



**REPORT OF THE
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 3-4, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Repropose increase to 18 competing student-athletes.** As roster sizes continue to grow, the National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Committee once again recommends increasing the number of allowable competing athletes from 15 to 18. (See Action Item 2-a.)
- 2. Add a third round to the National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships.** The committee recommends adding a third round to fuel momentum after conference play with three consecutive weeks of the championship building to the finals. (See Action Item 2-b.)
- 3. Modify the championships date formula.** The committee recommends moving the start of the season back two weeks, which would move the championships to early spring. (See Action Item 2-c.)
- 4. Add eight hours of CARA to the summer.** This will allow student-athletes to train with their collegiate coach and teammates to bridge a gap between spring and fall. (See Action Item 2-d.)
- 5. Reduce the experience requirements for postseason judges.** Change the required years of experience for judges to be considered for NCAA regionals and finals to eight. (See Informational Item 4.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Increase to 18 competing athletes.

- (1) Recommendation. Increase the number of allowable competing athletes from 15 to 18, while keeping the number of athletes reimbursed in the travel party at 15.
- (2) Effective date. 2024-25 season.
- (3) Rationale. The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee agreed to revisit this tabled item from January 2024, noting that if there was no budgetary impact, as the sport committee reasons, it could be implemented. As previously stated in the 2023

annual meeting report, this would enable teams to include student-athletes who are competing in their lineup throughout the regular season to also be included in the championship lineup. Roster sizes have continued to increase over recent years. From 2017 to 2022 the average team size has grown from 17.8 to 20.6 across Division I, from 18.7 to 22 across Division II and from 20.6 to 22.6 across Division III. Increasing the number of allowable competing athletes is consistent with this trend.

A maximum of 18 competing student-athletes aligns with the policy applied in the Southeastern, Big Ten, Mid-American and Atlantic Coast Conferences. Other conferences do not have a limit on the number of competing student-athletes, including the Midwest Independent, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic and National Collegiate Gymnastics Association East Conferences. Conferences including the Big 12 and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation allow 15 competing athletes because they align their number with the NCAA policy.

With this change, the corral size will remain at 25 individuals. Teams will have the flexibility to select their 25 as long as no more than 18 individuals are designated as competing student-athletes. The committee emphasizes that this does not include an increase of the reimbursable travel party size, which will remain at 15 student-athletes.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The limit of 15 competing student-athletes has resulted in student-athletes being stripped of an opportunity to compete in/on an event/apparatus that they have consistently competed throughout the regular season. This change would provide more student-athletes the opportunity to compete in the championship. It will also enable coaches to make fair and safe decisions about the athletes selected to compete in the lineup.

b. Add a third round to the championships.

(1) Recommendation. Modify the championships date formula to add a third round to produce the following schedule:

Current Schedule:

First, second and third rounds (regionals) at four predetermined sites: The first round consists of two teams, the second round consists of eight teams and individuals, and the regional final will consist of four teams. At each regional, the top team in round one qualifies to round two; the top two teams in each session in round two qualify to the final round; and the top two teams in the final round qualify to the national championship. The top all-arounder and event specialist at each regional (who is not on advancing team) qualifies to the national championship in their respective event(s).

Proposed Schedule:

The first and second rounds (current regionals) at four predetermined sites: The first round consists of two teams and the second round consists of eight teams and individuals. At each regional, the top team in round one qualifies to round two. The top all-arounder and event specialist at each regional (who is not on advancing team) qualifies for the third round in their respective event(s). The top four teams in the second round at each regional advance to the third round or super-regional.

The proposed new third round or "super-regional" will be held at two non-predetermined sites with the two highest NQS teams hosting. The third round would consist of eight teams. The top four teams at each site would advance to the national championship. The top all-arounder and event specialist at each third round site (who is not on advancing team) qualifies for the national championship in their respective event(s).

(2) Effective date. 2025-26 season.

(3) Rationale. Currently, the regional round has three parts with a "play-in" round with teams ranked 29-36. The proposal provides momentum to build from conference championships through NCAA finals plus "rewards" the two highest NQS teams left in the tournament the opportunity to host at their home area. By adding a third round to the championships, the first and second rounds and regionals would consist of eight teams and the all-around and individual-event specialists at four predetermined sites. The proposed third round, or super regional, at two nonpredetermined sites (two highest NQS teams left in the championship would host) would consist of eight teams and no individuals. The final round (championship finals) would be at a predetermined site with eight teams and AA and IE specialist individuals.

(4) Estimated budget impact. A financial analysis when viable would be completed.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This provides student-athletes three consecutive weeks of championship competition building to the finals.

c. Modify the championships date formula.

(1) Recommendation. Move the start of the season back two weeks, resulting in the championships being conducted in early spring.

(2) Effective date. 2029-30 season.

(3) Rationale. Currently, women's gymnastics competition begins after the winter break. By moving the season, and therefore, the championships, back by two weeks, this

would ensure student-athletes have training time prior to their first competition. Additionally, there would be no conflict with the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships, March Madness, and USA Gymnastics competitions. This would also allow coaches to recruit at the USA Gymnastics competitions, which are currently held during championships and therefore a dead period for recruiting.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Moving the season start date, which would impact the date of the championship, could result in key stakeholders' inability to guarantee coverage of currently contracted airtime.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would have two additional weeks of training prior to their first competition. Also, prospective collegiate student-athletes would have the opportunity to be "seen" at the USA Gymnastics competitions by college coaches.

d. Add eight hours of CARA to the summer calendar.

- (1) Recommendation. Add eight hours of available CARA to the summer calendar.
- (2) Effective date. 2024-25 season.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, women's gymnastics student-athletes do not have available CARA hours to train during the summer. The ability to train with their collegiate coach and team members would ensure that a strong foundation is set for the fall.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would have additional training prior to the fall to help bridge the gap between spring and fall training on campuses.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Approval of 2023 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 report.
- 2. 2024 women's gymnastics playing rules proposals.** The committee reviewed the proposals included in the rules report.
- 3. Review of Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association proposals.** The committee discussed each of the proposals the WCGA approved. Proposals that require approval by the COC are included in this report as Action Items 2-a through 2-d above.
- 4. Review of judges' qualifications.** The committee discussed and reviewed the selection requirements for postseason judges and agreed to reduce the years of experience to eight versus

the current 10. This allows for a wider breadth of qualified judges' to be considered for the postseason.

5. **Review of the selection process and timeline.** The committee reviewed the team selection procedures document and clarified relevant language.
 6. **Review score verification coordinators and responsibilities.** The committee agreed that the updated score-verification coordinator assignment and process worked well this year. Each score verifier was held accountable for reviewing scores within their respective region and communicated any questions or concerns to the championship manager.
 7. **Review AAI equipment for championship.** The top throw mat examples were reviewed to determine if white or color inset would be allowed. The committee voted on white inset for the finals. Teams may use an alternate (contrasting) color for home meets and regionals and use the measurements recommended by AAI. The pit pillow should have one side of cotton fabric and one side of vinyl. All individuals onsite at postseason must be cleared through Safe Sport with a list sent to the championship manager at least two weeks before the championships for confirmation. Additional spray bottles must be at each event and additional bottles must be available should some go missing. The AAI contract is through 2026.
 8. **Review of Road to Nationals and the services provided.** The committee was satisfied with the services provided by the Road to Nationals scoring system and website.
 9. **Review of ProScore scoring system.** The committee expressed a desire to explore other scoring system options for the championships. In particular, the committee was deeply disappointed that a backup scoring system had to be brought in by Texas Woman's University to ensure that the championships could occur since ProScore could not show scores four numerals past the decimal place. ProScore also did not show up to their agreed-upon time during the annual meeting.
- 10. Review of 2024 championships.**
- a. **Competitor numbers.** The committee expressed satisfaction and received positive feedback regarding the removal of competitor numbers.
 - b. **Wristband distribution.** Wristbands were successfully distributed to those members of the team/school to celebrate postcompetition.
 - c. **Double dual format.** The new double dual format worked very well not only for the speed of the championships but most importantly for the student-athlete experience since all four events were covered on ESPN.

11. Review of 2024 championship manuals. The committee will assist in reviewing manual language to ensure consistency and clarity of information.

12. Preview of the 2025 regional host sites. The committee acknowledged the following future regional sites: University of Alabama, Pennsylvania State University, University of Utah and University of Washington.

13. Discussion and plans for the 2025 championships. To boost attendance, the committee brainstormed ideas to bring people to the arena. Ideas included a Fan Fest with youth activities, food vendors, ticketing packages, etc. The committee also spoke about a collaboration with USAG to have a youth meet nearby with ticket packages for the NCAA championships. The committee would like to increase the allocation of seats for teams to 500 or more. The committee also agreed on the following:

- To assign times for look-throughs at all regional sites for all qualifiers.
- To improve the timing of transitions between equipment and touch warm-ups, the committee will incorporate the announcement twice to ensure that student-athletes and coaches are ready to move with their respective line leaders.
- To improve and empower site representatives at the regional rounds, a more robust call with the championship liaison will occur outlining specifics such as not allowing teams on the vault to use the floor.
- To allow for improved communication between the coaches and the committee, the committee will ask two coaches to act as representatives during the walkthrough/equipment check to report any concerns to the committee and championship liaison.
- Hotels for the championship finals will be assigned by the committee based on room availability and session assignments. Birdie Boxes will be delivered to the championship hotels for teams and individuals.
- Beginning in 2025, the committee's annual meeting will be two full days versus 1.5 days.

The committee also discussed implementing a new NQS system (counting all scores, dropping the high and low and then averaging the remaining scores). The committee stated that the language was confusing and will discuss and review at a future time.

14. Selection of 2024-25 committee chair and vice chair. The committee elected Shaun Richard, administrator with The Ohio State University, as committee chair for the coming year. Danna Durante, head coach at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was elected as vice chair.

Committee Chair: Guard Young, Brigham Young University,
Staff Liaison(s): Jennifer Mervar, Championships and Alliances
 Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee June 3-4, 2024, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University.
Cindy Harris, Illinois State University.
Lisa Bowerman, Texas Woman's University.
Danna Durante, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
Lauren Procopio, University of Pennsylvania.
Guard Young, Brigham Young University.
Absentees:
Jeff Konya, San Jose State University.
Guests in Attendance:
Teresa Barnard, National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges (current president).
Catherine "Cookie" Batsche, National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges former President.
Lois Colburn, National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges National Collegiate Assigner.
Ken Cysewski and Terry Williams, AAI
Jannette Doucette, Rules Interpreter.
Jason Fredericks, Road to Nationals.
Melanie Hall, Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association President.
Jenna Karadbil, national assignor
Dan Margulis, ESPN.
Cassie Poss, Fort Worth Sports Commission.
Daniel Smith, Knight Eady.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Jennifer Mervar, Championships and Alliances.
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.
Jen White, Contractor.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Rachel Seewald, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Natalie Steger, ESPN/Broadcast.