

REPORT OF THE NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 11, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements. NCAA staff provided an update on recent operations staffing changes, including the departure of a former staff liaison and the addition of Jen White as a contractor to assist with the oversight of the 2025 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships.
- 2. Broadcast/ESPN discussion. NCAA staff provided an update regarding broadcast staffing support for the championships. Staff also provided an update on several initiatives in the new ESPN agreement, including the addition of a televised selection show, a dedicated marketing campaign, and a one-hour special highlighting the journey to the championships. ESPN staff will join a future committee videoconference with the committee to discuss these initiatives in more detail.

Additionally, while the committee will still determine which teams are in each semifinal session, staff communicated that ESPN, as part of their broadcast rights, has the right to choose which groups of teams occupy the two semifinal session times at the finals site. Correspondence on these broadcast initiatives, including details around the semifinal times, will be shared with the membership in the coming weeks, prior to championship selections.

3. Regular season scheduling item. The committee reviewed an appeal to a recent schedule request from the University of Georgia.

The committee reviewed and discussed the information submitted with the appeal but ultimately denied the appeal because in the committee's opinion the new information did not change the key facts surrounding the request and the scheduling policy.

The committee noted that Georgia did not lose a participation opportunity due to inclement weather, as originally anticipated. The committee also noted that Georgia's student-athletes would still be permitted to compete at the additional event requested to allow for a positive student-athlete experience, but that the team score would not be permitted to count toward the team's National Qualifying Score (NQS). The committee reiterated the intent of the scheduling policy, which is to avoid in-season schedule changes that could favor teams for championship qualification and to allow changes to the Schedule of Meets form after the deadline only due to extenuating circumstances.

4. Regional alternate judge. The committee was led through the process of selecting a new alternate judge for the Alabama Regional, which was necessary due to a health-related withdrawal from a previously identified judge. Following the replacement process, staff will notify the new alternate judge of their selection.

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5. Discussion items. The committee discussed operational items for the championships, including formalizing the coaches meeting and walkthrough at the finals site and operational elements of championship scoring.

The committee also confirmed its prior support of a coaches association proposal for the deadline for NQS to Road to Nationals to calculate rankings effective "the seventh Monday after January 1," replacing the previous effective date of "the Monday after February 19."

6. Future meetings. The committee will meet again on Tuesday, February 25.

Committee Chair: Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University, Big Ten Conference

Staff Liaisons: John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances

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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, University of Denver.

George Nelson, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University.

Attendees:

None.

Guests in Attendance:

Jen White, BigRev Group.

NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:

John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.

Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Jarom McLiver, Championships and Alliances, Broadcast Services.

Natalie Steger, Championships and Alliances, Broadcast Services.

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