



NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
REPORT FROM THE NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 11, 2019, TELECONFERENCE

Action Item: The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider two budget requests regarding an increase in the travel party from 20 to 24 and implementing electronic scoring.

KEY ITEM.

- **Budget requests to increase the travel party from 20 to 24 and to implement electronic scoring.** The Women's Gymnastics Committee recommends increasing the travel party from 20 to 24 individuals and implementing electronic scoring (see Action Items 2-a and 2-b). The two items are requested in priority order.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Increase the travel party at the final site from 20 to 24 individuals.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a recommendation to increase the travel party from 20 to 24.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2020.
- (3) Rationale. The current travel party of 20 allows for 15 student-athletes and five non-athletes. 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. Increasing the travel party to 24 allows 18 competitors and six non-athletes. The increase of one non-athlete will continue to maintain the necessary athletic training personnel within the travel party.

The travel party of 24 would also match the current number of individuals allowed in the corral, which is 24. Within the new format, teams may designate the 15

competitors from a list of 18 competitors, so this increase would incorporate all potential competitors into the roster.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$46,000. This includes increases for transportation, per diem and game expenses.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will benefit from this adjustment because it may give more athletes the opportunity to compete for their teams.

b. Implement electronic scoring at the final site.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a recommendation to implement electronic scoring at the final site.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2020.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, all scoring at the championship is completed by hand using paper slips, score runners, score flashers and manual verification. With six judges at each event, this process may unnecessarily lengthen the competition. A move to electronic scoring would shorten the meet since each judge would enter his or her score on an individual device and the device would automatically compute the score. Scores would still be verified manually with a paper backup, but that verification could occur after each rotation instead of each routine.

Aside from creating efficiency and eliminating personnel on the floor, electronic scoring displays are more professional and fan friendly. The scoring system also integrates more seamlessly and accurately with the television broadcast.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$10,000. This includes the software, power and secure internet connections, setup and equipment.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Shortening the wait time before each athlete is beneficial for the student-athletes because it keeps them competition-ready and in their natural routines.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **Review championship items.** The committee reviewed protocol for the all-around and event specialist award ceremony at the national championship. Members also reviewed warm-up timing and possible tweaks for the 2020 championship. The committee also confirmed the desire to use sticker competitor numbers in 2020 as opposed to the pinned numbers.

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