



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 29-30, 2024 MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Selection criteria.** The NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Committee is asking to be able to more transparent with its selection criteria and have it reflect how the committee truly selects the teams into the field. (See Action Item 2-a.)
2. **Additional topics.** The committee is requesting changes to the bonus/penalty system in the RPI, adding video review for the 2025 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship and adding a day of rest between the second and third round of the championship. (See Action Items 2-b, 2-c and 2-e.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. To add wins and ties against top 25 and top 50 in the adjusted RPI and ties and losses against teams below 150 in the adjusted RPI as primary criteria, and to add results against teams ranked 51-100 as secondary criteria.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 season.
- (3) Rationale. As part of its discussion of a team's won-lost-tied record, the committee discusses a team's good wins and bad losses and this criteria will allow the committee to increase transparency with the membership as it explains where the committee places its greatest importance.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will allow the student-athletes to understand exactly what the committee is looking at during its selection process to determine the at-large teams.

**b. RPI.**

- (1) Recommendation. To change the bonus/penalty structure in the RPI to a bonus for wins and ties against teams ranked 1-25, a lesser bonus for wins and ties against teams ranked 26-50 for all games, and the lowest bonus would go to wins only against teams ranked 51-100. Also, penalties would be changed for ties and losses to teams ranked 151-250 and a more significant penalty for losses and ties to teams ranked below 250. In addition, the committee is requesting to have ties count for one-third of a win instead of one-half of a win. The penalties and bonuses would apply to nonconference contests only, as is currently done.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 season.
- (3) Rationale. The current structure of bonuses for wins and ties against the top 80 and penalties for losses and ties against teams 269 and below does not reflect what the committee truly values, and the new model would work in conjunction with the above request to truly reflect what the committee values on selection weekend. Finally, the request of changing the value of a tie from one-half to one-third would mirror what the men's committee has already been approved to do and would reflect how ties are typically valued and treated in conference standings.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This is being done to be more transparent and reflect what exactly is going on in the selection room and hopefully result in the most deserving teams being selected to the tournament.

**c. Video review.**

- (1) Recommendation. To mandate all preliminary-round hosts have the ability for video review starting with the 2025 championship.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The committee felt that with technology evolving every year and mistakes being part of human error and video review being allowed by the rules committee, it should be used during the championship since teams potentially could be eliminated on mistakes that have the ability to be corrected. Even though numerous conferences already mandate it for the regular season, the committee is recommending a one-year delayed implementation due to the anticipated cost of equipment and infrastructure for those who don't currently have it. Currently, video review is in place for the national semifinals and final.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. The expectation of hosting will be that the host cover the cost of the production.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will ensure any egregious errors by the officials are able to be reviewed and hopefully fixed to make sure the deserving student-athletes are rewarded for their efforts.

**d. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 30 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024 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; Coastal 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; 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. 2024 championship.
- (3) Rationale. This reflects all eligible conferences.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**e. Championship format change.**

- (1) Recommendation. To establish a second day of rest between the second and third rounds of the NCAA tournament.
- (2) Effective date. As soon as possible.
- (3) Rationale. Most Division I women's soccer teams do not play with only one day off between games all season. Therefore, the committee feels asking student-athletes to play on one day's rest before one of the biggest games of its season in the third round is unfair. To accommodate the request, the committee would only allow first-round games on Friday or Saturday (institutions would need a waiver request to host Sunday).

Currently, teams are allowed to host Friday, Saturday or Sunday, but this year there was only one first-round game played on Sunday. The second round would be moved to Thursday and the third round would be Sunday (if BYU were to host, they would play Friday-Monday). Currently schools are mandated to host Friday-Sunday with BYU being allowed to host Thursday-Saturday. Quarterfinals would be Friday or Saturday as has always been the procedure. Currently, there are at least two days of rest between every round of the Division I men's soccer tournament and this request would allow the women the same benefit.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The NCAA accounting staff is working to determine the financial impact.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will ensure that the student-athletes have at least two days of rest between every game of the NCAA tournament.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule.
2. **2023 committee annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report as submitted.
3. **Social media update.** The committee received a report from Jordan Menard, NCAA coordinator for championships social media, who denoted record numbers in every analytic from a social perspective for the championship.
4. **Academic and Membership Affairs/Student-Athlete Engagement Committee Update.** The committee received an update from Abbie Markey, NCAA associate director of academic and membership affairs, on a potential legislative proposal from the United Soccer Coaches that was proposed to the Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee. The feedback as requested from the Competition Oversight Committee was shared in a report for the February meeting.
5. **Joint committee agenda.** The committee reviewed the joint agenda and noted items to discuss and report out to the group.
6. **Review of the 2023 championship.**
  - a. **Preliminary rounds.**

(1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed the evaluations from the preliminary rounds. The three areas of concern that the committee will address moving forward are: (1) Mandating a locker room or private heated tent space for each team so they have access to their own space; (2) Require all hosts to reserve hotel space for the visiting team starting two nights prior to gameday; and (3) Directing NCAA staff to investigate possible solutions to reimbursing teams for higher per diem when they are forced to pay high hotel rates due to the host school also hosting a football game on campus.

(2) Broadcast. Tommy Barrett, NCAA coordinator of championships and alliances, broadcast services, presented to the committee an ESPN+ recap and discussed this year's top-16 reveal. Ratings for the championship were up slightly this year and the broadcast was enhanced with new technology, which included a camera in the net.

**b. Women's College Cup - Cary, North Carolina.** The committee was pleased with the host and site overall.

(1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed the evaluations and commented on several items. The restaurants for team dinners on Wednesday night were well received, but the committee felt the experience could be enhanced with a red carpet and photo opportunity at each of the restaurants to make it feel more special. The committee instructed the NCAA staff to determine the feasibility of police escorts and entertainment rooms in each of the team hotels.

(2) Committee assignments. The committee reviewed the assignments and felt they were appropriate. The committee also determined that it would be appropriate to start the annual meeting at the finals site due to the free time created by the extra day of rest. In addition, the committee felt the team liaisons should arrive Wednesday and everyone else should arrive Thursday.

**c. Committee ranking calls and selection weekend.**

(1) Selection, seeding and bracketing process. The committee discussed the process with Regional Advisory Committees and felt the current process/structure was not effective. Starting in the fall, the committee will have the RACs focus on a national ranking to be compared across regions with conferences not having teams ranked nationally report out who their top teams are and where they feel they fit on a national scale. The committee felt this new structure would enhance the RACs' effectiveness for what actually is discussed in the selection room. The committee determined they would have each RAC rank a top 15 on its first call, top 30 on its second call and top 45 on the final call before selection weekend.

(2) Selection criteria. The committee reviewed its selection criteria and is recommending changes to provide transparency to the selection process. (See Action Item 2-a above.)

- (3) RPI. The committee is recommending changes to its bonus/penalty system in addition to changing the value of a game which results in a tie. (See Action Item 2-b above.)
- (4) KPI, and other ranking systems. The committee received information from Ken Massey on what the Massey Ratings entail in addition to receiving information from Chris Thomas on his ranking metric. The committee felt that KPI did not add much help in the selection room and preferred to review a predictive-based metric such as the Massey Ratings and is therefore requesting the ability to review them during the year with the likelihood of proposing the ability to use the rating for the 2025 selections.
- (5) Review regional alignment. The committee reviewed the regional alignment and will make any appropriate changes based on conference realignment.
- (6) 2024 Automatic qualifying conference. The committee is recommending all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-d above.)
- 7. **2024 Championship preparation**. The 2024 semifinals and final will be held in Cary, North Carolina at WakeMed Soccer Park. As mentioned in the review of the 2023 tournament, which was also held in Cary, the committee would like national office staff to investigate the potential for adding a police escort for the teams and well as entertain at the teams hotels and maybe on the day off.
- 8. **Championship format**. Currently, there is only one day off between the second and third rounds of the tournament, which is the only time all season most teams only have one day off between games. Therefore the committee is making a recommendation to have two days off between the second and third rounds. (See Action Item 2-e above.)
- 9. **Officials**. The committee reviewed the presentation provided by John Collins, the NCAA national coordinator for soccer officiating. After this presentation the committee discussed video review at the championship and is making a recommendation to mandate its usage by all hosts starting with the 2025 championship. (See Action Item 2-c above.)
- 10. **Rules feedback**. The committee met with the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee to discuss the different areas of focus, including substitutions, video review and federated rules.
- 11. **Committee**.
  - a. **Timeline**. The committee reviewed the timeline and would like to move up the committee kickoff call to the beginning of August.
  - b. **National and regional advisory committees**. The committee reviewed upcoming committee vacancies and NCAA staff will contact conferences whose RAC members' terms

have expired to nominate replacements. The committee would like to establish a mentor program for incoming national committee members so they know what to expect during their first year of service.

12. **Championship sites.** The committee was reminded that the current bid process for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 finals site will have bids due Feb. 7, 2024, with the committee discussing the bids in late spring and an announcement expected in early October.
13. **Future meeting dates.** The committee will meet at the same time as the Division I Men's Soccer Committee and the rules committee. The committee would like to start its meeting at 2 p.m. ET Jan. 30, and conclude late afternoon Jan. 31.

*Committee Chair:* Keri Mendoza, California Polytechnic State University, Big West Conference.  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.

Division I Women's Soccer Committee January 29-30, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Duane Bailey, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.	
James Downer, Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania).	
Nathan Fry, Harvard University.	
Ryan Higginbotham, Texas Christian University.	
Keri Mendoza, California Polytechnic State University.	
Kris Pierce, University of South Florida.	
Stephanie Ransom, University of Georgia.	
Tim Santoro, North Carolina State University.	
Jackie Wallgren, University of Akron.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Maggie Bailey, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
John Collins, NCAA national coordinator for soccer officiating.	
Dan Margulis, Michael Feinberg, Holland Mickle, ESPN.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>	
Mark Bedics and Jackie Kawamoto.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Abbie Markey, Jordan Menard, Nick Moeller, Julie Kimmons and Tommy Barrett.	