



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 19, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Action Items: The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel will consider temporary rules modifications for the 2020-21 season only to regulate virtual events. The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider a recommendation to modify the selection criteria for the 2020-21 season only.

KEY ITEMS.

- **Rules modifications.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following changes to the Men's Gymnastics Rules Modifications for the 2020-21 season only: video capture positions and angles, warm-up, home/away designation, competition format, vault landing and judges (see Action Item 2-a through 2-g).
- **Selection criteria.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to modify the selection criteria for the 2020-21 season only due to reduced minimum number of contests for selection (see Action Item 2-h).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative item.

- a. 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 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 below must be agreed upon by all head coaches. Both teams need to

conform to the same angles. The recording will be the back-up 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 but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (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 provide fairness and consistency for the judges to provide more accurate scores for the student-athletes during the 2020-21 season.

b. Warm-up (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 – Warm-up – to ensure a consistent warm-up period for the competing teams (~~strike through~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

A 1.5-hour warm-up period on the meet equipment plus minimum of 30 minutes of general warm-up must be provided for the visiting team(s) prior to the competition. All head coaches must agree on a shorter warm-up period. **The warm-up 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 but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (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 warm-up. The current language mentions the host must provide a 1.5-hour warm-up plus a minimum of 30 minutes of general warm-up for the visiting team. Since teams will be at their home facilities, this recommended change requires a consistent warm-up 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 warm-up period.

c. 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 new rules 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 neutral-site competitions for NQA purposes.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate but only for the 2020-21 season.

- (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.

d. 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 rules 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 but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (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.

e. 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 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 but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (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 area 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.

f. 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 but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (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.

g. 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 (~~strike through~~ 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 but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (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.

h. Selection criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to modify the selection criteria as follows for this academic year only (~~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.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate but only for the 2020-21 season.
- (3) Rationale. Due to the pandemic, the minimum number of contests has been reduced to the minimum required for the NQA formula to qualify for the championships. The committee anticipates disruption to regularly scheduled competition throughout the season with some teams only being able to complete the minimum number of competitions. The committee recommends removing the competition location requirement (counting not more than two home meets) from the criteria to provide maximum flexibility so that a team only needs to have four scores plus the conference championship, regardless of where the event took place. Many teams will compete virtually in their home venues instead of at an away location due to health and safety this season.
- (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 enough opportunities to obtain an NQA for selection.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- None.

Committee Chair: Brad Brown, United States Military Academy
Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee November 19, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Brad Brown, United States Military Academy.	
Chuck Chmelka, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Matt Davis, Springfield College.	
Carey Fagan, The Ohio State University.	
Randy Jepson, Pennsylvania State University.	
Mark Williams, University of Oklahoma.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
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.	