



NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF THE NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2019, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. The committee is seeking approval of regional sites for the 2020 championships.
2. The committee selected a new chair for the 2019-20 academic year.
3. The committee discussed the official travel party size and the current championships structure.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Site selection - regionals.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Competition Oversight Committee approve the following institutions as hosts for the 2020 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships regional round of competition:

Northeast – Cornell University; Ithaca, New York.

Mid-Atlantic/South – Duke University; Durham, North Carolina.

Midwest – University of Detroit Mercy; Detroit, Michigan.

West – United States Air Force Academy; USAFA Academy, Colorado.

- (2) Effective date. 2020 championships.
- (3) Rationale. Each region's national committee members work with their regional advisory committee to determine a host rotation/selection for each year. The national committee approved these sites during their annual meeting.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. There will be no additional budgetary impact. [Note: Each regional host will receive a \$7,000 stipend. In total, regional competition will have a planned budget impact of \$28,000. Currently, the NCAA does not reimburse travel or per diem expenses for participants.]

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2018 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual meeting report from the previous year.
2. **Manuals review.** The committee assigned manual review among members and asked staff to update them once feedback is provided over the coming months.
3. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship and took no action. Members will continue to monitor as information for the upcoming year becomes available.
4. **Championship official travel party and allowable coaches.** The committee discussed the current structure of the official travel party that is in place for the championships and would like to make updates to allow additional coaches be a part of this group. These changes would allow coaching staffs to better serve their participating student-athletes at the championships, without incurring additional costs to do so. Staff reminded the committee that this would need to be proposed through the budget request process in order to be considered. Staff will work internally to develop possible budget impact and include this request at the next possible time.
5. **Championships structure.** The committee continued to discuss the possibility of having separate team champions for each gender and reviewed various models that have been suggested. The committee does see how this could be beneficial to those institutions that sponsor just one gender. They also were sure to consider the “unintended consequences” of making this change, such as the possibility of the continued growth, or disbanding, of programs by the membership occurring in just one gender and possibly having to decrease the number of student-athletes per gender that compete at the championships due to the change. It was also pointed out by a number of the members that for those programs that do have larger representation at the championships, their men’s and women’s programs see themselves as one team, as opposed to separate. The committee agreed to table this discussion, as the current benefits of the championships model outweighs any possible changes that may come from splitting the championships.
6. **Rules.** The committee reviewed changes to the US Fencing rules book and took no action to suggest additional modifications. Per the policy already in place, NCAA fencing competition will be conducted using US Fencing rules that have been implemented by October 1, with the stated modifications that are provided in the pre-championship manual.
7. **Regionals.** The committee reviewed the regional competitions this year and agreed that they ran smoothly. Members also reviewed and recommended future hosts and locations (see nonlegislative item above).

- 8. Championships review.** The committee was pleased with the overall administration of the championships and commended the hosts from Cleveland State University and the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission on their efforts. The committee specifically reviewed the following items:
- a. Schedule of events. The committee agreed that the current schedule works well for the championships format.
 - b. ESPN. The committee appreciated the exposure afforded to the championships by ESPN3. Members continued to discuss ways this coverage might increase interest in the sport, as well as how the footage may be made more readily available, beyond the window of time it is replayed online.
 - c. Officials. The committee agreed that the officials cadre for the championships performed well. Members commended head officials Mark Stasinos and Mary Frye for their hard work leading up to and throughout the championships and asked that they be hired to fill these positions for 2020.
 - d. Participant feedback/survey results. The committee reviewed feedback from the participant surveys and once again noted the low response rate. The overall feedback was positive, with suggestions and requests for improvements in the areas provided for team equipment and hospitality.
 - e. Venue. The committee felt the participating institutions enjoyed the venue for the championship. While being in an arena setting does come with its limitations, the host staff did a good job of being creative to make all spaces efficient and effective.
- 9. Selections/Qualification procedures.** The committee reviewed the current selection information and asked staff to clarify the language so that the printed information is more easily understood.

The committee also discussed whether the current championships selection procedure is still the preferred method of individual selection, given conversations that members had with coaches throughout the year. While these were just ideas on ways to improve the championship and ensure the best fencers are competing, the committee felt strongly that the current structure continues to provide a strong field and the present proposals still needed more thought and consideration from the membership.

- 10. 2020 championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming championships in Detroit and is confident in the host's ability to put on a great championship.

Committee and staff made note of a US Fencing event in Detroit on the same dates, and in a similar location. The committee views this as an opportunity to continue to build this relationship, as well as possible increase attendance for our championships. Discussions on how to accomplish this will be ongoing amongst the committee and US Fencing staff.

11. Committee administration. The committee noted vacancies and asked staff to keep them updated on when replacements are identified.

The committee also selected Dave Baker, Associate Athletics Director at Pennsylvania State University, as the chair of the committee. Dave previously served in this role for the 2019 season, and the committee commended him on his leadership.

12. Future annual meeting. The committee discussed future meeting dates and will decide in the coming months based on committee and staff schedules.

Committee Chair: Dave Baker, Pennsylvania State University; Big Ten Conference.
Staff Liaison: Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee March 19, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
	David Baker, Pennsylvania State University.
	Steve Corder, University of Detroit Mercy.
	Nikki Franke, Temple University.
	Christopher Gines, United States Air Force Academy.
	Christopher Kohuth, Yale University.
	Jarek Koniusz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
	Gia Kvaratskhelia, University of Notre Dame.
	Lisa Posthumus, Stanford University.
Absentees:	
	None.
Guests in Attendance:	
	None.
NCAA Liaison in Attendance:	
	Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
	None.