



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10-12, 2020, MEETING**

Action Item: The NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee recommends that all eligible conferences be awarded one automatic qualification spot for the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

- a. Recommendation. That the following 24 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southern Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
- b. Effective date. 2020 championship.
- c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.
- 2. 2019 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2019 meeting report as submitted.

3. Review of 2019 championship.

- a. **Preliminary-round feedback.** The committee reviewed evaluations from various constituents and noted items to be discussed further during the meeting. The committee asked staff to explore separating the finals feedback from the preliminary-round feedback to better consider the information.
- b. **Misconduct.** The committee reviewed the potential misconducts that occurred during the championship and made a recommendation on further action.
- c. **Men's College Cup – Cary, North Carolina.** The committee was pleased with the overall performance of the host for the 2019 championship and looks forward to coming back in 2021. The committee wants the host to continue looking for ways to market the event. Knowing that the Sunday game time may be later in the day, the host will need to look at other methods to sell tickets and drive attendance for that specific day. NCAA staff made a social media presentation to the committee that allowed them to better understand the overall strategy. The committee agreed to build in an option for the runner-up trophy to be presented on the field. Staff would work with the teams to give them the option at the end of the game.

4. Officiating.

- a. **2019 recap.** The NCAA national coordinator of soccer officials joined the group to review postseason officiating along with Ashlee Follis from the NCAA playing rules staff. The national coordinator of officials gave an in-depth look at the process and timeline. The committee would like to get more details earlier in the year on the initial pool of candidates for the finals site. The officiating subcommittee will be more involved and review recommendations for 2020. The committee commented on ways to improve the evaluation tools that assignors use. Staff will continue to work with the national coordinator on ways to improve the process and strategy.
- b. **Evaluations.** The committee would like to figure out a better way to evaluate and train officials. The committee was pleased with the survey that went out to coaches after each round to evaluate the officials.
- c. **Selection criteria and process.** The committee reviewed the current selection criteria and process for officials and suggested that the national coordinator consider making some revisions (specifically, looking at the number of Division I games needed to be in the candidate pool) and submitting them back to the committee. Staff will continue to work with the national coordinator on ways to improve this system.

5. Selection process and evaluation of teams.

- a. **Selection weekend.** The committee agreed to continue arriving for the selection meeting on Saturday night and beginning the meeting at 8 a.m. on Sunday. Members also agreed to maintain the selection show at 1 p.m. Monday to allow teams playing Thursday more time to prepare. Members discussed working ahead on Sunday by starting to seed earlier, if possible. Committee members emphasized the need to continue communicating with new members so they understand the importance of the initial ballot process.
- b. **Automatic-qualification conferences.** The committee reviewed the submitted automatic-qualification application forms and noted that the number of AQs will remain at 24 (see Action Item 2 above).
- c. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and wants to remove the parentheses from the “late-season performance in last eight games (strength and results)” bullet point. The committee also reviewed and approved the selections policies and procedures document for the upcoming season. The committee discussed at length the bonus/penalty structure. While members feel it may need adjusting in the future, they decided to not make any changes at this time, as this tool appears to accomplish what was intended as one of the many criteria used. The committee will continue to monitor the structure.

6. Site review/format/long-range planning.

- a. **2020 championship in Santa Barbara, California.** The committee approved canceling the Saturday morning administrative meeting. Teams will be provided all administrative items on Friday night of championship weekend. The committee discussed possibly having more than one team hotel but determined it was not feasible due to costs and travel.
- b. **United Soccer Coaches (USC).** The committee met with Rob Kehoe, the Division I representative from the USC, regarding various items relative to the committee. The conversation focused on format changes and ongoing discussions concerning the “21st Century Model,” which is a concept to realign the college playing and practice season over two semesters.
- c. **Future bids.** The committee reviewed the initial listing of bids. Staff is still collecting all the data and will provide it to the committee at a later date. Staff will schedule a call in July for the committee to make final bid recommendations.

7. Pre-championship, host operations and site representative manuals.

The committee will provide staff with the necessary updates.

8. Committee.

- a. **National and regional advisory committee composition/vacancies.** The committee reviewed upcoming committee vacancies and staff will contact conferences whose RAC members' terms have expired in order to nominate replacements.
- b. **Officiating subcommittee.** The committee agreed to maintain the officiating subcommittee and appointed Kimya Massey, Chris Schneider (chair) and all other coaches to this group. This group will serve for the coming year and will coordinate continuing education, evaluation and selection efforts.
- c. **Committee chair.** The committee approved Chris Schneider, senior associate commissioner at the Big East Conference, as the chair beginning September 1, 2020. Mr. Schneider will replace current chair, Jeff Bacon, senior associate commissioner at the Mid-American Conference, when Mr. Bacon's term on the committee expires August 31. The committee nominated Kimya Massey as the vice chair. Although this is an unofficial title, this will help streamline the process for the future, allowing that individual an opportunity to be more involved and have a better understanding of the chair position.
- d. **2020-21 committee calendar.** Selections for 2020 will be November 14-16 in Indianapolis. The 2021 annual meeting will be February 1-3 in Indianapolis.

9. Other business.

Committee Chair: Jeff Bacon, Mid-American Conference
Staff Liaison: Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee February 10-12, 2020, Meeting
Attendees:
Jeff Bacon, Mid-American Conference.
Simon Gray, Niagara University.
Kimya Massey, Oregon State University.
Michael Noonan, Clemson University
Chris Schneider, Big East Conference.
Mark Spencer, University of Evansville.
Tanya Vogel, George Washington University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Ryan Cigich, National Coordinator for NCAA Soccer Officiating.
Rob Kehoe, United Soccer Coaches Association.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances.
Heidi Wurster, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Tommy Barrett, Championships and Alliances.
Jenny Fischer, Championships and Alliances.
Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.
Matt Holmes, Championships and Alliances.
Daniel Zewde, Championships and Alliances.