

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISIONS I, II AND III WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEES JUNE 18, 2019, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2019 championships review.
 - **a. Hotels**. The committees received feedback that some participants were uncomfortable with the security between ancillary parking and the hotels. There were a few thefts in the parking garage at the Divisions II and III hotel property. Otherwise, all ran smoothly, and teams liked the properties used for this year's championships.
 - The committees discussed options to accommodate institutional preferences for hotel type, while maintaining similarity within each division, particularly as it pertains to distance from the competition site for future championships. Due to the number of teams, and few of our host sites have properties large enough to accommodate all within a division, there does not seem to be a viable option that will still accommodate institutional preferences.
 - **b.** Coxswains meetings. The committees reviewed the timing of the meetings and agreed to keep the same times for 2020. The committee noted the need for a meeting location which provides a view of the course yet is secluded enough to minimize distractions and noise from other activities.
 - **c. Awards**. The committees like the use of the mobile stage and the host's preparation, organization and setup of the awards tables and lineup of teams.
 - **d. Banquet**. The committees felt the banquet experience was exceptional. Food was appropriate in quality and quantity, and was served quickly and efficiently along with other activities if participants chose to go first to assigned tables then return for their food. The keynote speaker was genuine and well received by the student-athletes. The committee will solicit suggestions for speakers for future championships sites.
 - **e. Lineups/entry system**. The online entry system adjustment that allowed coaches to first reserve their boat weigh-in/certification reservation and then return to complete entry was well received.
 - **f. Media**. The committees discussed preserving the boat storage space as if it is a team's locker room yet also providing some media access. Members determined that each venue will provide different configurations and opportunities.

- **g. Web stream**. The drone coverage was a great addition to the broadcast and the committee would like to promote continued use. The announcers did a good job of spotting on the water and keeping everyone updated since the course layout permits spectator viewing only at the finish.
- **h. Videoboard**. The in-venue production provided a good enhancement for the participants and spectators. And based on the course layout, a videoboard is a necessity for the spectators.
- i. Joint committee meetings. The committees discussed timeliness and best practices for onsite decision making during the championships. The committees directed staff to work with committee chairs to formalize committee member responsibilities, assignments and operations during the championships.
- **2. Head official's report**. The committees reviewed the report from head official, Kirsten Meisner. The committees lauded Ms. Meisner for her service in preparation for and during the championships. They felt her demeanor and experience helped to de-escalate items that could have become issues. Many of her recommendations will be implemented in the future.
- **3. 2020 chief referee**. The committees unanimously approved an extension for Ms. Meisner to serve as chief referee for the 2020 championships.
- 4. 2020 championships.
 - **a.** Banquet/speaker/entertainment. The committees directed staff to work with the host staff to secure a keynote speaker as well as identify some ideas for entertainment during the banquet.
 - **b.** Announcers. The committees will assist staff with the creation of a list of championships-caliber rowing-specific announcers. The committee would like to emphasize using female announcers when available. The committees agreed to extend invitations to Adrienne McConnell and Mary Whipple to serve as two of the three public address announcers for 2020. Staff was directed to ask next year's host and CoSIDA, which is headquartered in Knoxville, if there is a local person they recommend.
 - c. Web stream/coverage/videoboards/monitors. Coverage of the championships has evolved since Oak Ridge last hosted. Staff will work with the hosts to identify a video board company to provide the equipment/production. The committees encouraged continued use of monitors or an LED wall in the student-athlete area to stream the coverage. The committees would also like to include updated team score graphics and tie in for announcers so they too can use the content.

- **d.** Awards walk-up music. Awards coverage is included in the live stream so copyright issues may prevent the use of walk-up music.
- **e. Schedule**. The committees reviewed the schedule and may make slight changes to the practice times. Race order was discussed but tabled without a decision regarding revisions. Members approved the use of 12-minute centers for the 2020 championships.
- **f. Team/boat storage area**. The committees asked staff to discuss with the host whether team tents are permitted in the team/boat storage area at this site. Another option may be to provide secure space for team tents separate from the boat storage area.
- **g.** Fairness committee. Having a fairness committee in place has helped the committees make informed weather and venue conditions decisions. The practice of designating and using a fairness committee will remain in place for 2020. The committees directed staff to develop educational materials to share with the College Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) to better define which decisions are made by the fairness committee, by the respective or joint divisional sport committees and by NCAA staff.
- **h. Enhancement ideas**. Members asked staff to provide a Tagboard option again during the championships banquet. The use of an all-encompassing, digital alert system was indispensable. Members also asked staff to explore new ways to make the in-venue and the broadcast productions more informative and interactive (e.g., map of course including boat progress, etc.).

5. Rules/championships policies/procedures.

- **a.** Coxswain minimum weight. The committees reviewed historical data prepared by our chief referee and were not compelled to modify the US Rowing rule at this time. The committees directed staff to work with Sport Science Institute for ongoing discussions when considering whether minimum weight is a student-athlete health and safety issue.
- **b. Boat weigh-in/certification**. The committees discussed at length the current boat certification procedures. The current policy is different than the procedures used at US Rowing events that weigh/certify boats. The committees discussed whether the current policy is best, or if they should consider following procedures used at US Rowing events. The committee directed staff work with the CRCA to survey its membership as to which procedure they prefer to use for the NCAA rowing championships. The topic was tabled for further discussion after receiving the feedback from the CRCA.
- **6. Reporting results and championships timing RFP.** NCAA staff updated the committees on the timeline for the request for proposal.

Report of the Divisions I, II and III Women's Rowing Committees June 18, 2019 Page No. 4

- **7. Bid specifications for host bid cycle 2023-2026 championships**. The committees designated a subcommittee to further review and revise the bid specifications.
- **8. 2020 meeting dates.** The dates for the 2020 annual meeting are June 16-17.
- **9. Other business**. The committees agreed upon a contingency plan if future championships schedules must be adjusted. This document will be included in future committee operations manuals.

Committee Chairs: Kyle Conder, Southern Methodist University; American Athletic Conference

Marlon Furlongue, Nova Southeastern University, Sunshine State

Conference

Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University, Northwest Conference

Staff Liaisons: Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances

Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Divisions I, II and III Women's Rowing Committees June 18, 2019, Meeting

Attendees:

Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University.

Rachel Burleson, Franklin Pierce University.

Kyle Conder, Southern Methodist University.

Andrew Derrick, Seattle Pacific University.

Andriel Doolittle, Ohio Wesleyan University.

John Gaskin, University of Rochester.

Kristin Maile, Sarah Lawrence College.

Carolyn Miles, Williams College.

Steve Pritzker, University of Virginia.

William Randall, U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Lily Rodriguez, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Kemp Savage, Eastern Michigan University.

Absentees:

Wendy Bordeau, Dartmouth College.

Shelagh Donohoe, University of Rhode Island.

Marlon Furlongue, Nova Southeastern University.

Jennifer Simon-O'Neill, University of California, Berkeley.

Guests in Attendance:

Kirsten Meisner, head official.

Jason Moody, Charles River Timing.

Report of the Divisions I, II and III Women's Rowing Committees June 18, 2019 Page No. 5

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.

Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.

Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

None.