



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEE  
JUNE 15-16, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING

**Action Item:** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider a recommendation to approve automatic qualification for 11 conferences.

**KEY ITEMS.**

- None.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative item.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2022 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. 2022 championships.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. Committee business.**

- a. 2020 annual meeting report. The Division I Women's Rowing Committee approved the 2020 annual meeting report as submitted.

- b. Committee roster. The committee reviewed the 2021-22 committee roster. The committee thanked Steve Pritzker for his work on the committee and for serving as chair.
  - c. Regional advisory committee (RAC) roster. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee roster and noted vacancies.
  - d. Committee timeline. The committee reviewed the timeline and made updates as needed.
  - e. 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.
2. **Rankings and selections.** The committee reviewed the regional alignments, reviewed selections policies and procedures, and discussed the reporting results system.
- a. Regional alignment. The committee reviewed the regional alignments. No changes were needed.
  - b. Results reporting system. The committee was pleased with the new internal regular-season rowing results reporting system, which significantly reduced the committee workload for rankings and selections by housing all the information in one place and provided the ability to compare teams and results. Staff was directed to work with the information technology contact to adjust some entry-side functionality, allow RAC members read-only access to the system, and provide the ability to submit additional information for committee reports.
3. **Review of 2021 championships.** The committee reviewed championship operations and noted the need for more volunteers and security at the start line. The committee also supports the additional tents secured for the teams due to COVID to become a permanent option for this site since teams are not allowed to bring their own tents (per park regulations).
4. **Preview of the 2022 championships.** The committee reviewed all aspects of regatta operations and noted specifics in the items below.
- a. Preferred lanes. The committee confirmed the chevron pattern as the preferred lanes for Sarasota.
  - b. Timing/Schedule. The committee agreed to keep the races on 12-minute centers and reviewed the schedule of events and made a few adjustments to practice times.
  - c. Hotels. The committee discussed the hotels used in 2021, which also will be used for 2022. There were a few hotels that were difficult to work with and catering was costly. Staff was directed to work with Anthony Travel to address these issues prior to returning.

- d. Regatta director. The committee directed staff to implement the position of regatta director, per the suggestion in the head referee report. This position will serve as a liaison between championship staff and the 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 absorbed some of this role, but it is not a function of the role of head official. Having a dedicated person to 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. Any compensation can be absorbed by the championships contractor budget line item across the three divisions as there are dollars allocated not being used since the new results reporting system was developed in-house.
  - e. Regatta operations. The committee discussed items that would be reviewed in the joint meeting with Divisions II and III. Those items were brought forward in the discussions and captured in Informational Item No. 5.
5. **Joint meeting with Divisions II and III women's rowing committees.** The committee met with Divisions II and III subsequent to the Division I annual meeting. The joint meeting was conducted on July 8 and August 23 via videoconference.
- a. Chief referee. The committees agreed to ask Melissa Chun to serve as the head referee.
  - b. Championships meetings. The committees agreed that while the virtual meetings were convenient, they would prefer to conduct them in person when able. The coaches value the in-person opportunity. In addition, the committee believes the conversation is more productive when meetings are held in person.
  - c. Boat certifications/weigh-ins. The committees voted to continue using the pre-race coaches attestation forms and follow USRowing-prescribed post-race weighing procedures for the championships that it used for the 2021 championships due to COVID-19 and limiting interactions with teams and officials. In the past, the championships used a different protocol and conducted a pre-certification and weigh-ins process.
  - d. Fairness committee. The committees would like to use language from the World Rowing protocols to make the language more precise regarding the championships' fairness committee responsibilities.
  - e. Announcers. The committees chose the three announcers they would like to offer assignments for 2022. They also chose a banquet speaker and suggested using that individual as a guest announcer to gain experience.
  - f. Coxswain minimum weight. The World Rowing (FISA) minimum coxswain weight is 55kg, which is approximately 120 pounds (regardless if the coxswain is male or female, and regardless as to the gender of the crew they are coxing). The USRowing Rules still has different coxswain weights for men's crews (120 pounds) and women's crews (110 pounds). NCAA women's rowing uses USRowing Rules.

The rowing community has discussed the issue of adjusting weights to match FISA rules annually since the FISA rule changed. The NCAA women's rowing committees also have discussed this topic annually. The last time College Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) surveyed the women's coaching community, they were split on whether they support increasing the minimum weight or maintaining the status quo.

The rowing committees currently have supported the different weights by gender as prescribed in the USRowing Rules because they are not equipped to make a different assessment than the national governing body (USRowing), which is considered the expert for the sport. Additionally, the committees have suggested that making a modification to the USRowing Rules should be through data supported by medical experts. The committees agree that the issue is important and would welcome the CRCA to research and submit a data-driven position statement to the women's rowing committees for consideration. Similarly, as USRowing adjusts rules, the committees would continue to review those as it does annually for championships procedures.

**6. 2022 annual meeting.** The committee will meet June 20-22, 2022.

*Committee Chair:* Steve Pritzker, University of Virginia, Atlantic Coast Conference  
*Staff Liaisons:* Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Committee June 15-16, 2021, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Shelagh Donohoe, University of Rhode Island.	
Jessica Grasso, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Tifini Grimes, University of Alabama.	
Wes Ng, University of Pennsylvania	
Justin Price, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.	
Steve Pritzker, University of Virginia.	
Jennifer Simon-O'Neill, University of California, Berkeley.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
None.	