



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA MEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 9-10, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

- 1. Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval from the Competition Oversight Committee for the Big Ten Conference to receive automatic qualification and begin its two-year grace period (see Action Item 2-a).
- 2. Virtual competition.** The committee requests approval from the Competition Oversight Committee to permit virtual competition as part of the selection criteria (see Action Item 2-b) and from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications regarding virtual competition (see Action Items 2-c through 2-i).
- 3. Rules modifications.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications (see Action Items 2-j through 2-m).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Big Ten Conference receive automatic qualification to the 2022 National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championships and begin its two-year grace period.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2021.
- (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. Selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to modify the selection criteria as follows (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

NCAA National Qualifying Average (NQA). Select the four highest scores, ~~one of which must be a five up/five count score~~, counting not more than two home

meets. The highest of these four scores will be replaced with the conference team championship meet score. These four scores will be averaged to determine the NQA. For conference meets with event finals, the individual score from event finals may replace one of the three remaining scores used to calculate the individual NQA. The highest of the four initial scores must be replaced with the individual score attained during the conference meet team competition. **Institutions may participate in a maximum of two virtual competitions during a single season.**

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee would like to offer the ability to use no more than two virtual competitions in the NQA to provide institutions and student-athletes with maximum flexibility and ample opportunity to obtain an NQA for selection and/or have a more diverse competitor pool due to the limited opponents in the sport. This recommendation is intended to provide opportunities for institutions and student-athletes to compete and qualify for the NCAA championship and not intended to fundamentally alter collegiate competition.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Institutions may have reduced expenses with fewer away competitions.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides maximum flexibility so that student-athletes have ample opportunity to obtain an NQA for selection and/or have a more diverse competitor pool.

c. **Video capture positions and angles.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To create a new rules modification to standardize the video capture positions and angles for each event (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

**All video recording must be in landscape viewing mode. An athlete's full body must stay within the frame at all times during routines. All performers must be visible from the initial salute to the judge at the beginning of a routine until the presentation salute at the conclusion of the routine. Video must continue uninterrupted if there is a fall during the performance. Each routine filmed must also be recorded simultaneously. Each team is responsible for providing a dedicated videographer to capture each routine on video. Any deviation from the items below must be agreed upon by all head coaches. Both teams must conform to the same angles. The recording will be the backup system to judge any routine if the live video cuts out during competition.**

- **Floor Exercise**

- **Camera must be positioned centered along the side of the floor between four feet (90cm) and not exceeding six feet (180 cm) above floor level, and no farther than 25 feet (762cm) from the floor.**
- **Camera operator MUST follow athlete in the viewfinder during their routine.**

- Stable camera mount with ability to swivel camera smoothly required.
  - Boundary lines must be clearly visible when athlete approaches corners or sides of the floor area.
- Pommel Horse
  - Camera must be positioned at or as close to the top of the pommel horse as possible not exceeding three feet (90cm) above or below the top of the pommel horse.
  - Camera should be placed on a stable mount directly in front of the side of the horse, centered, no more than 20 feet (610cm) away. Preference at 45-degree angle (USAG standard).
- Still Rings
  - Camera must be positioned no more than six feet (180cm) above floor level or two feet (60cm) below floor level no more than 30 feet (900cm) away.
  - Camera should be placed on a stable mount directly to the side of the rings tower. Preference at 45-degree angle (USAG standard).
  - The top of the landing mat must be visible at all times during routine.
- Vault
  - Camera must be positioned at or as close to the top of the vault as possible not exceeding three feet (90cm) above the top of the vault or two feet (60cm) below it and no more than 30 feet (900cm) away.
  - Camera should be placed on a stable mount at a 45-degree angle to the table and should be located behind or in front of the table.
    - Camera operator must include the athlete in the viewfinder during the run.
    - Stable camera mount with ability to swivel camera smoothly required.
- Parallel Bars
  - Camera must be positioned no more than three feet (90cm) above the top of the parallel bars or two feet (60cm) below floor level no more than 22 feet (670cm) away.
  - Camera should be placed on a stable mount directly to the side of the parallel bars.
  - The top of the landing mat must be visible at all times during routine.
- Horizontal Bar
  - Camera must be positioned no more than six feet (180cm) above floor level or two feet (60cm) below floor level 30 feet (900cm) away from the side of the upright.
  - The top of the landing mat must be visible at all times during routine.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Standardizing these positions and angles will provide consistency for the judges to appropriately view each event for proper evaluation. This is consistent with the approach from the national governing body for sanctioning virtual events.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. These modifications will enhance fairness and consistency for the judges to provide more accurate scores for the student-athletes during virtual competition.

**d. Warmup (Rule 2).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To modify Rule 2 – Warmup – to ensure a consistent warmup period for the competing teams (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

A 1.5-hour warmup period on the meet equipment plus minimum of 30 minutes of general warmup must be provided for the visiting team(s) prior to the competition. All head coaches must agree on a shorter warmup period. **The warmup period must be consistent for the competing teams.** Only the eligible participants, including substitutes, may warm up on the meet apparatus.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. While this may be normal practice for an in-person competition, this specifically requires that the competing teams have a consistent pre-competition warmup. The current language mentions the host must provide a 1.5-hour warmup plus a minimum of 30 minutes of general warmup for the visiting team. Since teams will be at their home facilities, this recommended change requires a consistent warmup period for the competing teams.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This ensures fairness for the competing teams to have an equal warmup period.

**e. Home vs. away designation (Rule 6).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To add a rule modification to Rule 6 – Competition Format – to address home and away responsibilities for virtual events (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

**For competitions originally scheduled as in-person meets but taking place virtually, the originally scheduled home team will be the home team for rules-based responsibilities. Both teams will be considered the host team for rules-based purposes.**

**For competitions originally scheduled as virtual events (where there was not a previously scheduled in-person meet), one team is designated as home team via coin flip for any rules-based responsibilities. The coin flip will be administered by the meet referee or technical director. Both teams will be considered the host**

**team for rules-based purposes.**

**Virtual events will be considered home competitions for NQA purposes.**

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. There are some rules-based home and away responsibilities throughout the rules of gymnastics. This recommendation specifies how those responsibilities will be determined for virtual events since the competing teams will be in their “home” locations.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This ensures fairness for the competing teams to determine home vs. away rules-based responsibilities.

**f. Competition format (Rule 6).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men’s Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To add a rule modification to Rule 6 – Competition Formats – to require the head-to-head competition format for virtual events (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

**All virtual dual-meet competitions must follow the head-to-head competition format.**

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. With the competition being held virtually, each team can participate on the same event at the same time, thus making the scoring easier to understand for spectators and making the competition easier to follow.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will build excitement for the competing student-athletes as they will know instantly how they compare with their opponent.

**g. Equipment (Rule 11).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men’s Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To modify Rule 11 – Apparatus and Mats – to permit landings on a solid surface over a resi (foam) pit (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

**For virtual competitions, all events should conform to normal competition equipment and matting standards. If standard competition equipment or landing surface is not available, then the equipment or landing surface may be accommodated to use for competition. Resi pit accommodation must replicate as closely as possible normal competitive matting requirements and include the use of a panel mat to ensure adequate firmness of the landing area. The technical**

**director will inspect the equipment.**

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Some competitions will need to take place in a team's practice facility if the primary competition venue is not available due to another sport's use. Most of the practice facilities have resi landing areas for some events instead of a solid (hard surface) landing area. The teams will make their best effort to make a solid landing area on top of the foam surface that would be at the height specified in the rules for the solid landing area for competition. Student-athlete safety will be at the forefront of this setup.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will permit the meet to take place in a practice facility if the meet cannot take place in the main competition area.

**h. Judging and Score Posting Protocol (Rule 1).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To modify Rule 1 – Judging and Score Posting Protocol – to require a minimum of a four-judge panel with three judging any one routine for virtual events (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

For head-to-head dual meets, a four-judge panel consisting of two D and two E judges may be used **for in-person competition and is required for virtual events.** The D judges will judge every other routine, while the two E judges will judge every routine. **Virtual events may have more than four judges per event and the panel format must be approved by the NCAA rules interpreter. Virtual events may not have less than four judges per event.**

**For a virtual tri-meet, a minimum of two judges are required per event.**

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Since virtual dual meets will be required to follow the head-to-head format, this modification follows to require that the specific judging format for head-to-head competition is required. A minimum of four judges per event would be required but they could have more if they want with the judging panel format approved by the NCAA rules interpreter if it is not already specified in the rules. It also specifies the number of judges required for a virtual tri-meet. That judging format is already in the rules modifications.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Overall, a dual head-to-head virtual competition will require fewer judges than an in-person meet with a traditional competition format. Thus, there is cost savings for the host institution paying fewer judges a game fee, per diem, lodging and travel.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

- i. **Technical Director (Rule 13-F).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications to address virtual events:

- (1) Recommendation. To add a modification to Rule 13 – Judges and Judging the Event – to require a technical director on-site in each competition venue (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

**A technical director will be required on site in each competition venue for any competition held virtually. The technical director will manage inquiry logistics and equipment certification.**

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Since judges will be judging the competition from off site, the committee believes it is imperative for fairness to require a neutral party to be inside each venue with a competing team to monitor each team's activities and inspect the equipment. The technical director will also assist with managing any inquiries that take place during the meet if the virtual competition platform cannot manage it. The technical director will have contact with the judges to facilitate any inquiries, if needed.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. There is an additional fee for this role for each team; however, there is significant savings from having fewer and virtual judges and no need to pay any travel/per diem/lodging for any judges.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The role will ensure fairness at each venue for all competing student-athletes.

- j. **Dark pants (Modification 8).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. Follow the FIG standard restricting the use of specific colors of dark pants during competition.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2022. (The effective date is delayed due to the financial impact.)
- (3) Rationale. To provide consistency in judging among competitors by allowing judges to have visual contrast between the uniform and ceiling of the venue to better evaluate possible deductions.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Approximately \$1,000 (\$50 per pair of competition pants for about 20 student-athletes) for institutions that currently have black, navy or dark brown competition pants.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides an even playing field for the judges and increases fairness in scoring for the student-athletes.

**k. Dual meet format (Modification 6-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. That all dual meets follow the head-to-head competition format.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This establishes a single dual meet format that is easier for spectators to follow with both teams competing on the same event at the same time as opposed to multiple events going on at the same time. This proposed format would also provide consistency within the judging panel for all competitors on each event.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation enhances the direct competition between two teams during the year.

**l. Five-up, five-count team scoring (Modification 3-A).** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. Conduct competition in a five-up, five-count format for the entire regular season.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This will shorten the competition to make regular-season meets more attractive for television. This recommendation would also provide consistency for the entire season. The current format allows for six gymnasts to perform per event with five scores counting through the end of February before switching to the five-up, five-count scoring format. Teams are limited to 15 student-athletes for the entire season. This recommendation does not change that limit.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This would reduce the number of competitors on each event during a meet and make for a more efficient competition.

**m. Halftime for dual meet competition (Modification 6-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. Establish a six-minute halftime during dual meet competition. The six-minute intermission would occur following the first three events. This would not be used during multi-team events.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation provides a short break at the midpoint of the meet and allows student-athletes to safely warm up for the final three events of the meet.



- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides adequate rest and an opportunity to warm up for the final three events.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2020 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2020 annual meeting report as written.
2. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed, updated, and approved its strategic plan's short- and long-term goals.
3. **Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Division I Council and Competition Oversight Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year.
4. **COVID-19 updates.** The NCAA staff liaison provided update on current NCAA championship COVID-19 guidelines and protocols.
5. **College Gymnastics Association meeting review.** The newly elected CGA president reviewed topics from the College Gymnastics Association meetings, including working with The Pictor Group, regarding the future of men's gymnastics and potential changes to the NCAA championship format. The committee discussed the proposals and directed NCAA staff to provide guidance to the coaches association on proper avenues to pursue proposals that do not fall under the purview of the committee.
6. **USA Gymnastics/NCAA Partnership.** Sandy Hatfield Club and John Robinson provided the committee with an update on the progress The Pictor Group has made thus far in addition to key findings and next steps. The committee discussed and provided feedback on key concepts presented by The Pictor Group and agreed to continued collaboration throughout the process.
7. **Vendors.**
  - a. **American Athletic, Inc.** The committee met with representatives from official equipment supplier AAI. The representative from AAI answered equipment questions from the committee and provided information on updates to the AAI equipment.
  - b. **ProScore.** The committee supports continuing its longstanding relationship with ProScore to provide scoring services at the championships.
  - c. **Road to Nationals.** The committee supports the continued use of Road to Nationals and have found it to be very responsive and a great resource.
8. **NCAA Rules Modifications.** The committee reviewed the NCAA rules modifications document and voted on rules modifications changes for the 2021-22 academic year (see Action Items 2-b through m). NCAA staff will have the updated rules modification document available by September 1.

- a. **Rules interpreter.** Mike Juszczuk, NCAA rules interpreter, reviewed the rules interpreter process and interpretations from the year. The committee remains pleased with the new rules interpreter position and recognized the benefits of the position during the season. The committee supported the idea of creating a pipeline in order to continue to fill this position in the future.
  - b. **FIG code of points.** Mr. Juszczuk shared with the committee updates to the FIG code of points that will be in effect for the 2021-22 season. First courses teaching the new FIG code of points are expected to begin in late October or early November.
  - c. **Dark pants.** See Action Item 2-j.
  - d. **Head to head dual meets.** See Action Item 2-k.
  - e. **Up/count reduction.** See Action Item 2-l.
  - f. **Squad size.** The committee decided to make no change to squad size following review of the coaches association recommendations.
  - g. **Virtual meets.** See Action Item 2-b through i.
  - h. **NCAA qualifier.** The committee reviewed championship format proposals but decided to revisit at a later date due to hold on any bracket reductions.
  - i. **Joint championship.** The committee will continue working with the Pictor Group and other key stakeholders to explore the best championship format.
  - j. **3-minute transition rule.** The committee discussed but decided to move forward with the halftime proposal instead.
  - k. **Inquiry timeout.** The committee discussed but did not move forward with the proposal.
  - l. **Ten-point scoring format.** The committee discussed implementation of a 10-point conversion system in men's gymnastics. The committee has decided not to take action at this time but will continue researching and reconvene for discussion at a later date.
  - m. **Dual meet halftime.** See Action Item 2-m.
  - n. **NGJA/NCAA rules subcommittee.** Mr. Juszczuk reviewed the purpose of the subcommittee with the committee.
9. **Judges.** Mr. Juszczuk, president of the National Gymnastics Judges Association, provided updates on that organization and learning opportunities provided by the global pandemic such as virtual judging.
- a. **Judge selection process.** The committee members reviewed the selection process of judges for the championships and noted that they will continue with the same process.
  - b. **Championship review.** Craig Nesbitt, NCAA Technical Director, provided the committee with an overview of this year's championship and areas of improvement moving forward.

10. **Selection.** The committee reverted to the original NQA formula and minimum competition requirement of nine. There was discussion regarding the potential need to review the national qualifying average following decisions on various action items, but no action was taken at this time.
11. **2022 championships.** The committee made recommendations for the 2022 championships at the University of Oklahoma in Norman:
  - a. **Schedule of events.** The committee recommended returning to the same schedule of events as the 2019-20 championships, including the return of the student-athlete banquet.
  - b. **Site visit.** Pending travel restrictions and budget restrictions, a site visit to Oklahoma will be scheduled in the fall either in person or virtually.
  - c. **Hotels.** NCAA staff recently shared the contracted team hotel information with all head coaches.
  - d. **Recommendations.** The committee recommends exploring the option of having streaming available for both days of competition, pending broadcast agreement.
  - e. **Broadcast coverage.** Oklahoma officials shared that they would engage with Bally Sports to broadcast the 2022 championships finals. The committee prefers a 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. start time.
  - f. **Podium.** The committee emphasized the importance of the podium for the student-athlete experience and noted the funding assistance available to the host to secure the podium.
12. **Automatic qualification.** See Action Item 2-a.
13. **Manual review.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make the necessary updates for the pre-championships, committee operations, participant and host operations manuals.
14. **Committee.** The committee reviewed and approved the committee timeline and roster for the 2021-22 season, noting the decision on Mark William's term extension is still pending. Should the extension be denied, a new committee member will begin service on September 1, 2021.
  - **Conference liaisons.** Matt Davis will continue to serve as the liaison for the Eastern College Athletic Conference and Chuck Chmelka will continue to serve as the liaison for the Big Ten Conference. The liaison for the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation will be determined pending the nominating committee's decision on Mark Williams' term extension.
15. **Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group update.** The committee was provided an update on the working group's recommendations and discussed the impact on men's gymnastics. Due to COVID-19 and potential constitution conflicts, the Division I Council agreed to table proposals to base bracket/field size on sport sponsorship until further notice.
16. **Future meetings.** The 2022 annual meeting will take place June 14-15 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair:* Brad Brown, United States Military Academy, Patriot League  
*Staff Liaison:* Alyssa Rice, Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee June 9-10, 2021, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Brad Brown, United States Military Academy.	
Chuck Chmelka, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Matt Davis, Springfield College.	
Carey Hoyt, The Ohio State University.	
Randy Jepson, Pennsylvania State University	
Mike Juszczyk, NCAA Rules Interpreter.	
Mark Williams, University of Oklahoma.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Ken Cysewski, American Athletic, Inc.	
Sandy Hatfield Clubb, The Pictor Group.	
Craig Nesbitt, NGJA Technical Vice President.	
John Robinson, The Pictor Group.	
Andy Timm, American Athletic, Inc.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Alyssa Rice, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.	
Jerry Vaughn, Academic and Membership Affairs.	