michael Fine, the women's bowling Secretary-Rules Editor (SRE), led the rules discussion during this non-rule change year. Jen Heppel, who serves as women's bowling liaison to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP), joined the committee via teleconference to aid in the discussion. Since this is a non-rules change year, staff discussed the rules change process and the committee discussed the collected proposals to determine if each proposal should be eliminated or carried over to the next season for further discussion. The committee

requested that staff and the SRE evaluate the current playing rules penalties to determine if there are inconsistencies between the various penalties in the rules book.

The committee also discussed a possible change the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) is considering for implementation in January 2020, which would eliminate the use of rosin in the bowling area. The committee had concerns that this change was not yet official and that if this change were to be made that it would not be best for the sport to implement that change mid-year. The committee tabled the discussion until next year's rules change cycle.

**11. Championship Manuals.** The committee was assigned manuals to review and provide feedback on changes that need to be made prior to the start of next season.

**12. Future championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming championship in Detroit and looks forward to future planning calls with the host staff from the Detroit Sports Commission and the University of Detroit Mercy. Staff also reviewed with the committee the timeline ahead of the future bid cycle.

**13. Committee Chair.** The committee elected Tony O'Neal as the new committee chair. Mr. O'Neal is the Senior Associate Athletic Director of Facilities and Strategic Initiatives at Bethune-Cookman University.

*Committee Chair: Karen Grygiel, Monmouth University*  
*Staff Liaison: Andy Supergan, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Women's Bowling Committee April 29, 2019, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Karen Grygiel, Monmouth University.	
Barb Jones, Mount Aloysius College.	
Loree McCary, Stephen F. Austin University.	
Tony O'Neal, Bethune-Cookman University.	
James Washington, Virginia Union University.	
Glenn White, Prairie View A&M University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Rick Barbera, Championship Head Official.	
Michael Fine, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Jen Heppel, Women's Bowling Liaison, Playing Rules Oversight Panel. (phone)	

<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Andy Supergan, Championships and Alliances. Carla Laster, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.