



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RIFLE COMMITTEE
JUNE 3-4, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Standard match format.** The committee recommends amending the standard match format rule to clarify how deviation disagreements should be managed and to ensure “counter” student-athletes compete against other “counter” student-athletes during the regular season (see Action Item 2).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- a. NCAA regular-season standard match format.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following change to the Rifle Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To change modification 3.a.5 as follows (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

Any deviation from the Standard Match Format shall be agreed upon in writing by the head coaches of each institution participating at least one week prior to the scheduled start of the match. **If head coaches cannot agree on a deviation, they must follow the Standard Match Format as written.**

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.

- (3) Rationale. Revising 3.a.5 clarifies explicitly how any disagreement about deviation from the Standard Match Format will be managed. The current modification left room for misinterpretation on what to do if coaches disagree.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed modification should have a positive student-athlete impact by ensuring a consistent competition environment at matches.

- b. NCAA regular-season standard match format.** The committee requests approval from PROP for the following change to the Rifle Rules Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To add modification 3.a.7 as follows (~~striketrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

“Counter” student-athlete(s) may not be squadded without an opposing “counter” student-athlete(s) on the firing line.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. The addition of 3.a.7 is intended to ensure that “counter” student-athletes are competing against other “counter” student-athletes to align with the intent of the Standard Match Format. This additional rule closes a gap in the regular-season format.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed modification should have a positive student-athlete impact by ensuring a consistent competition environment at matches.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2018 annual meeting report**. The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **Strategic plan review**. The committee reviewed the NCAA rifle committee strategic plan and made the following changes:
 - Modified short-term goal #3 from “community engagement project at the championships” to “advise and assist the host with a community engagement project at the championships.”
 - Added short-term goal #6 – “Standardization of equipment control.”
 - Added long-term goal #4 – “Select championship sites that will provide a memorable student-athlete experience.”

Committee members use the strategic plan to guide their work to strengthen the championships and the sport in general.

3. **Review of 2019 championships**. The committee applauded the exemplary effort of the West Virginia University staff to host a memorable and record-breaking championship event that set an attendance record of 2105.
 - c. **Schedule review**. The committee reviewed the championships schedule of events from 2019 and made no changes for the 2020 championships. The committee noted positive feedback on the 30-minute later start time on practice day this year.
 - d. **Site evaluations**. The committee reviewed evaluations from the coaches, student-athletes and officials who participated in the 2019 championships. The overall feedback was very positive.

Suggestions regarding possible improvements for 2019 and beyond include more space in the team area and improved hospitality offerings for student-athletes. NCAA staff and the committee will look to take action on these suggestions for the 2020 championships.

- e. **Awards**. The committee noted positive feedback on the awards ceremony.

- f. Banquet.** The committee noted positive feedback on the banquet at West Virginia. The committee decided to institute a student-athlete speaker for the 2020 championships to enhance the student-athlete experience at the banquet. Student-athletes will submit a speech to the committee before the championship. The committee will review the submitted speeches and select a speaker from those who qualify for the championship.
- g. Equipment checks and button checker.** The committee reviewed policies and procedures used for both voluntary pre-event and post-competition equipment checks. The committee reviewed the button checker gauge and procedure for checking buttons during equipment checks. The committee determined that they will investigate the purchase of a drill press to calibrate the gauge at the championship. There will only be one button checker gauge used to check buttons at the championship and student-athletes need to pass inspection on that specific gauge. The same gauge will be used for the voluntary pre-event and post-competition equipment checks and the same individual will perform the checks. This is consistent with how other major rifle events operate. In addition, the coaches association will pursue providing a rifle template to all member institutions to provide a consistent template for NCAA competition.
- h. Credentials.** The committee reviewed the credentials and will eliminate the officials credential and host medical credential. Officials will receive the NCAA credential and host medical staff will receive an event management credential. The committee reaffirmed that only student-athletes, coaches, committee members, NCAA staff, officials and select host institution staff should have access to the firing line, equipment storage, student-athlete hospitality and team camp areas.
- i. Web stream.** The committee reviewed the web streaming metrics from the championships and noted that viewership increased substantially from last year with almost three times the number of unique visitors.
- j. Range officers.** The committee reviewed the range officers' performance at the championships. The committee will consider potential range officers and extend invitations to work the 2020 championships in early fall of 2019.
- k. Score monitors.** The committee noted positive feedback on the scoring displays the host provided, especially the large display behind the range that was visible to all spectators, student-athletes and coaches. This was a major improvement to the championship experience. The committee will investigate ways to display a team score during competition in the future.
- l. Hotels.** The committee reviewed the team hotel in Morgantown and noted positive reviews, especially with the location near the venue.
- m. Team areas.** The committee noted feedback that the team areas did not provide adequate space for the teams and individuals to unpack their cases and set up their guns. The members request future hosts to provide a bigger area for the teams. The committee noted positive feedback on the storage and security of the equipment in the locker rooms.

4. 2020 NCAA Rifle Championships – University of Kentucky. The committee discussed initial thoughts on the 2020 championships at the University of Kentucky. The committee noted some items to be considered in preparations with Kentucky (e.g., scoreboards, team area, hospitality, marketing).

5. NCAA qualifier and selections. The committee reviewed the team and individual selection policies, procedures and criteria for the championships.

a. Team selection. The committee discussed the process and criteria for team selections and made no changes.

The committee also discussed adjustments to the team selection criteria that could include reducing the weight of the qualifier match from 50% to 25% of the average. The committee will seek feedback from the membership during the next year and review data on how such a change would have impacted past selections. The committee will discuss this further at its next annual meeting.

b. Individual selection. The committee reviewed the championships selection criteria for individuals and made no changes. The committee did discuss an option for the individual selection criteria to mirror the team selection criteria but took no action. The committee will also seek feedback from the membership on this topic as well before further discussion at its next annual meeting.

c. Selection dates. The committee reviewed the selection date, as it was one day earlier than it had been previously. The committee made no change to the date at this time but will continue to monitor the ability to move it closer to Sunday from its current date of Tuesday after the qualifier matches. The committee will require all NCAA qualifier hosts to submit the graphic scorecards from the match to NCAA staff after the qualifier matches to help expedite score verification before selection.

6. 2019-20 Rules Modifications. The secretary-rules interpreter shared that USA Shooting has not released a new version of its rules book because it awaits information from the International Shooting Sport Federation. The secretary-rules interpreter has all USA Shooting modifications to the ISSF rules and has compiled them into an abbreviated book. The committee noted that because USA Shooting and ISSF rules change often throughout the year, the rules as of September 1 will be the rules followed during the NCAA rifle season.

The committee reviewed rules proposals for the 2019-20 NCAA Rifle Rules Modifications. Once finalized, the proposed rules modifications will be sent to the membership for comment and then forwarded to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel for final approval.

Key items of discussion included the following:

a. Standard match format. The committee recommends the following changes (see Action Item 2):

- (1) Added clarification to specify that if coaches cannot agree on a deviation, coaches must follow the standard match format as written.
 - (2) Added a rule to regular-season format that “counter” student-athletes may not be squadded without an opposing “counter” student-athlete on the firing line.
- b. Individual finals format.** The committee will include the individual finals format in its pre-season communication with the rifle membership. Since the format exists in the current rules, it does not need to be included in the rule modifications.
7. **Bid specifications.** The committee reviewed the bid specifications for the upcoming cycle and recommended edits based on the recent evolution of the championships into arenas and indoor track venues.
 8. **Championships policy review.** The committee briefly reviewed various championships policies and made no changes for 2020.
 9. **Online score reporting system.** The committee was pleased with the NCAA online score reporting system and recommended adding the ability to break ties on team results with the tie breaking procedure for 2019-20.
 10. **USA Shooting.** The president of the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association reviewed recent activity of the national governing body.
 11. **Competition Oversight Committee.** NCAA staff reviewed recent competition oversight committee activity.
 12. **Review of championships manuals.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make appropriate updates and additions to the committee operations, host operations, participant and pre-championships manuals.
 13. **Championships budget.** Committee members reviewed the revenue and expenses from the 2019 championships along with the merchandise sales report. The committee noted record ticket revenues and merchandise sales.
 14. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship information and noted that the University of Nevada, Reno dropped their program at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.
 15. **Committee roster.** The committee reviewed the committee roster and noted Zach Eckert, assistant athletics director at the University of West Virginia, and Marsha Beasley, head rifle coach at the University of Mississippi will begin their terms on the committee on Sept. 1. The committee thanked Melissa Mulloy-Mecozi and Eric Sabin for their service on the committee. The committee selected Richard Fletcher, deputy athletics director at Morehead State University, as chair of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year.

16. Future dates. The committee reviewed and approved of the dates for the 2019-20 academic year.

- a. NCAA qualifier.** Friday, Feb. 21 – Sunday, Feb. 23.
- b. Team and individual selections.** Tuesday, Feb. 25.
- c. Rifle championships.** Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 – University of Kentucky.
- d. Annual meeting.** Monday, June 1 and Tuesday, June 2 – Indianapolis.

17. Other business.

- a. NCAA mobile range.** The committee reviewed requests from member institutions and conferences to borrow the NCAA mobile range to conduct conference championships. The committee voted to deny the requests at this time, citing the need to protect the equipment for use at the NCAA championships.
- b. Contest exemption.** The committee reviewed the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association's proposal to exempt competition against the United States Army Marksmanship Unit. The proposal will be submitted to the legislative process either by the coaches association or by a member conference.
- c. Minimum number of student-athletes for competition.** The committee reviewed the bylaw stating the minimum of student-athletes for rifle competition is four. The committee will remind the rifle membership of this bylaw in its pre-season communication with all teams.
- d. Equipment.** The committee noted that Richard Edmondson is no longer working for MegaLink. Coaches will assist each other with technical support for the electronic targets until a new contact is available.

*Committee Chair: Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New England
Women's and Men's Athletic Conference*
Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee June 3-4, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Newt Engle, NCAA Secretary-Rules Interpreter.	
Richard Fletcher, Morehead State University.	
David Kooger, University of Texas, El Paso.	
Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.	
Ryan Tanoue, The Ohio State University.	
Webster Wright, U.S. Military Academy.	

Absentee:
Eric Sabin, University of Memphis.
Guests in Attendance:
Alan Lollar, Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.
Andy Supergan, Championships and Alliances.