



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

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Rules modifications document.** A rules modifications document will replace the NCAA Skiing Rules Book beginning in the 2019 academic year. The committee and rules interpreter met with Ben Brownlee from the NCAA playing rules and officiating staff to make appropriate updates to the modifications document (see Informational Item 12).
2. **2020 regional site selections.** The committee recommended regional sites for the 2020 championships, following recommendations made within each of the three skiing regions. These sites are selected annually by each of the region institutions on a rotating basis (see Action Item 2).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **2020 regional site selections.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the 2020 West Region Championships be held at Bridger Bowl and Crosscut Mountain Sports Center, February 28-March 1 and hosted by the University of Alaska Anchorage; that the 2020 East Region Championships be held at the Snow Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center on February 28-29 and hosted by Middlebury College; and that the 2020 Central Region Championships be held at Al Quaal Nordic Center on February 22-23 and hosted by Northern Michigan University.
- (2) Effective date. 2020 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The regionals are selected on a rotating basis by each of the region institutions, and these were the only bids received. In addition, there is no formal budget process, as the host institutions receive a set stipend for hosting. These institutions have all hosted successful events previously.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The stipend is \$3,500 per region.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Each of the venues will provide a top-caliber facility and experience for the competing student-athletes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the annual meeting agenda and schedule.
- 2. Approval of 2018 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2018 meeting report as presented.
- 3. Review of 2019 championships.** The committee discussed the 2019 championships hosted by the University of Vermont and reviewed participant, host, and committee survey responses from the championships. The committee noted that the championships went very well overall. The committee reflected positively on the organization of the host staff and race officials, the timing of the banquet and the quality of the competition facilities.

Committee members noted that they would like to see improvements made for future championships regarding connectivity for live timing and live scoring, as heavy traffic on some competition days made it difficult to follow along with the races and team scoring during the championships. The committee also noted its desire for more mobile videoboards to be used during future championships so those units can be more easily moved to different locations at the competition venues. The committee would also like to see a greater emphasis at future championships on student-athlete hospitality and the need for that hospitality to be equitable for all teams, including the host institution.

- 4. 2020 championships updates.** The committee discussed the 2020 championships, which will be hosted by Montana State University, Bozeman at Crosscut Mountain Sports Center and Bridger Bowl. Committee members discussed specifics on the Nordic and Alpine competition venues.

Additionally, the committee discussed several items for consideration during planning for the 2020 championships, including the overall event schedule, potential alternate plans for the championship barbeque and the possibility of a dual slalom exhibition event following the conclusion of the championships.

The committee also noted that beginning with the 2019 championships, there shall be no unofficial training for Alpine on the race hill during the week of the championships; rather, the two days of official training on the race hill will be the only training offered on the competition hill. Free skiing will remain an option at the host venue, but not on the competition hill. The committee also noted that the host institution is exempt from this policy until the day before the start of official training.

- 5. Qualification/selection process.** Based on the allocation formula and anticipated sponsorship for the 2019-20 academic year, the committee noted that the championship allocations for Alpine will be split evenly between the East and West regions for both men and women in 2020, with each region being allotted 17 spots per gender. On the Nordic side, the committee noted that the following allocations will be in effect for the 2020 championships: Central region men: 8 spots; Central region women: 7 spots; East region men: 15 spots; East region women: 16 spots; West region men: 17 spots; West region women: 17 spots.

The committee also engaged in a brief discussion regarding an adjustment to the number of allocations for Alpine and Nordic, but no action was taken.

The committee also noted that the Central region removed the automatic championships qualification criteria for any skier who qualifies for the U.S. World or World Junior Championships.

- 6. Membership proposals.** The committee noted that there were no major proposals from the membership for action at the 2019 annual meetings.
- 7. FIS-Uni age rule discussion.** The committee continued discussing the FIS-Uni age rule and its impact on collegiate skiing. The committee requested that championships staff work alongside staff members from academic and membership affairs and research in the coming months to explore the possibility of exempting skiing from the Division I athletics activity waiver. No action was taken by the committee at this time.
- 8. 2019-20 sponsorship.** The committee discussed the recent announcement that the University of New Mexico will no longer sponsor skiing beginning with the 2019-20 academic year. The committee also noted ongoing sport sponsorship discussions involving other programs across different regions.
- 9. Regional information.** At the 2019 West regional meetings, the committee acknowledged discussion regarding the need for the Nordic races at the NCAA championships to be conducted as FIS races, as not all competitors at the championships are required to be registered with FIS. Committee members from the Central and East regions plan to discuss this topic within their respective regions, which may result in future action.

Committee members also discussed student-athlete conduct at the championships, following the conclusion of the competition and prior to returning to their respective campuses. Committee members agreed that this needs to be a topic of emphasis moving forward.

- 10. Future dates and sites.** The committee reviewed the upcoming championship dates and sites, including future championships that will be open for bid beginning in August with the upcoming championships bid cycle. Committee members noted potential date conflicts with

the 2023 World University Games, which will be hosted in Lake Placid, NY. Committee members requested to be kept apprised as national office staff is made aware of potential competition dates for the World University Games.

Committee members also reviewed and suggested modifications to the skiing championship bid specifications, including the addition of more detailed information pertaining to the facility requirements for the host Nordic and Alpine venues for the championships.

11. Webcast review. The committee discussed the webcast of the championships and noted a desire for continued improvements to harmonize the video stream with other important graphic content including the name, institution, time and standing for each competing student-athlete. Committee members and NCAA staff noted several challenges that exist from one year to the next with different video board suppliers, timing services and levels of internet connectivity capabilities, among other variables.

12. Rules discussion. The committee met with Ben Brownlee, assistant director of playing rules and officiating, to discuss the move from the Skiing Rules Book to the Skiing Rules Modification document, effective with the 2019-20 academic year. Mr. Brownlee reviewed the outline and layout of the Rules Modifications and committee members suggested some minor edits to the document for consistency and clarification.

The committee also noted the need to update various skiing manuals with the clarification that Alpine competition shall follow FIS rules, rather than USSA/FIS rules.

13. National committee composition. The committee noted that there will be two new members next year replacing Jamie DiLoreto, whose term expires in August 2019, and Dave Stewart, who took a job outside college athletics and resigned from his position at the University of Denver. Additionally, the committee noted that Peter Dodge has been reappointed to the committee, and Kimberly Bownes, director of athletics at Plymouth State University, has been named to the committee to replace Mr. DiLoreto. A replacement for Mr. Stewart will be named at a future date.

14. Review committee timeline. The committee reviewed the 2018-19 timeline and confirmed key dates for the 2019-20 academic year.

15. Manual review. The committee reviewed and made appropriate updates to the committee operations, participant and pre-championships manuals.

16. 2020 annual meeting dates. The committee determined that its 2020 annual meeting dates will be June 1-2.

17. Other business. The committee again discussed its desire for an amendment to the per diem reimbursements for the championships that would allow for a second coach in the rare instance that two or three student-athletes from different disciplines qualify from the same institution. Currently, only one coach is reimbursed under the per diem policy when an institution has two or three qualifiers competing in different disciplines at the championships. The committee reiterated its concerns related to health and safety and this policy specific to skiing, as Nordic and Alpine training and competition are regularly held at the same time and at different venues during the championship week. Allowing a second reimbursable non-athlete would remove this concern by allowing the participating institution to send one non-athlete to each of the competition venues to be on site with the participating student-athletes. During the past six championships, this amendment would have resulted in six total additional non-athletes at the championships, an average of one additional non-athlete per year.

The committee understands that there is an ongoing comprehensive travel party review and took no action on this discussion.

Committee Chair: Kevin Francis, Montana State University, Bozeman, Big Sky Conference
Staff Liaison(s): John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Skiing Committee June 3-4, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Brian Blank, University of New Hampshire.
Jamie DiLoreto, Boston College.
Peter Dodge, Dartmouth College.
Kevin Francis, Montana State University, Bozeman.
Fredrik Landstedt, University of Utah.
Absentees:
Sten Fjeldheim, Northern Michigan University.
Guests in Attendance:
Andy Keller, Northern Michigan University.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.