



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 12-13, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Rules modifications.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications: three judge panel makeup, stick bonus, exhibition and all-around qualifiers, mat measurements, correction to clerical errors on the scoresheet, elimination of the A dismount and elimination of judges' signatures from the scoresheet (see Action Item 2-b through h).
- 2. Scoring format.** The committee asked NCAA staff to survey the men's gymnastics membership regarding the 10-point scoring format and the team scoring format (the number of athletes competing and the number of scores counting) (see Informational Item 3).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative item.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Big Ten Conference receive automatic qualification to the 2019 National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championships.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.4 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Three-judge panel makeup. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To adjust the makeup of the three-judge panel (modification 1-A) as follows (~~strikethrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

If three (3) judges are used, ~~one two~~ will judge D and ~~the other two~~ will judge E. **The head judge will judge both D and E.** During the meet, judges should switch duties sometimes, so each has both experiences.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. As the E score has a larger impact on the result of the event and the meet score, the head judge should be involved in E score evaluation. This also provides the head judge with the ability to provide better guidance to the other two judges.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. **Stick bonus.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (6) Recommendation. To change the stick bonus modification (modification 1-B) as follows (~~strike through~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

Judges will award a stick bonus in the following cases:
For **C** dismounts **or higher** other than pommel horse: 0.1.

- (1) Effective date. Immediate.
- (2) Rationale. The stick bonus is intended to entice athletes to try dismounts commensurate to a college-level routine. The change is intended to eliminate the stick bonus for dismounts A and B, which are not commensurate with a college-level routine.
- (3) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (4) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. **Exhibition and all-around qualifiers.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To change the number of gymnasts who may compete for an all-around score outside of the event lineup during events for qualification to Winter Cup and for all-around competitions at conference championships and USAG Collegiate Championship (modification 4) as follows (~~strike through~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

Exhibition performances are strongly discouraged and not allowed during postseason competition. A gymnast may compete for an AA score outside the event lineup for NQA if he represents the team on the other three events, as long as no more than one (1) additional athlete is allowed on any one event, either as an exhibition or all-around qualifier. **For events for qualification to Winter Cup and for all-around competitions at conference championships and USAG Collegiate Championship, a gymnast may compete for an AA score outside the event lineup for NQA if he represents the team on the other three events, as long as no more than two (2) additional athletes are allowed on any one event, either as an exhibition or all-round qualifier.**

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The recommendation provides additional opportunities for athletes to qualify for the all-around competition at the Winter Cup and to participate in the all-around competition at conference championships and USAG Collegiate Championships.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. See rationale.

e. Apparatus and mats – mat measurements. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

(1) Recommendation. Clarify, for each apparatus, the measurement from the apparatus to the base mat and the measurement to the floor in modifications 11-D through 11-J.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The recommendation provides clarification and specifies the minimum distance for each apparatus. The changes reflect the FIG standard.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

f. Correction of clerical errors on signed scoresheets (Section 1-D and 13-B). The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To require that all clerical error(s) must be reported to the opposing head coaches and NCAA Conference Liaison by noon local time of the team initiating the protest of the meet results, on the Monday following the competition. This modification would maintain that the meet referee and head coaches must sign the meet scoresheet at the conclusion of the competition to ensure accuracy of the scoring. This will change modification 1-D and would remove repeated language in 13-B that would now be covered by 1-D as follows (~~strikethrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

Modification 1-D

Head coaches, in addition to ~~judges~~ **the meet referee**, are required to sign and note the time of signature on the official scoresheet. ~~Any errors on the signed scoresheet must be resolved within 24 hours. After 24 hours, results are final. Non-judgmental errors can be corrected within 24 hours.~~ **The head coach has until noon local time Monday following competition to initiate a correction to any clerical errors on the scoresheet. The error must be submitted in writing with an explanation of the discrepancy to the opposing head coach(es) and the NCAA Conference Liaison(s). Regular-season scoring issues are the responsibility of the conferences. If coaches cannot mutually agree on resolution of a clerical error, the conference(s) must resolve the matter. Resolution of any clerical errors should be handled within 48 hours of initiation. If not initiated by Monday at noon local time, the results are final. Errors that are not clerical in nature cannot be corrected after both coaches and the meet referee have signed the scoresheet.** Unsigned scoresheets will not be accepted for calculation of the National Qualifying Average.

In modification 13-B, this will remove the sentence: ~~Any scoring discrepancies must be reported to the host coach and the NCAA Conference Liaison within 24 hours of the conclusion of the competition.~~

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation permits the coach additional time to verify the accuracy of scores and clarifies the process for doing so to ensure student-athletes receive the correct score. This clarifies what can be corrected after a competition concludes and provides a more reasonable timeframe for such a correction.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. See rationale.

g. Eliminate the A dismount. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To eliminate the ability to use the A dismount to partially fulfill the dismount requirement from modification 1-B.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. An A dismount is not commensurate with routines at the collegiate level. Eliminating this modification would return to the FIG standard.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

h. Judges' signatures. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To eliminate the requirement that all judges sign the final scoresheet. The meet referee will only be required to sign the final scoresheet. All references to this will be removed in modifications 1-D, 3-E, 13-B, and 13-F.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. All judges sign the event scorecards to confirm their scores. In practice, all judges signing the final scoresheet is an unnecessary step. The meet referee is ultimately responsible to ensure the accuracy of the scoresheet.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2018 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as written.
- 2. College Gymnastics Association meeting review.** The committee chair reviewed topics from the College Gymnastics Association meetings, including the discussion of rules modifications proposals, fundraising, championship format and the regular season.

3. **Rules.** The committee reviewed the NCAA rules modifications document and voted on rules modifications changes for the 2019-20 academic year (See Action Items 2-b through h). NCAA staff will have the updated rules modification document available by September 1.
 - **Ten-point scoring format and team scoring format.** The committee requested that staff survey the gymnastics membership regarding two issues related to scoring. The committee is requesting feedback regarding support for the 10-point scoring format, commonly used within women's gymnastics, or maintaining the current scoring format. The committee is also requesting feedback regarding the team scoring format (the number of athletes competing and the number of scores counting). Staff will issue the membership survey after publishing the 2019-20 Men's Gymnastics Rules Modification Document.
4. **2019 championships review.** The committee reviewed the 2019 championships and noted the following:
 - a. **Selection.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and selection process for the championships and made no changes.
 - b. **Schedule.** The committee reviewed the championships schedule of events and made no changes. The committee agreed there was positive feedback on the inquiry process taking place while teams rotate to the next event but will make modifications that will speed up the meet based on recommendations from the technical director and assistant technical director. The announcer will announce the teams may rotate to their next event when the last competitor returns to their corral instead of waiting for their score to be displayed. After teams rotate to the next event, the announcer will begin the three-minute warmup period when all teams are ready instead of waiting for the inquiry process to finish. If an inquiry is still in progress after the three-minute warmup period concludes, competitors will wait until it is finished before starting their first event.
 - c. **Site evaluations.** The committee reviewed survey results from the student-athletes, coaches, judges, host and committee regarding the 2019 championships. Based on feedback, the committee agreed to discontinue a press conference for the national championship team and all-around champion after the conclusion of the awards ceremony as it was not used.
 - d. **Awards.** The new awards ceremony format went well with the team awards presented first followed by the all-around and individual awards. The committee supports continuing with this format. The committee noted the success of the new tiebreaker for individual and all-around placing that broke all ties this year. The committee supports continuing with this tiebreaker for awards and noted the cost savings of not ordering additional awards for the tied student-athletes.

- e. **Results display.** The committee agreed that the results display at the championships was excellent and should be replicated by future hosts.
- f. **Facility/host.** The committee reviewed the facility and host operations, including the podium, layout, corrals, locker rooms and hospitality. Feedback will be shared with the host staff. The committee agreed the podium greatly enhanced the experience for the student-athletes and spectators. The committee applauded the staff at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for providing a memorable championship experience for the student-athletes.
- g. **Banquet.** Feedback indicated that the committee, student-athletes and coaches enjoyed the new banquet format with a more streamlined flow with team photos followed by buffet line and then the formal program. It was the shortest banquet in recent memory. The committee agreed that the emcee and student-athlete speaker did well. The host staff provided a memorable banquet experience. The committee is committed to this more efficient banquet format.
- h. **Credentials.** The committee reviewed all credential types and made the following recommendations: The host medical staff will now use the all-access host credential instead of a host medical credential; the student-athlete and team personnel credential will be combined into a participant credential with the same access; the host should utilize a single host credential instead of two distinct credentials (all-access and volunteer); each team will receive one team administrator credential instead of two as teams were using the second administrator credential for individuals who are not truly administrators. Teams can request a second administrator credential if necessary.
- i. **Vendors.**
 - (1) **American Athletic, Inc.** The committee reviewed equipment supplied at the championship with the representative from AAI. The committee voted to use the newly approved AAI floor exercise apparatus for the 2020 championships. The representative from AAI answered equipment questions from the committee and provided information on updates to the AAI equipment.
 - (2) **ProScore.** The committee reviewed ProScore's work at the championships and was satisfied with their work. The committee recommended that ProScore test the equipment before the first session of competition. The committee supports continuing its longstanding relationship with ProScore to provide scoring services at the championships.
 - (3) **Road to Nationals.** The committee supports the continued posting of each routine on the website and noted the benefit of aiding consistent judging/scoring

variance across the country and more social media activity for men's gymnastics. The committee appreciates the continued improvements to the website.

- j. Big Ten Network.** The committee appreciated the live coverage of the championships via BTN2GO for the qualifier sessions and the linear network for the finals. The committee agreed the coverage elevated the experience for the teams and hopes it can continue in the future. The committee discussed ideas to improve the television coverage in the future, such as better preparation for the announcers.
- k. Podium protocol.** The committee affirmed the current podium protocol and clarified that the on-deck student-athlete may be outside the corral but not on the podium. The committee applauded the participating teams on their adherence to the podium protocol at the championships.
- 5. Recommendations for 2020.** The committee made recommendations for the 2020 championships at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan:

 - The championships finals will begin at 6 p.m. Eastern time.
 - There will be a podium for competition.
 - A site visit to Ann Arbor will be scheduled in the fall.
 - The host should focus on marketing efforts to increase attendance at the event.
- 6. Regular-season issues.** The committee discussed issues from the regular season and did not have any recommendations.
- 7. Budget comparisons.** Staff provided the championship host financial summary for the past 12 years for committee review and thoroughly reviewed the 2019 financial report. The committee reviewed the merchandise sales report from the championships and noted higher than average sales.
- 8. Strategic plan.** The committee started to develop a strategic plan to help guide its decision-making and priorities. The committee will finalize the strategic plan before the fall.
- 9. Bid specifications.** The committee reviewed and edited the specifications for the 2023-2026 championships bid process. The committee reviewed the bid process timeline and talked initially about site selection priorities.
- 10. Manual updates.** The committee reviewed updates for the pre-championships, committee operations, participant and host operations manuals and directed staff to make the necessary edits.

- 11. Judges.** Dean Schott from the National Gymnastics Judges Association participated via teleconference. The committee noted the continued improvement in the scoring/judging variance across the country during the regular season and urged the NGJA to continue their efforts to address it. The committee recommended that the NGJA use routines from athletes who have graduated for the preseason judges challenge in the future in order to not predispose the judges to the current athletes' routines before the season.
- **Technical director's report.** The technical director reported on the judges and technical conduct of the championships. There were 10 official inquiries during qualification rounds and three during the championships. The technical director reviewed some recommendations for the committee to consider regarding required judge signatures on the scoresheet, music volume during competition, judges fee for the assistant technical director and the inquiry process between rotations.
 - **Judge selection process.** The committee reviewed the selection process of judges for the championships and noted that they will continue with the same process. The committee affirmed that judges should judge the conference championship of the conference they are selected to represent at the championships.
- 12. Division I Competition Oversight Committee review.** NCAA staff updated the committee on the review of sports with sponsorship below 50 institutions.
- 13. Committee conference liaisons.** The committee elected Chuck Chmelka to serve as the liaison for the Big Ten Conference. Mark Williams and Mike Powell will continue to serve as the conference liaisons for the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation and Eastern College Athletic Conference, respectively.
- 14. Future meetings.** The 2020 annual meeting will take place June 10-11 in Indianapolis.
- 15. Other business.** Li Li Leung, President and CEO of USA Gymnastics, introduced herself to the committee and provided an update on recent activities of the national governing body.

Committee Chair: Mike Powell, College of William & Mary

Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

| NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee June 12-13, 2019, Meeting | |
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| Attendees: | |
| Brad Brown, United States Military Academy. | |
| Chuck Chmelka, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. | |
| Carey Fagan, The Ohio State University. | |
| Kurt Golder, University of Michigan. | |
| Mike Powell, College of William & Mary. | |

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| Mark Williams, University of Oklahoma. |
| Guests in Attendance: |
| Ken Cysewski, American Athletic, Inc. (via teleconference). |
| Li Li Leung, USA Gymnastics. |
| Dean Schott, National Gymnastics Judges Association (via teleconference). |
| NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance: |
| John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances. |
| Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance: |
| Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances. |
| Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances. |