



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING COMMITTEE
MARCH 28, 2022, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Official Travel Party Size.** The committee is requesting a change to the current official travel party ratio used to determine non-athletes. (See Nonlegislative Action Item.)
2. **Phase II Gender Equity Report.** The committee reviewed the Phase II gender equity report and asked staff to explore the opportunity to propose gender-specific championships. (See Informational Item 1.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Official Travel Party Size.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Competition Oversight Committee approve a change to the formula that is used for determining the official travel party for the championships to the below:

Proposed		Current	
# of SA's	# of NA's	# of SA's	# of NA's
1	1	1-3	1
2-3	2	4-6	2
4-6	3	7-9	3
7-9	4	10+	5
10+	5		

- (2) Effective date. 2023 championships.

- (3) Rationale. This formula for determining the size of the official travel party better reflects the need for individual discipline coaches at the championships.

With the current formula that is used, an institution that qualifies up to three student-athletes is allowed one non-athlete in their official travel party. It is common for an institution to qualify student-athletes in each of the three weapons (epee, foil and sabre), which means they are not able to adequately coach their student-athletes during

competition, as all weapons compete at one time a majority of the competition. This forces institutions to either not provide necessary coaching to their student-athletes, or have additional coaches attend at their Institution's expense. The increase in non-athletes will have a direct benefit to participating student-athletes, who will be better coached throughout competition.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$20,000. This cost calculation is based on an average increase of non-athletes that would be permitted to be a part of the official travel party. A review of the last eight years of selections data shows there would be an average increase of 15 non-athletes. This amount has the ability to decrease, in the event that those additional travel party members depart from the championships prior to its conclusion (i.e. if they compete in just one gender, they will be competing for two days, as opposed to four).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Providing the additional non-athletes will allow the opportunity for student-athletes to have the necessary coaching throughout their time competing. This will undoubtedly increase the student-athlete experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions taken by the competition oversight committee.

The committee also reviewed the phase II gender equity report, noting where the fencing championships was discussed. The committee discussed this being an opportune time to propose having gender-specific team champions in order to provide opportunity for single-gender programs, all of which are women's teams, to win a team national championship. They have asked staff to look in to and prepare this proposal with additional staff assistance for further review.

2. **Regional review.** The committee reviewed regional competition and agreed that each host did a good job hosting each event. The committee will work to confirm 2023 regional competition hosts in the coming months.

The committee also discussed how additional support can be provided to regional hosts through increased stipends and elimination of institutional entry fees. They asked staff to include this request as part of the next budget request process.

3. **Championships Review.** The committee commended the University of Notre Dame for their hosting of the championships and look forward to returning to their campus in 2026.

Additionally, the committee reviewed administrative policies, such as credential request approvals, and made necessary adjustments to accommodate necessary staffing for participating teams.

4. **Rules.** The committee reviewed current USA Fencing rules modifications and took no actions. It was noted that there are currently no rules changes being considered by USA Fencing.
5. **Qualification and selections.** The committee reviewed the current qualification process and selections allocations and made necessary adjustments to ensure future selections continue to effectively select the championships field. Specifically, the committee reviewed and agreed to the adjusted regional allocations and fencing seeding factor calculations as recommended.

The committee also reviewed the current waiver request process, and asked staff to develop a standard form to be used by institutions requesting a waiver to selection requirements.

6. **Committee administration.** The committee reviewed upcoming committee vacancies on the national committee. The committee also reviewed the regional committees and confirmed members for the next season.

The committee also unanimously elected Chris Gines, assistant athletics director at the United States Air Force Academy, as the chair of the committee for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Committee Chair: Christopher Gines, United States Air Force Academy, Mountain West Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee March 28, 2022, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Zoltan Dudas, Princeton University.	
Nikki Franke, Temple University.	
Christopher Gines, United States Air Force Academy.	
Gia Kvaratskhelia, University of Notre Dame.	
Michael Matt, Brandeis University.	
John Moreau, University of the Incarnate Word.	
Zach Moss, Northwestern University.	
Absentees:	
Jarek Koniusz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	

NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.