



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 4-6, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEM.

- **Process for substituting athletes in postseason competition.** The Women's Gymnastics Committee approved a process for allowing substitutions between rounds to provide more flexibility if an injury occurs during a weekend of postseason competition (see Action Item 2-a).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Process for substituting athletes in postseason competition.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a recommendation to allow substitutions between each day of competition in the postseason.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.

Rationale. With the postseason format change, teams can compete in two additional meets over the course of regional- and final-site competition. Currently, teams are allowed to designate only 15 student-athletes on the roster for regionals and finals. Without an opportunity to replace an injured athlete, teams could be at a disadvantage. Teams would still receive NCAA reimbursement only for 15 athletes in the travel party at the final site and the corral size would remain at 24. The NCAA does not reimburse for regional travel or per diem.

In the new substitution process, teams could designate up to three athletes on the entry form who would be eligible to enter the meet. After the first day of competition, the head coach must notify the tournament director and NCAA by 10 p.m. the evening prior to competition if he or she is replacing one of the 15 athletes with one of the three designated athletes. For regionals, on the subsequent day, the head coach could elect to substitute again if needed.

At no other time in the season are teams required to compete up to three days in a row, as they could be asked to at the regional if they advance past the first round. Without a substitution policy, student-athlete health and wellbeing is at risk due to the possible number of routines and competitive sessions.

The committee discussed other options such as an increase in squad size for every round and an increase to the travel party but felt the substitution proposal would achieve all goals without a substantial financial impact.

- (3) Estimated budget impact. None for the NCAA. The NCAA does not reimburse for regional travel. Additionally, institutions would still receive reimbursement only for 15 athletes at the final site. Because the corral size already allows for institutions to bring three additional non-competing athletes at their own expense, this modification would just allow those non-competing student-athletes to enter the meet if needed.
- (4) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will benefit from this adjustment because it may give more athletes the opportunity to compete for their teams.

b. *[Note: This is an action item only if item 2-a is not approved.] Increase the roster size to 18 student-athletes in uniform for regional competition.*

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve allowing 18 student-athletes to be listed on the roster for teams competing at regionals.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, 15 student-athletes can be listed on the entry form for the championship. However, women's gymnastics roster sizes have increased over the past decade, from an average of 15 gymnasts in 2008 to 18 in 2018. Allowing 18 student-athletes at the championship provides opportunities for the full squad to participate. The NCAA does not pay for regional travel or per diem, so it will not be a budget increase. The three additional student-athletes were previously allowed on the competition floor but could not be in uniform. This change would allow them to be in uniform and compete, if needed. The corral size of 24 still allows space for coaches and athletic trainers.

Allowing an increased roster size will provide teams more flexibility in the postseason in the case of injuries. With the new format, teams could be competing three times during the regional weekend (as opposed to one time in the previous format), so giving teams the ability to use more student-athletes could aid with injuries.

The committee does not view an increase in the roster size as a competitive advantage, since rosters vary across the nation all season.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. More student-athletes will have the opportunity to experience the championship with their teams. This also helps with student-athlete health and wellbeing in the case of an injury at regionals.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of the 2019 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships selections process and timeline.** The committee agreed that the selection process and timeline went well for 2019. They reiterated the need to meet in person for selections due to the intricacies of the new format, particularly with selections of the all-arounders and individuals. The committee discussed needed modifications to the timeline to ensure judges can accept postseason assignments before they start accepting non-NCAA events.
- 2. Review regional score verification coordinators and responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the score verification coordinator roster and will solicit replacements for those no longer able to serve. Members discussed whether coordinators are still needed in the new format and with electronic submission of regular-season results but agreed that the coordinators should continue to verify scores as a failsafe for the data in Road to Nationals.

The committee also agreed that the three-year term for verification coordinators should remain, so it would be easier to seek replacements for the role. Additionally, the committee reiterated that head coaches should sign off on all scores used for selection purposes. If a coach does not meet the deadline, then a committee member will notify the administrator. If the coach still does not comply with the deadline, then he or she will be issued a failure to adhere to policies and procedures, which could result in a fine of up to \$750.

- 3. Review of Road to Nationals services.** The committee discussed the results reporting services that Road to Nationals (RTN) currently provides. The committee was happy with how the online score verification process worked for 2019 and recommends a contract extension for this service provider. The committee confirmed the score verification deadlines for the 2020 season and asked staff to continue working with RTN to improve the efficiency of the selection process.
- 4. Review of 2019 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships regionals.**
 - a. Competitor numbers. The coaches association continues to express concerns with the safety pins on the competitor numbers damaging expensive leotards. The committee

acknowledged that a number associated with each competitor is important to the competition for scoring purposes but agreed to test a different method of identifying athletes for the 2020 season.

In 2020, institutions will be required to submit a photo roster with each athlete's name and institution. The photos will be in competition hair, makeup and leotards. The tournament manager or NCAA will add the assigned competitor number for each weekend of competition and that roster will then be shared with media, photographers, judges, etc., to identify each athlete.

- b. Bracketing and seeding principles. The committee discussed modifications to the blind draw process for regionals but ultimately decided to keep a randomized blind draw for those meets to avoid predetermining which team has the best chance of advancing. Members agreed that the integrity of the bracket with respect to seeded teams was enough to protect the higher seeds.

Additionally, the committee discussed the method for placing seeded hosts during selections when two or more seeded hosts fall in the same column based on the S-curve. The committee agreed to adjust the language to maintain the integrity of the bracket.

Finally, the committee modified how teams are placed into the second round to ensure bracket integrity. Once the nine teams at a site are identified, the two teams with the lowest national qualifying scores (NQS) will be placed in the first round. The teams with the second, third, sixth and seventh NQS will compete in the afternoon session in the second round, and the first, fourth, fifth and advancing team from the first round will be placed in the evening session in the second round.

- c. Award ceremonies. The committee agreed to eliminate the award ceremony after the second round at the regionals since the true advancing all-arounders and individuals are not known until after the regional final is complete. Instead of an award ceremony, the top all-arounder and event specialists from the second round will be announced during the regional final. The NCAA will also write a press release announcing the top eight all-arounders and event specialists from the second round.
- d. Schedule of events. The committee discussed the schedule of events and decided to keep the schedule the same for 2020 since members have feedback on only one year of the new format. Participants expressed some concern over the timing of the first round meets, but the committee did not move that meet later since it impacts recovery for the advancing teams. The committee did agree to move the equipment check with the meet referee to the day prior to competition so any issues could be addressed at that time.
- e. Access for team videographers. The committee discussed the need for team videographers to have separate credentials/access than the individual from the team who is recording

routines for video review purposes. Staff will explore the best method for granting this access.

- f. Look-throughs. The committee agreed to keep the look-through policy the same for 2020, again noting a hesitancy to make changes after only one year with the new format.
 - g. Open stretch. The committee agreed to allow both teams in the first round to conduct open stretch on the floor instead of at each team's first event. This would mirror the process from the regular season. If a team decides to conduct open stretch at its first event, then that is permissible. For the second round at regionals and during semifinals at nationals, the committee agreed to allow individuals to open stretch on the floor. Individuals would share the floor with the team starting on the floor. Individuals could open stretch at the first event if they prefer.
 - h. Warm-up timing. The committee discussed issues with warm-up timing due to different numbers of individuals being placed with teams in the second round. Currently, teams should receive 15 minutes of warm-up time. If they had an individual rotating with them, two minutes was added to the overall time. This method presented issues for the hosts and volunteers, since each team in a rotation may be different. The committee discussed a shared 17 minutes or the team getting 15 minutes and then the individual two minutes but identified pros and cons for both of those options. The committee is asking the coaches association for feedback or other options to ensure all teams and individuals receive the appropriate amount of time.
 - i. Participant evaluations. The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from regionals and noted a few concerns. Participants seemed to enjoy the new format overall. The committee agreed to explore holding one general regional participant teleconference with all qualifiers and then allowing each regional site to hold a separate call to share site-specific information.
- 5. Preview of 2020 regional host sites.** The committee reviewed the selected regional host sites for 2020 and noted any concerns for staff to address with those hosts.
- 6. Review of the 2020 Women's Gymnastics National Championships.**
- a. Bracketing and seeding principles. The committee agreed to eliminate the blind draw for all-arounders and individuals advancing to the final site. Instead of a blind draw for placement, the top all-arounder will be placed with the top seed, second all-arounder with second-highest seed and so forth. All individual qualifiers will be placed by committee discretion. This method ensures that the top seeds do not have four different individuals rotating with them and more closely mirrors the process used for regionals. The committee will continue to conduct a blind draw for the team rotations for all rounds.

- b. Internal working group feedback. The committee reviewed the feedback from the internal working group regarding improvements that can be made for future championships. Staff will share the feedback with the 2019 host.
- c. Banquet. The committee commended the Knight Eady and Visit Fort Worth staffs for creating a great experience for banquet attendees.
- d. Corral and podium protocol. The committee reviewed the corral and podium protocol to make the policies less stringent on coaches and athletes while still maintaining a clean look-and-feel for the competition floor.
- e. Credentials/wristbands and distribution process. The committee felt the credentialing and distribution process worked well overall for the championships and will continue the process in a similar manner in the future.

In future championships, the committee will wait to distribute the wristbands for semifinals until after practice since that caused confusion this year.

- f. Equipment list. The committee reviewed the equipment lists for regionals and nationals and indicated adjustments for future years. A representative from the equipment supplier, AAI, joined the meeting via teleconference to discuss needs at the championships and equipment trends in the sport. The committee expressed satisfaction with the new processes implemented by AAI to ensure all equipment required for the championship arrives on-site.
 - g. Entry form. The committee was pleased with the new submission process for the entry form, march-in form and other pertinent championship information. The online process was easier for coaches to submit.
 - h. Video review. The committee discussed the first year of video review at the national championships. Although no reviews were conducted, the committee agreed the process worked well. In the future, the committee will reiterate the process for the coaches and ensure that all necessary forms to complete the video review process are readily available at the head table.
 - i. ESPN coverage. Representatives from ESPN joined the meeting via teleconference to review championship coverage and trends from the past few years. They also discussed plans for upcoming championships, especially highlighting the additional coverage on digital platforms.
7. **Review of 2019 championships misconduct**. While there were no misconduct issues in the 2019 championships, the committee discussed the importance of ensuring all head coaches adhere to the policies set forth for the championships. Essentially, this would be a statement of

obligations signed off on by the head coach that would result in a fine if not followed. This could include being on time to the ESPN interviews, being available to the media after each session, submitting lineup forms on time, following corral and podium protocol, etc. Staff will explore similar statements used in basketball.

Overall, the committee agreed that the team administrator should be the first contact on site if any issues arise, instead of the head coach.

- 8. Plans for the 2020 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships.** The committee noted items for staff to address for the 2020 championships host. The 2020 championships are April 17-18 and will be hosted by Texas Woman's University and Knight Eady in Fort Worth, Texas. Regionals will be hosted at four campus sites and will occur April 2-4. The deadline for scores used for selection purposes is Saturday, March 21.

The committee discussed issues and questions that arose during the first year of the new format. Items to note include:

- Request to allow substitutions between rounds during the postseason. (See Action Item 2-a.)
 - Naming of rounds. The coaches association continues to request a different naming convention that would allow better marketing of the championship. The committee asked that the coaches submit names that the association agrees upon and then the NCAA will vet those names.
 - Recovery time for individuals on the nonadvancing team in the first round. The committee agreed to use discretion to place those individuals in the evening session of the second round if at all possible.
 - Injury protocol. If a catastrophic injury occurs and an athlete is waiting more than 10 minutes, the committee agreed to allow additional warm-up time for the next athlete(s) in the rotation.
 - Placement of top seed into the second round. The committee agreed to continue placing the top seed at each site into the evening session in the second round to maintain the integrity of the bracket.
 - Protocol for first-round meet. The committee confirmed that events will run simultaneously during the first round to mirror protocol for all other postseason meets.
- 9. 2020 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships event order draws.** The committee discussed the philosophy of conducting blind draws for event order as opposed to allowing the top seed in each session to have Olympic order. The committee agreed that the placement of the top seed into the bracket was enough protection to maintain integrity of the bracket, and that the only way to foster some parity within the championship is to continue conducting a blind draw for rotation order.

- a. Championship final draw. The double-blind random draw for the 2020 championship team final is as follows:

2020 Championship Team Final	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Semi #2, Team 1
Bars	Semi #2, Team 2
Beam	Semi #1, Team 2
Floor	Semi #1, Team 1

Draw for championship semifinals. The double-blind random draw for the 2020 semifinals is as follows. To protect the integrity of the bracket and the higher-seeded teams, the teams advancing from the regions with seeds 1 and 4 will compete in one semifinal and the teams advancing from the region with seeds 2 and 3 will compete in the other semifinal. The committee conducted a random draw for which side of the bracket would be in which semifinal and confirmed that the left side of the bracket (with top seed) will compete in the afternoon session. The right side of the bracket (with second-highest seed) will compete in the evening session.

Once the committee seeded the teams into the semifinal sessions, members conducted a blind draw for event rotation.

2020 Semifinal Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Second-place teams from the regions with seeds 1 and 2
Bars	Winners from the regions with seeds 1 and 2
Beam	Winners from the regions with seeds 4 and 3
Floor	Second-place teams from the regions with seeds 4 and 3

- b. Draw for regionals. The double-blind random draw for 2020 regional competition is as follows:

There is no draw for the dual-meet competition—teams will compete in the regular-season dual-meet format and the team with the highest NQS will compete in Olympic order.

2020 First Round Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM

Vault	Team with higher NQS
Bars	Team with lower NQS

The committee conducted a blind draw to determine starting event for teams in the second round based on NQS. (NQS 1 refers to the highest NQS in that session, NQS 2 to the second-highest NQS in that session, etc.).

2020 Second Round Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	NQS 4
Bars	NQS 2
Beam	NQS 1
Floor	NQS 3

The committee conducted a blind draw to determine the starting event for the teams advancing from the second round to the regional final.

2020 Regional Final Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Session 2, Team 1
Bars	Session 1, Team 1
Beam	Session 1, Team 2
Floor	Session 2, Team 2

- 10. Review of 2019 championship manuals.** The committee reviewed the manuals and made appropriate updates for 2020. The committee noted an elevated need to ensure all manuals are consistent after the format change, so all stakeholders receive the same information.
- 11. Review of committee responsibilities at the championship.** The committee reviewed the committee responsibilities and made necessary adjustments for 2020.
- 12. Women’s Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) proposals.** The committee reviewed proposals that the WCGA and the Women’s Collegiate Program Committee (WCPC) submitted and discussed appropriate actions. The outcomes of the committee’s discussion are listed in Attachment A.
- 13. NCAA rules modification recommendations.** The committee spoke with the Chrystal Chollet-Norton, women’s gymnastics rules interpreter regarding editorial changes to the rules modification document. The rules interpreter also shared a breakdown on the types of questions and groups of individuals she received them from (coaches, judges, NCAA, etc.) in 2019.

The committee referred recommended rules modifications to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for further review and action. Members also voted to modify wording regarding deductions for the number of piercings an athlete has and matching uniforms among teams.

Ben Brownlee from the NCAA playing rules staff shared an update on initial PROP discussions to potentially create stand-alone NCAA rules committees for those sports that currently have rule modifications instead of an NCAA rules book. Mr. Brownlee mentioned that any changes would occur via a phased-in approach. He is seeking feedback from coaches on whether the move would make sense for women's gymnastics.

14. Judges review.

- a. Selection process for championship judges. The committee reviewed the process for selecting judges to regionals and finals. The group reiterated its desire to keep adding some new judges at regionals so others will have experience when various judges retire. Additionally, members discussed the importance of coaches submitting regular-season evaluations since that information is used to make postseason assignments.

The committee continued to discuss ways that judges could be evaluated in the regular season and/or postseason to further provide information to the committee when making assignments. Members suggested adding that to the national coordinator responsibilities if funds exist to support such trips.

- b. Judge education. The committee discussed ways to ensure judges understand the process for being selected as a postseason judge. Members also shared instances in which judges approached coaches to ask about the selection process at inappropriate times. The committee suggested creating a best practices document to remind judges of the process and to avoid any conversations with coaches that could give the perception of bias.

The committee also discussed complaints from coaches regarding inconsistent judges scores based on national rankings and a wide range of differentiation in scores. To explore solutions to these complaints, the committee proposed a policy that would allow coaches to submit post-meet inquiries regarding routines in the regular season. Coaches would be allowed to clip footage from meets they participated in and submit a review request within 72 hours to his or her team administrator. The team administrator could then forward to the national assignors if appropriate (could only submit inquiries based on the designated list of reviewable items) and the national assignor and two other designees would review the video to answer the question. The review would happen within 72 hours of submission. This process would not allow scores to be changed but would provide an opportunity to educate both coaches and judges if an error occurred in the meet. The committee views this as an excellent training opportunity for both groups.

- c. Selection of 2020 meet referees and judges. The committee reviewed judge recommendations and assigned meet referees and judges based on the guidelines outlined

in the pre-championship manual. New this year, the committee used a blind process that eliminated judges' names when making assignments. Instead of having names associated with the information, the committee assigned based on the guidelines and reviewed region, states, and number of collegiate meets judged the year prior.

15. Review of the 2023-26 bid cycle. Staff shared the bid timeline for the upcoming cycle. The bid portal for the 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 regional and championship sites will open on August 26. Bids will be due by February 3, 2020, and then all sites will be announced on October 23, 2020.

The committee reviewed the minimum bid specifications for bidding on the championships and agreed that regional hosts should be required to webstream all regional sessions to make it easier for television networks to use the feeds for broadcast. Preliminary-round webstreaming is already required for many Division I sports, and this would align women's gymnastics with those policies. This would not impact hosts already awarded during the 2018-22 cycle. The committee also discussed additional items to clarify in the bid specifications.

16. Discussion on women's gymnastics committee strategic plan. The committee shared ideas on the short- and long-term goals for the women's gymnastics championships. The strategic plan will be a working document that will allow the committee to evaluate progress toward its goals. (See a draft of the strategic plan in Attachment B.)

17. Reappointment of committee chair. The committee voted to reappoint Jessica Chrabaszc, associate athletics director at Yale University, as chair of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year. Ms. Chrabaszc has served on the committee for two years with one as chair. Reappointing Ms. Chrabaszc will provide consistency for the committee until the other administrator on the committee completes another year or committee service.

18. 2020 annual meeting date. The committee agreed to meet June 8-10 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Jessica Chrabaszc, Yale University
Staff Liaison(s): Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee June 4-6, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jessica Chrabaszc, Yale University.	
Jacqueline Fain, Centenary College (Louisiana).	
Jeff Graba, Auburn University.	
Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart, University of Denver.	
Vicki May, Towson University (<i>via teleconference</i>).	
Randy Solorio, California State University, Sacramento.	

Maria Woods, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Morgan Ainslie, ESPN (<i>via teleconference</i>).
Evelyn Chandler, National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges President (<i>via teleconference</i>).
Chrystal Chollet-Norton, NCAA Women's Gymnastics Rules Interpreter.
Ken Cysewski, AAI (<i>via teleconference</i>).
Dan Margulis, ESPN (<i>via teleconference</i>).
Maria Soares, ESPN (<i>via teleconference</i>).
Kerrie McKinney Turner, Bowling Green State University.
Donnilyn Trevethan, National Collegiate Judges Assigner (<i>via teleconference</i>).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.

2019 Women’s Collegiate Gymnastics Association Proposals—NCAA Committee Actions

The NCAA Women’s Gymnastics Committee reviewed all proposals submitted by the Women’s Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA). While the committee reviewed all proposals, only those within the committee’s purview are noted in this document. **No action items from the committee are final until approved by the Competition Oversight Committee (COC) in October.**

The committee encourages coaches to review the full annual meeting report on NCAA.org under “Committee Information.”

The women’s gymnastics committee took the following actions:

- a. Regular-season warm-up protocol. Although no action is required for this proposal since it pertains to regular season, the committee agreed to adopt the same protocols as it relates to what is or is not permitted during open stretch and the two-minute transitions for the postseason.
- b. Squad size for the postseason. Partially accepted the recommendation to allow a maximum of 18 student-athletes per team to be included in the squad size for NCAA postseason competitions. Instead, the committee is recommending a substitution policy that would allow teams to designate up to three athletes on the entry form who would be eligible to enter the meet. Only 15 athletes would be allowed in uniform for each meet; however, after the first day of competition, the head coach could notify the tournament director and NCAA by 10 p.m. the evening prior to competition if he or she chooses to replace one of the 15 athletes with one of the three designated athletes. For regionals, on the subsequent day, the head coach could elect to substitute again if needed. The committee noted that the corral size of 24 individuals and the finals site NCAA-reimbursable travel party of 20 individuals would not change.

If the COC does not approve the substitution policy, then the committee is proposing that the squad size be increased to 18 competitors for regionals since teams could compete three consecutive days in that round. The travel party (20 individuals) and squad size (15 athletes in uniform) would remain for the championship final site.

- c. Rule modification document. Accepted, in concept, the recommended rule modifications and adjusted language regarding deductions for the number of piercings an athlete has and matching uniforms among teams.

In addition to these action items, the committee noted the following important items for the coaches association:

- a. Elimination of competitor numbers. Accepted, in concept, the recommendation to eliminate the use of competitor numbers in the postseason. The committee acknowledged that competitor numbers are important to the competition for scoring purposes but agreed to explore alternative ways to display competitor numbers (for fans and media/photographers) as opposed to having athletes fasten them to uniforms.

The committee is finalizing this plan, but for the 2020 championship, institutions would be required to submit a photo roster either via email or through the entry materials with each athlete’s name and institution. The photos will be in competition hair, makeup and leotards. The tournament manager or NCAA will add the assigned competitor number for each

weekend of competition and that roster will then be shared with media, photographers, judges, etc. to identify each athlete.

- b. Strategic plan. The committee shared ideas on the short- and long-term goals for the women's gymnastics championship. Among those goals are increasing the visibility and exposure for the championship, reviewing common-sense policies and procedures, creating more opportunities for student-athlete interaction with youth at the championship site (community engagement, Special Olympics, etc.), fostering increased professional accountability for coaches and judges and focusing on education and training for judges.
- c. Other feedback regarding the new format. The committee considered many items related to the new format and noted the following for the coaches:
- The committee decided to keep the regional schedule the same for 2020, noting that making decisions based on only one year of data may be premature. The committee will continue to monitor attendance during the first round and consider adjustments to the timing after 2020.
 - The committee modified how teams are placed into the second round to ensure bracket integrity. Once the nine teams at a site are identified, the two teams with the lowest national qualifying scores (NQS) will be placed in the first round. The teams with the second, third, sixth and seventh NQS will compete in the afternoon session in the second round, and the first, fourth, fifth and advancing team from the first round will be placed in the evening session in the second round.
 - The committee agreed to eliminate the regional award ceremony after the second round since the true advancing all-arounders and individuals are not known until after the regional final is complete. Instead of an award ceremony, the top all-arounder and event specialists from the second round will be announced during the regional final. The NCAA will also write a press release announcing the top eight all-arounders and event specialists from the second round.
 - The committee agreed to allow both teams in the first round to conduct open stretch on the floor instead of at each team's first event.
 - The committee discussed issues with warm-up timing due to different numbers of individuals being placed with teams in the second round. Currently, teams should receive 15 minutes of warm-up time. If they have an individual rotating with them, two minutes is added to the overall time. This method presented issues for the hosts and volunteers, since each team in a rotation may be different. The committee discussed a shared 17 minutes or the team getting 15 minutes and then the individual two minutes but identified pros and cons for both of those options. The committee is asking the coaches association for feedback or other options to ensure all teams and individuals receive the appropriate amount of time.
 - The committee agreed to eliminate the blind draw for all-arounders and individuals advancing to the final site. Instead of a blind draw, the top all-arounder will be placed with the top seed, second all-arounder with second-highest seed and so forth. All individual qualifiers will be placed by committee discretion. This method ensures that the top seeds do not have four different individuals rotating with them

and more closely mirrors the process used for regionals. The committee will continue to conduct a blind draw for the team rotations in all rounds.

- The committee reviewed the corral and podium protocol to make the policies less stringent on coaches and athletes while still maintaining a clean look-and-feel for the competition floor.
- d. Score verification process fine. The committee reiterated the importance of coach signoff of scores to ensure the most accurate scores are used for selection purposes. **New for 2020:** If a coach fails to meet the final score verification deadline, then a committee member will notify the administrator. If the coach still does not comply with the deadline, he or she will be issued a failure to adhere to policies and procedures which will result in a fine of up to \$750.
- e. 2023-2026 bid cycle. The bid portal for the 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 regional and championship sites will open on August 26. Bids will be due by February 3, 2020 and then all sites will be announced on October 23, 2020. Bid specifications can be found online at NCAA.org/bids.
- f. NCAA rules committees. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) has started initial discussions to potentially create stand-alone NCAA rules committees for those sports that currently have rule modifications instead of an NCAA rules book. This potential change would occur via a phased-in approach. The playing rules staff is seeking feedback from coaches on whether the move would make sense for women's gymnastics.
- g. Potential process for scoring questions. The committee discussed complaints voiced by coaches regarding inconsistent judges scores based on national rankings and a wide range of differentiation in scores. To explore solutions to these complaints, the committee proposed a policy that would allow coaches to submit post-meet inquiries regarding routines in the regular season. This policy has not been finalized, but the initial concept is as follows:
- Coaches would be allowed to clip footage from meets they participated in and submit a review request within 72 hours to his or her team administrator. The team administrator could then forward to the national assignors if appropriate (could only submit inquiries based on the designated list of reviewable items) and the national assignor and two other designees would review the video to answer the question. The review would happen within 72 hours of submission.

This process would not allow scores to be changed but would provide an opportunity to educate both coaches and judges if an error occurred in the meet. The committee views this as an excellent training opportunity for both groups.



NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee Strategic Plan

Introduction

The first NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championship occurred in 1982 with Utah winning the inaugural event. A new postseason format was implemented in 2019. The championship features a 36-team bracket with 16 specialists in each event and 12 all-arounders, not from a qualifying team. Regional sites host first round, second round and regional final competition over a three-day period. Eight teams, 16 event specialists and four all-arounders compete at the final site over two days.

The championship has been hosted at both campus and neutral sites across the country. Regional rounds are held on campus sites.

Core Purpose

The purpose of the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee is:

- To plan and execute a highly competitive, quality national championship event that creates a memorable experience for the student-athlete.
- To provide fair and equitable competition through championship policies, governance, rules oversight and interpretation.
- To promote and grow NCAA women's gymnastics.

Vision

The vision of the NCAA women's gymnastics committee is to ensure NCAA gymnastics student-athletes are provided a first-class championship that offers top-level competition and showcases the high-quality skill of collegiate gymnasts.

Core Values

The NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee's Core Values are:

1. Demonstrate good character and sound judgment with decision-making responsibilities on behalf of the membership.
2. The committee will provide a fair and equitable environment for all championships and regular-season competitions.



3. Gymnastics will remain a sport that is safe and enjoyable for all student-athletes, coaches, staff and spectators.
4. To be good stewards of the championship environment and to foster great regular-season competition, the committee must actively promote the sport's growth and advancement.

Goals

Short-Term Goals and Strategies

1. Require webstreaming for all regional rounds beginning with the next bid cycle to increase visibility of the sport.
2. Create opportunities for more student-athlete interaction with youth. For example, moving the autograph session to practice day, community engagement, incorporating Special Olympics or other organizations. Also, incorporate youth teams into the march-in or allow eliminated teams to present medals to Youth Challenge winners.
3. Implement new marketing strategies to increase attendance at the championship.
4. Re-visit all policies to ensure they make common sense and are enforceable.
5. Continue to incorporate highly-rated judges with less experience at nationals so those judges can gain experience.

Long-Term Goals and Strategies

1. Increase visibility and exposure. This is measured by ESPN viewership and attendance.
2. Complete a holistic review of processes and policies as the championship evolves.
3. Foster professionalism/conduct in all areas including coaches and judges. For coaches, hold them accountable for any unprofessional behavior. For judges, explore funding opportunities to allow evaluators to attend regular-season or regional meets.
4. Improve officiating through education and evaluations.