



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEE
JUNE 17-19, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING**

Action Items: The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider a recommendation to grant an additional year of the two-year grace period for an automatic qualifying conference and approve automatic qualification for 11 conferences.

KEY ITEMS.

- **Automatic qualification grace period waiver.** The committee recommends an additional year of the two-year grace period for a conference that remains at five members.
- **Automatic qualifying conferences.** The committee recommends 11 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020 championships.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification grace period waiver request.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Colonial Athletic Association retain its automatic qualification status by extending the two-year grace period by one year.
- (2) Effective date. 2020 championships.
- (3) Rationale. In 2017, one of the core conference members dropped women's rowing. The conference has made continued efforts to secure a sixth institution for rowing to no avail. The conference has been notified by one of its core members that it intends to sponsor women's rowing in 2021. The conference made a request to the women's rowing committee to grant an extension to the grace period.

The committee is encouraged that there will be a new sponsoring team within the conference and felt it appropriate to keep the continuity of its automatic qualification status. The committee supports this one-year extension with an expectation that the conference will return to six members in 2021.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The student-athletes in the conference will have an opportunity to earn access to the championship through the conference.

b. Automatic qualification.

(1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2020 NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; and West Coast Conference.

(2) Effective date. 2020 championships.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended. The Colonial Athletic Association bid is contingent upon the approval of the waiver request in Action Item 2-a.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Committee business.

a. 2018 annual meeting report. The Division I Women's Rowing Committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as submitted.

b. Committee operations manual. The committee reviewed the committee operations manual and made updates as needed.

c. Committee timeline. The committee reviewed the timeline for 2020 and made updates as needed.

2. Rankings and selections. The committee reviewed the regional alignments, made note of regional advisory committee term expirations, discussed the request for proposal for reporting results and timing, reviewed the ranking procedures, reviewed selections policies and procedures, and discussed the ranking and automatic qualification declaration deadlines.

- a. Regional alignment. The committee reviewed the regional alignments. No changes were needed.
- b. Results reporting. The committee discussed the request for proposal (RFP) for the results reporting and timing system, which will go out in July for review/approval September 1.
- c. Ranking and selection procedures. The committee reviewed the ranking and selection procedures. No changes were made. The committee discussed the importance of following the order of procedures to make efficient use of time.

3. Review of the 2019 championships.

- a. General overview. Despite the challenges of the event due to the dam opening, the committee agreed the competition was fair and the schedule changes made for the best experience possible.
- b. Committee assignments/team liaisons. The committee noted that the committee assignments should include members assigned at the launch/recovery docks as well as the finish tower. Members also suggested describing the expectations for each assignment.
- c. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the championships schedule and agreed to continue 12-minute centers for the racing schedule.
- d. Banquet. The committee liked the entertainment/enhancements to the banquet and wants them to continue. The speaker was commended for her presentation and the committee would like to use her again in a few years, schedule permitting. The committee said the food and service in Indianapolis exceeded expectations.
- e. Hotels. The committee expressed concern over the safety of the parking areas for a hotel and for the free off-site parking that was provided. This will be addressed with the host.
- f. Officials/Chief referee. The committee was very pleased with Kirsten Meisner as the chief referee and recommends her to serve in this role for 2020. She did a great job managing the command group. The committee reviewed the report from the chief referee and listed items to discuss during the joint meeting with Divisions II and III. The committee supports continuing using four chief deputies.
- g. In-venue production. The committee was pleased with the in-venue production. The committee suggested the host add more speakers in the student-athlete area if this venue is used again.

- h. Webcast. The committee recommends providing the link to the web stream sooner so that participating schools can incorporate it in their communication efforts. The drone was well received, and the committee requests it continue in the future. The committee offered a couple of suggestions to incorporate into the broadcast.
- i. Championships evaluations. The committee reviewed the evaluations and noted several comments regarding some shortcomings with the travel group. The committee directed staff to address those with the NCAA travel department.
- j. Championships strategic plan. The committee developed the strategic plan document for the championships.

4. Preview of the 2020 championships.

- a. Preferred lanes. The committee confirmed the chevron pattern as the preferred lanes for Oak Ridge.
- b. Progressions. The committee heard a report from the timing provider, Jason Moody, regarding progressions.
- c. Boat certification/weighing procedures. The committee discussed two options for certifying/weighing boats for the championships. The committee tabled the discussion to ask for feedback from the College Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) and will revisit the topic after the feedback is received.
- d. Coxswain minimum weight. The committee discussed the minimum weight for coxswains per a request from the CRCA. The Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron (FISA) minimum weight has increased, but US Rowing has not changed its minimum weight. The committee noted that the NCAA championships use US Rowing rules and does not feel compelled to write an exception to the US Rowing rule. However, the committee did agree to continue monitoring the issue.
- e. Hotels. The committee discussed the hotel options for Oak Ridge. NCAA staff believes there will be 15 to 18 different team hotels due to the type/sizes of the available hotels.

5. Future meeting dates. The committee will meet June 16-17, 2020.

6. Adjournment.

Committee Chair: Kyle Conder, Southern Methodist University, American Athletic Conference

Staff Liaisons: Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Committee June 17-19, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Steve Pritzker, University of Virginia.	
Lily Rodriguez, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Kemp Savage, Eastern Michigan University.	
Absentees:	
Wendy Bordeau, Dartmouth College.	
Kyle Conder, Southern Methodist University.	
Jennifer Simon-O'Neill, University of California, Berkeley	
Guests in Attendance:	
Kirsten Meisner, head official.	
Jason Moody, Charles River Timing.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	