



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative item.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; and West Coast Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 championships.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Squad size/travel party.

- (1) Recommendation. Add three student-athletes to the squad size (28) and an additional six to the travel party (37).
- (2) Effective date. 2025 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The current squad size creates a situation in which two student-athletes are traveling to the championship, but based on space limitations in boats, their ability to practice on the water is essentially non-existent. Currently 23 student-athletes compete across three boats, leaving two who do not compete at the championship. Two boats hold nine student-athletes, and one holds five, meaning two student-athletes are left out due to seat constraints. Three additional student-athletes would allow teams to have another full boat during practice creating a scenario where all traveling student-athletes could easily practice in preparation for possible competition. Additionally, increasing the number of allowable non-student-athletes in the travel party would more accurately reflect the current realities of

Division I women's rowing support staff and the numerous individuals that play a crucial role to the success of rowing student-athletes in a championship setting.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. See attached form.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The expanded squad size would allow all traveling student-athletes an opportunity to practice, which is a crucial aspect to any championship preparation in the event that a student-athlete is required to race due to injury.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Committee business.

- a. 2022 annual meeting report. The Division I Women's Rowing Committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report as submitted.
- b. Championship field size. The committee remains committed to exploring all options for future championship field size growth.
- c. Committee roster. The committee reviewed the committee roster and noted the incoming committee member. The committee thanked outgoing member Marshall Steward, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for his work on the committee. His replacement is Jessica Reo from Temple University.
- d. Regional advisory committee (RAC) roster. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee roster and noted vacancies.
- e. Committee timeline. The committee reviewed the timeline and made updates as needed.
- f. Committee responsibilities. The committee discussed ways to continue the dedication and work of the committee. The committee decided to implement a mentorship program for new committee members.
- g. Credentialing. The committee continues to emphasize that individuals without proper credentials, particularly those with small children, should not be in the boat storage area due to safety concerns. The committee added a nursing station for new parents coaching. The committee felt the bracelets worked well for the student-athletes and coaches.
- h. Announcers. The committee approved the announcing assignments for Adrienne McConnell and Lindsay Schoop. The committee recognized the passing of David

Wyant, who announced the 2023 championships, and agreed to a moment of silence at the 2024 championships. The committee requested more excitement and additional information during races, including teams, places, rosters, and splits to enhance the viewer experience.

2. **Rankings and selections.** The committee reviewed the regional alignments and the selections policies and procedures and discussed the reporting results system. The committee discussed regular-season entry procedures. The committee also discussed minimum contest requirements and institutions taking responsibility for inputting accurate information.
 - a. Regional alignment. The committee reviewed the regional alignments. No changes were needed.
 - b. Results reporting system. The committee discussed the internal regular-season rowing results reporting system, which provides the ability to compare teams and results. Staff was directed to continue working with the information technology contact to adjust outstanding internal functionality, allow RAC members specific access to the system, and provide the ability to submit additional information for committee reports.
3. **Review of 2023 championships.** The committee reviewed the championship operations with the host and noted the need for sufficient volunteers during the championship. The host secured divers at the finish line for safety reasons and will continue to do so moving forward. The committee, through the feedback of coaches surveys, praised the abundance of portable bathrooms secured for the teams. Teams will continue to have team tents (20x20) for each team. Also, teams will continue to confirm their ice, but the host must secure an ice vender. The committee also confirmed that better communication should be considered when lightning delays occur.
4. **Preview of the 2024 championships.** The committee reviewed all aspects of regatta operations and noted specifics in the items below.
 - a. Chief referee. Chief referee Melissa Chun will step down from her position and named two replacements, Elizabeth Jenista and Rachael Sunborg. The committees discussed naming Elizabeth Jenista to serve as the head referee.
 - b. Regatta director. The committee directed staff to continue using a regatta director. The position serves as a liaison between championship staff and host staff to ensure that the planning of the event is on track and to serve as a knowledgeable resource for the host. In recent years, the head official has served some of this role, but it is not a function of the role of head official. Having a dedicated person for this will ensure continuity in operations from year-to-year. This is increasingly important as new venues are used for the championships. Compensation will be nominal, and the committee suggests using John Walker or his recommendation.

- c. Officiating. The committee discussed the need for more static officiating to be used to reduce waves.
 - d. Preferred lanes. The committee discussed the site visit would be used to confirm preferred lanes.
 - e. Timing/Schedule. The committee voted to continue using 12-minute centers for racing. The committee discussed semifinal options for progressions and agreed a progression sheet be added to pre-championships manual. Also, the committee voted to extend the Thursday practice to 10 a.m., along with regatta option 1 vs. option 2 will be selected by random computer draw. Chief Referee Melissa Chun recommended via letter that the committee continue using the services of Charles River Timing at the 2024 championships based on their professionalism, precision, and trusted results in the field of rowing.
 - f. Hotels. The committee discussed hotels and detailed the improvement in service from the year although catering was still costly. Staff was directed to work with OnLocation to address these issues.
 - g. Regatta operations. The committee discussed items that would be reviewed in the joint meeting with Divisions II and III.
 - h. Fairness committee. The committee will continue using language from the World Rowing protocols.
 - i. Boat certifications/weigh-ins. The committee discussed the continued use of pre-race coaches attestation forms and following USRowing-prescribed post-race weighing procedures for the championships.
 - j. Banquet. The committee discussed whether to conduct an all-divisions banquet but did not conclude whether to conduct a dinner, breakfast, or forgo the event altogether. Regardless, the committee agreed that participant gifts were essential and that the host and staff should look to provide both a banquet and gifts if possible.
 - k. Location. The committee discussed if the location of the championship was safe and additional steps to provide safety. The committee asked staff to continue working with the local organizing committee and host to ensure a safe and inviting environment.
5. **Committee chair**. Due to the time commitment, the committee voted Thad Satre from Loyola Marymount University as chair replacing Justin Price.

6. **2024 annual meeting.** The committee will meet in the middle of June following the NACDA meeting and staff divisional committee meetings.

Committee Chair: Justin Price, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.

Staff Liaisons: J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Committee August 2, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Jamie Breslin, Stanford University.	
Caitlin Lowe, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Wes Ng, University of Pennsylvania.	
Justin Price, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.	
Thad Satre, Loyola Marymount University.	
Marshall Steward, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Tim Wise, University of Notre Dame.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Kristen Cass, Camden County Boathouse.	
Joe Calendo, Camden County Boathouse.	
Jessica Reo, Temple University.	
John Walker, Independent Regatta Director.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	