



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 27-28, 2020, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 31 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2019 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship:

America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky 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; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference and Western Athletic Conference.

- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. This reflects all eligible conferences at this time.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Approval of 2019 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from last year's annual meeting.

2. **Format and date changes.** The committee understands the need to adapt the women's soccer championship format should future changes be approved through the legislative process (men's soccer) and will be monitoring this matter closely. The committee will continue to support a championship with the best interest of the student-athletes remaining at the forefront of discussions and decision-making.

The committee prioritized the current request for format changes as 1) change the date formula of the Women's College Cup from Friday and Sunday to Thursday and Sunday and 2) separate the second and third rounds of competition and conduct them on separate weekends.

3. **Review of 2019 championship – preliminary rounds.**

- **Evaluations.** The quality of hotels and locker rooms have a significant impact on the experience of visiting teams. The committee asked NCAA staff to share site-specific comments and concerns regarding these items with host tournament managers.

4. **Review of 2019 championship – Women's College Cup.**

- a. **Evaluations.** The rest time between the Friday semifinals and the national championship on Sunday was better this year with the later start on Sunday (5:30 p.m. versus a 1 p.m. start in 2018); however, it is a concern and a preference to add an additional rest day between the semifinals and finals.(see the related Item 2 above).
- b. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee reviewed its responsibilities at the finals site and made no changes.
- c. **West Coast Conference feedback.** The committee commended the West Coast Conference for hosting a successful championship weekend. The practice and competition fields were of championship quality and the increase in attendance from 2016 provided a positive student- athlete experience.
- d. **Facility.** Locker rooms and use of suites directly behind the team benches continues to be an issue in Avaya Stadium; still, the field is an excellent soccer pitch. The practice area is within the stadium footprint which makes it convenient; however, for 2021 the lightning at the practice field will need to be increase, especially if there is an evening start time.
- e. **Television ratings.** There was a decrease in ratings for the semifinals; however, there was a significant increase (68%) in the final ratings on ESPNU in comparison to the 2018 championship. ESPN scheduled Sunday's final match at 5:30 p.m. Pacific time,

which provided additional rest for the student-athletes participating in the national championship. The committee changed the time between games from 30 to 45 minutes in 2020.

5. **Committee ranking calls and selection weekend.**
  - a. **Selection, seeding and bracketing process.** The committee reviewed selection criteria and agreed to keep the same criteria for 2020.
  - b. **Rating Percentage Index.** The committee reviewed the RPI calculation and are working with the NCAA statistics staff to review options for possible changes to the RPI.
  - c. **Regional/national rankings (Top 45).** The committee asked NCAA staff to compile the top 45 rankings to provide to them at the selections meeting. The top 45 will be discussed on the last two regional ranking calls.
6. **2020 championship preparations.** The committee reviewed recommendations for the Cary staff to consider for the 2020 championship.
7. **Women's College Cup site selection.** NCAA staff provided general information to the committee relative to the upcoming selection process. Bids are due in early February and conference calls will be scheduled once bids and relative information has been received and organized for committee review.
8. **2020 automatic qualification.** See Action Item 2-a above.
9. **Manuals.** NCAA staff will make appropriate updates to the various manuals used for the championship.
10. **2020 committee timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2020 timeline.
11. **Future meeting dates.** The 2021 annual meeting is scheduled for January 25-26, 2021 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair: Lauren Ashman, Bowling Green State University*  
*Staff Liaison: Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division I Women's Soccer Committee January 27-28, 2020, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Lauren Ashman, Bowling Green State University.	
Erin Chastain, DePaul University.	
Clifton Douglass, Conference USA.	
Nancy Feldman, Boston University.	
Jennifer Klein, University of Michigan	
Zack Lassiter, Oregon State University.	
Scot Leykam, University of Portland	
Matt Mott, University of Mississippi	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
China Jude, University of Wyoming. (attended portions via teleconference)	
Chad Miller, Western Carolina University. (attended portions via teleconference)	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Rob Kehoe, United Soccer Coaches. (attended portions via teleconference)	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Sharon Cessna	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Robin Hale.	