



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 10, 11 AND 24, 2025, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

- **Bylaw 12.8.3 – Criteria for Determining Season of Competition – Women's Gymnastics – Allowance for Exhibition Routines.**

- a. Recommendation. Provide an exception within Bylaw 12.8.3 to permit women's gymnastics student-athletes to perform exhibition routines in a maximum of three meets without using a season of competition.
- b. Effective date. 2025-26 season.
- c. Rationale. Exhibition routines are performed at the end of competition rotations during the regular season, and are judged for coach feedback only, without being included in team scores. The scores from these exhibition routines do not influence event placements and are seldom recorded on scoresheets.

This allowance would permit student-athletes to gain valuable competitive experience and development through exhibition routines, while not using a year of competition in the process.

By limiting the number of meets for which this would be permissible, women's gymnastics student-athletes would be held to a standard that is consistent across other sports in terms of the percentage of the playing season (e.g., football, men's wrestling).

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. This recommendation would have a positive impact on student-athletes, as they would be afforded additional opportunities for competitive experience and development, while maintaining eligibility.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- a. **Adjustment to the National Qualifying Score (NQS) formula used for championships selections.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adjust the NQS formula to allow for a greater number of regular-season competitions to be taken into consideration for championships selections.

- (2) Effective date. 2025-26 season.

- (3) Rationale. Currently, teams and individuals are permitted to compete in a maximum of 13 contests during the season, but the NQS is determined by taking only the top six scores, three of which must be away, dropping the highest score and averaging the remaining five.

This proposal aims to address current concerns from the coaches association representatives and national committee members by counting more competitions from each team's and individual's season-long performance and no longer allowing for such a significant portion of the season to be disregarded when it comes to championship selections.

The committee supports this recommendation from the coaches association, as this places a premium on consistent performance throughout the season and allows for a clearer understanding of how the NQS calculation works. It was also noted that the coaches association voted to approve this adjustment during the 2023-24 academic year, before forwarding to the committee for review and approval.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. This proposal would allow for more regular-season contests to be included in the NQS calculation, placing a greater emphasis on a larger portion of the regular season for participating student-athletes.

b. Increase squad size to allow for 20 student-athletes.

- (1) Recommendation. Increase the squad size to include 20 student-athletes throughout the NCAA championships, with all being designated as competitors.

- (2) Effective date. 2025-26 season.

- (3) Rationale. This recommendation aligns the squad size for the NCAA championships with the allowable roster size of 20 student-athletes during the regular season, per the new roster limits resulting from the House settlement. As 24 routines are conducted in each competition, conceivably all 20 members of the team could compete in a given event. As such, the committee supports a recommendation from the coaches association that all 20 student-athletes should be permitted as designated competitors throughout the championships.

With this change in squad size, the committee will continue to evaluate the corral size at regional sites. As available floor space is limited at most regional sites, the committee is not recommending an increase to the corral size of 25 at regionals at this time. Teams will have the flexibility to select their 25 individuals in the corral as long as no more than 20 individuals are designated as competing student-athletes.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. The women's gymnastics committee is not requesting an increase to the reimbursable squad size or travel party size for the championships alongside this recommendation.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This recommendation would have a positive impact on student-athletes, allowing a greater number of team members to dress in uniform, warm up, and participate in the NCAA championships.

c. Adjust the NQS designation of home/away contests for neutral-site meets conducted within 30 miles of an institution's campus.

- (1) Recommendation. That only one contest held at a neutral site within 30 miles of an institution's campus be permitted to count as an away contest for purposes of calculating a team's NQS. This would include multiteam invitationals, duals, tri-meets, quad-meets and/or conference championships. A neutral-site contest in excess of the one permitted away contest would be designated as home contest for NQS purposes.
- (2) Effective date. 2025-26 season.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, some programs are competing numerous times during a season within a 30-mile radius of their campus, with no restrictions on how many off-campus events can be counted as away contests, regardless of proximity to the institution. Given that a minimum number of away contests factor into the NQS formula used for postseason selection and seeding, this creates an unfair advantage for teams with access to local, off-campus venues, as they can create home environments for meets that are designated as away contests, which ultimately positively impacts their positioning for championships selections and seeding.

This recommendation will still allow these local, off-campus contests to be conducted as scheduled and countable toward NQS as home events but will no longer allow multiple contests of this nature to be considered away contests for NQS purposes.

It was also noted that the coaches association voted to approve this adjustment during the 2023-24 academic year, before forwarding to the committee for review and approval.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This proposal would allow for greater consistency in the designation of home and away contests, subsequently creating more fairness in the championships selection and seeding process.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Approval of 2024 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 report. Committee members noted that some details from its 2024 meetings were not included in the annual meeting report and requested that staff include the appropriate level of detail moving forward.
2. **Review of rules and rules clarifications.** The committee met with and received a report from NCAA Women's Gymnastics Rules Interpreter Janette Doucette and Director of Playing Rules Rachel Seewald. Ms. Doucette presented a report of activities from the season and an analysis of questions received. She also updated the committee on the basic tasks performed by the rules interpreter, as well as those additional tasks completed during the 2024-25 academic year, which included the streamlining of rules modifications and refining of rules newsletter archives.

The committee also discussed with Ms. Doucette and Ms. Seewald planned rules changes for next year, including music with voice, and the need to determine clear governing rules and a process for approval for any questionable music.

Discussion regarding guidance for sponsorship logos on equipment also took place during the meeting, and it is within the purview of the committee to allow for markings on the competition floor, so long as markings are not placed on a playing surface in a manner that would interfere with competition or cause any safety concerns. The committee supported this allowance and will include guidelines in manuals to allow for logos to be placed on equipment appropriately and safely.

The committee also discussed with Ms. Seewald and Ms. Doucette the various rules oversight positions available within the NCAA structure and, specifically, the difference between a national assignor and national coordinator of officials. Committee members instructed staff to research the possibility of expanding support positions for women's gymnastics, including any potential processes and/or budget requests that may need to occur as a result.

3. **Review of Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association proposals.** The committee discussed at length a packet of proposals submitted by the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA).
 - The committee supported several proposals from the WCGA and has forwarded recommendations to the Sport Oversight Committee accordingly (see Action Items 1 and 2).
 - The committee reviewed a proposal regarding the postseason rotation selection process and voted to approve that starting competition rotations be selected by teams in order of NQS seed throughout the entirety of the championships, beginning with first-round competition. Committee members noted that this should remove any concerns about transparency in the process, while also rewarding highly ranked teams with their choice of

starting apparatus. Committee members noted that this process will take place via teleconference or videoconference for all teams at each respective regional site on the Tuesday immediately following championship selections. In addition to the starting apparatus, teams will also select their look-in times at regionals. Committee members also confirmed that the only two options for starting apparatus for first-round dual meets are Vault or Bars, following the dual meet format. The committee noted that an institutional representative must be present on the call in order to select their starting apparatus; if a team is not represented on the call, they will start on the remaining apparatus, once all other teams have selected. Lastly, the committee noted that this same process will take place the morning after the regional and championship semifinals, in advance of each respective final.

- Committee members reviewed a proposal recommending an amendment to the judges' postseason selection criteria and took no action. During its annual meeting the committee discussed this proposal with National Assignor Jenna Karadbil and noted that the recommended process is already in place.
- Committee members reviewed a proposal recommending adjustments to seeding conventions for the regional rounds of the championships. While committee members generally supported the concept, they took no action during their annual meeting and directed NCAA staff to review this topic internally to ensure alignment with NCAA branding and bracketing principles.
- The committee reviewed and submitted a proposal to increase the NCAA squad limit to 20 student-athletes (see Action Item 2-b).
- The committee reviewed a comprehensive proposal to improve judging consistency and accuracy nationally. While the committee did not take action on the proposal during the meeting, members supported this comprehensive proposal and are committed to continued discussions and work to improve judging throughout the sport. The committee voiced support for universities and judges to participate in programs centered on continued improvement, while also noting that the SCORE Board pilot system is not currently being used for postseason judging.
- The committee reviewed a recommendation to allow exhibition routines to be performed by student-athletes without using a season of competition. The committee will make a recommendation to the Sport Oversight Committee that would permit gymnastics student-athletes to perform exhibition routines in up to three meets without using a season of competition (see Action Item 1). The committee believes that three is an appropriate amount of events for this allowance, and that number also maintains consistency with other sports that have similar allowances in place.

- The committee reviewed a proposal requesting the allowance of eight hours of CAA during summer training. The committee took no action on this proposal during the meeting, noting that there are many uncertainties within athletics departments on the immediate horizon, and noting its desire to pause while immediate impacts of the House settlement become known before taking action on this recommendation. Committee members noted their desire to maintain consistency with other sports as it relates to this topic.
- The committee reviewed a proposal requiring that the Gymnova podium be used for NCAA semifinals and finals. The committee took no action on this proposal. Committee members understand the importance of quality of the podium used for the NCAA championships and are committed to exploring all options to ensure that optimal equipment is used for the event. Committee members and staff are committed to working with hosts to ensure that this is addressed as best possible within the operational planning and budgeting process in advance of the championships.
- The committee reviewed a proposal to adjust the NQS determination of neutral sites within a 30-mile radius of an institution's campus. Committee members clarified during the meeting that, under this proposal, that all off-campus contests within a 30-mile radius would remain countable toward an institution's NQS, with one allowable contest to be designated as an away contest on the schedule of meets form prior to the start of the season, and all other contests that fall into this category being designated as home meets. The committee voted to approve this proposal and forwarded a recommendation to the Sport Oversight Committee (see Action Item 2-c).
- The committee reviewed and generally supported a proposal to reimburse transportation and per diem for teams qualifying for the regional final. However, the committee did not take action on this proposal during the meeting, wanting instead to first learn more about next steps on other key items in order to most appropriately prioritize budget requests moving forward.
- The committee reviewed and approved a proposal to require an eight-inch skill cushion for Bars on the NCAA championship equipment list and noted that this language will be updated accordingly.
- The committee reviewed and approved a proposal to allow the Vault team to warm up on Floor Exercise during open stretch during the championships.
- The committee reviewed and approved a proposal regarding the policy and procedure for instances when a judge is not present. The national assignor also supported this proposal.
- The committee reviewed but did not support the proposed allowance for the job duties of the meet referee to include being able to correct the start value, neutral deductions or flat

compositional/UTL deductions that are evaluated incorrectly. Committee members noted that this would be unfair to other events that are taking place concurrently, as the attention of the meet referee would be completely occupied with these additional responsibilities during any times they would be working on corrections. Committee members also noted that not all meets have meet referees, and that it is unlikely that this could be implemented consistently and fairly across all meets throughout collegiate gymnastics.

- The committee reviewed and approved a proposal to allow an acting judge to call a conference in the event of an issue with Impossible Start Value, UTL, out of range, neutral deduction error or scoring input error. The national assignor also supported this proposal.
 - The committee generally supported but took no action on a proposal that would require that the NCAA oversee and pay for a supervisor of officials position in women's gymnastics. The committee noted that this would require a budget request and the possibility of combining currently existing positions. Committee members requested that NCAA staff work internally on possible next steps to move toward this goal. Committee members noted that this topic is their top priority when it comes to future budget requests.
 - The committee reviewed a proposal to update the yellow card system and approved the recommendation, with amendments to remove possible confusion.
 - The committee reviewed and approved a proposal to add "out of range" to inquire and routine summary (IRS) form. Committee members noted that this will be updated.
 - The committee reviewed a proposal recommending a consolidated JAS manual and took no action. Committee members noted that these concerns already are in the process of being addressed, as they discussed with the national assignor. Committee members also reiterated that all coaches should be able to see the exact same language in the manual, with the exception of the judges' contact information.
4. **Review of championships broadcast.** The committee met with Jarom McLiver and Natalie Steger from the NCAA broadcasting staff, and with Ericka Galbraith, Amanda Gifford, Cara Lagana, Mallory Kenny and Nicole Pechanic from ESPN.

The group discussed regular-season coverage of women's gymnastics in 2024-25, which included approximately 100 hours of air time; the inaugural championship selection show; dedicated programming for the championship, including a one-hour ESPN Game On: Journey to the Championship special; and the regional and championship broadcasts. The championship saw an 18% increase year-over-year with viewership of one million, marking the second-highest viewership for the championships.

The committee also discussed with the group the timing of the championship selection show and championship semifinals and will continue to explore collaboratively ahead of future championships.

5. **Review of championships selection process and timeline.** The committee reviewed the championship selection process and timeline. Committee members noted that they would be in favor of a later start time for the selection show in order to allow for more time for the committee to work through its selection process following the conclusion of conference championships and the timing of the selection announcement. Committee members also noted the need to adjust the timeline of post-selection videoconferences to account for the selection of each starting apparatus by participating teams and requested that staff update timelines accordingly.
6. **Review conference score verification coordinators and responsibilities.** The committee noted that an additional call with relevant parties from Road to Nationals and the WCGA would help clarify relevant responsibilities. Committee members asked staff to appropriately update dates and times on the responsibilities timeline.
7. **Review equipment list for championship.** Committee members discussed the equipment list for the championships and asked staff to recraft and ensure that the equipment list is consistent across all four regional sites and the national championship finals.
8. **Review of Road to Nationals services provided.** The committee met with Jason Fredericks from Road to Nationals and discussed potential adjustments that could be needed should the NQS formula change recommendation be approved for implementation prior to the start of the 2025-26 season. The committee also discussed the schedule of meets form with Mr. Fredericks, who noted that he can adjust neutral-site meets to reflect home or away designation when necessary.

Mr. Fredericks also briefly discussed with the committee the impact of the SCORE Board program as it related to the Road to Nationals website during its first year of implementation. The committee continues to be satisfied with the services provided by Mr. Fredericks and Road to Nationals.
9. **Review of Virtius scoring system.** The committee discussed the Virtius scoring system and noted that the system executed the meet well. Committee members and staff will meet with Virtius staff later in the year to plan for the 2026 championships.
10. **Review of judges' selection process.** The committee met with Jenna Karadbil, national assignor of judges, and reviewed the judges' selection process. Noting that the current judges' selection procedure follows an outdated process based on regions, the committee and Ms. Karadbil discussed potential adjustments to this process. Ms. Karadbil will draft a new process

for committee review, feedback and approval, inclusive of an affiliation rule for immediate family.

Committee members and Ms. Karadbil also discussed the duties of the national assignor and the positive impact of DV Sport at the national championships, among other items.

11. Review of 2025 regionals. Committee members discussed and debriefed the 2025 regional sites. Committee members and staff discussed challenges with hotel availability at some regional sites and minimal floor space that is available at most sites.

12. Review of 2025 championships. The committee discussed the 2025 championships and reviewed participant survey responses. Committee members were overall very pleased with the championship site, increased attendance and championship atmosphere, and enhanced marketing and social media efforts for the championships.

a. Participant survey responses. The committee reviewed participant survey responses and noted the desire to see increased attendance for Thursday's semifinal sessions. Committee members also noted that they would like staff and hosts to explore enhancements to make the student-athlete entrance area more impactful. Committee members also discussed the quality of the banquet food and overall banquet experience. The committee will continue to discuss the practicality of the banquet at future championships.

b. Review notes from committee recap videoconference. Committee members briefly reviewed notes from a prior call recapping the national championships. Specifically, committee members inquired about the need to improve the hospitality room offerings at future championships.

1) Schedule of events. The committee discussed the addition of the coaches meeting to Tuesday evening's schedule and noted that this was positive. Committee members noted that transition time needs to be discussed and finalized with game presentation staff ahead of future championships to ensure consistency.

2) Venue layout. The committee discussed the addition of the second corral at each apparatus and noted that it was a great enhancement to the championships. Committee members noted the individual corral for balance beam should not be looking directly down the beam and requested that staff and hosts adjust this for future championships, if possible. Committee members also noted their desire to see the additional corral by the vomitory remain in place for Saturday's competition.

3) Competitive rotations. Committee members did not discuss competitive rotations at length, given the WCGA proposal on this topic (see Informational Item 4).

13. Review of championship manuals. Committee members and staff discussed the championship manuals and will consolidate, edit and update information ahead of the 2025-26 academic year.

14. 2026 championships planning. The committee met with Heath Aucoin, Becca Berger, Courtnie Ortiz, and Cassie Poss from the Fort Worth Sports Commission, and with Katie Evers, Maddie Hall, Preston Kirk, and Daniel Smith from Knight Eady.

The group noted possible improvements for future championships and will continue to work collaboratively to build on this year's improvements at the championships in the coming years. Committee members noted that they will develop subcommittees to collaborate with hosts on key operational areas, including student-athlete experience and fan experience, in advance of the 2026 championships. Committee members also voted to eliminate the traditional banquet from the 2026 championships and reallocate the funds on other enhancements.

Committee members and host staff discussed the comprehensive marketing plan, social media coverage, and ticket resales and donations for the 2026 championships.

The committee also reviewed the 2026 and 2027 regional host sites and dates of competition.

15. 2026 annual meeting. The committee will conduct its annual meeting June 9-10.

16. Committee composition. The committee reviewed the committee roster and noted that Shaun Richard and Danna Durante will remain in their positions of chair and vice chair for the 2025-26 academic year.

17. Other business. The committee discussed the status of the bids for the 2028 championships and will look to confirm plans in the coming months.

Committee Chair: Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University
Staff Liaison(s): John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances
Sami Bogenschutz, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee June 10, 11 and 24, 2025, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Lisa Bowerman, Texas Woman's University.	
Danna Durante, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Cindy Harris, Illinois State University.	
Colleen Kelly, Brown University.	
Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart, University of Denver.	
George Nelson, United States Air Force Academy.	

Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Heath Aucoin, Fort Worth Sports Commission.
Becca Berger, Fort Worth Sports Commission.
Janette Doucette, Rules Interpreter.
Katie Evers, Knight Eady.
Jason Fredericks, Road to Nationals.
Ericka Galbraith, ESPN.
Amanda Gifford, ESPN.
Jason Fredericks, Road to Nationals.
Maddie Hall, Knight Eady.
Jenna Karadbil, National Assignor.
Mallory Kenny, ESPN.
Preston Kirk, Knight Eady.
Cara Lagana, ESPN.
Casey Nigh, Knight Eady.
Courtne Ortiz, Fort Worth Sports Commission.
Nicole Pechanec, ESPN.
Cassie Poss, Fort Worth Sports Commission.
Daniel Smith, Knight Eady.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Sami Bogenschutz, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kenzie Baker, Championships and Alliances, Ticketing and Marketing.
Jarom McLiver, Championships and Alliances, Broadcasting.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Allie Silcox, Championships and Alliances, Ticketing and Marketing.
Natalie Steger, Championships and Alliances, Broadcasting.
Jennifer White, Championships and Alliances, Contractor.