



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 28-29, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Adjustment to seeding the bracket at the championship finals.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the Division II Championships Committee approve a recommendation to seed the four teams advancing to the finals of the Division II Women's Soccer Championship based on the Division II strength of schedule, Division II won-lost percentage and performance indicator (PI), which are all part of the selection criteria for women's soccer. Further, the data used for seeding the advancing teams will encompass only regular-season results since teams do not control who they play in the postseason.
 - b. Effective date. 2019 championship.
 - c. Rationale. The Division II Women's Soccer Committee began seeding the teams advancing to the finals with the 2018 championship at the direction of the Division II Championships Committee. The soccer committee decided to use the PI since it incorporates many factors into its formula (result, location, strength of opponent). After the first year, the committee feels that more data points will be beneficial to seeding the four teams.

The committee also wants to use results only from the regular season since a team does not control its opponents or whether it has a bye in the postseason. Using results from all games prior to the NCAA tournament ensures equitable comparisons for all teams.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. Seeding the teams at the finals provides the most competitive matchups for the student-athletes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of Division II Championships Committee actions.** The Women's Soccer Committee reviewed Championships Committee action items related to women's soccer from 2018.

- 2. United Soccer Coaches update.** Committee member J.B. Belzer provided an update from the United Soccer Coaches meeting. The coaches received an update regarding the NCAA Sport Science Institute (SSI) study regarding rest and recovery for soccer. The coaches also heard an update on the injury surveillance program. The committee agreed that any recommendations regarding modifications to preseason should wait until the SSI report comes out later this year, since recommendations without data would have little chance of approval.

Belzer shared that the coaches also expressed concern with the scale used for determining the PI. They asked the committee to analyze whether results against weaker teams were weighted too heavily to predict postseason success.

- 3. Review of the 2018 championship.** The committee reviewed the 2018 championship and noted the following items.

- a. Rankings. The committee discussed the rankings process and the time it takes to compare teams leading up to weekly ranking calls. The committee acknowledged that different regions use different starting points, but that members analyze the data consistently. The committee recommended having a national practice ranking call prior to the unpublished ranking so all national committee members, especially new members, are ready to lead discussion before talking with the regional advisory committees.

The committee continued discussing the PI and agreed to evaluate options that would avoid weighting weak opponents too heavily. Any recommendations to adjust the scale would be submitted prior to the 2019 season.

- b. Evaluations. Committee members expressed concern with the lack of participant responses to evaluations. These responses are key in making necessary improvements to the student-athlete experience. The committee asked whether per diem or other financial consequences could be tied to completing the evaluations.
- c. Championship format. The committee was pleased with the bracket expansion to 56 teams and regional allocations based on access ratio. Members noted no format issues with the first/second rounds or third/quarterfinal rounds.
- d. Future pairing rotation. The committee confirmed the following for third- and quarterfinal-round hosts in 2019: The Central will host the Midwest, the West will host the South Central, the East will host the Atlantic, and the Southeast will host the South.
- e. Site representative responsibilities. The committee is pleased with the level of education and preparedness of the site representatives.

The committee added a policy that site representatives should touch base with advancing coaches and team administrators going into the second and quarterfinal rounds to review reminders and other items pertinent to subsequent rounds. Members agreed the administrative meeting has important information but felt another touchpoint would be helpful after the first round of games each weekend.

The committee continues to express frustration with RAC members not knowing that serving as a site representative is a responsibility of being on a RAC. The committee asked that conference commissioners reiterate the responsibility of regional advisory committee members before they are appointed. The committee believes this will help ensure that all sites are covered adequately.

- f. Award ceremonies. The committee reiterated that all teams should be present for the postgame award ceremonies in each round. Members feel this is a sign of respect and good sportsmanship.
- g. Community engagement. The committee commended the community engagement efforts and felt this year's events were some of the best in recent memory. Members noted that some teams wanted to stay longer at the event than originally planned, so the committee will encourage teams to allot more time in the future.

- 4. Discussion for date formula and policy changes for the 2019 championship.** The committee discussed allowing flexibility for preliminary rounds to be hosted on either Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Sunday. Currently, the championship mandates competition on only Friday/Sunday, unless a participating school has a No Sunday Play policy on file with the NCAA. The committee discussed this modification jointly with the men's committee and decided that allowing hosts to choose which days to host could provide a better championship experience.

The committee also discussed the video exchange policy that will be implemented in 2019. Details of those discussions can be found in the 2019 joint report with the men's committee.

- 5. Preview of 2019 championship final site.** The committee confirmed game and practice times for the 2019 championship in Pittsburgh. The committee is excited that women's soccer will return to Pittsburgh and Highmark Stadium for the 2019 championship. Members also commended the city and stadium on hosting an outstanding Festival in 2018.
- 6. Sponsorship analysis.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship list and regional map and noted changes for upcoming and future seasons. The committee mentioned the importance of the sponsorship list moving forward since it will directly impact the number of championship berths each region receives. The committee will evaluate regional access in August when sport sponsorship reports are complete.
- 7. Selection criteria review.** As stated previously, the committee will analyze whether an adjustment to the PI scale is warranted to better reflect the performance of teams.
- 8. Officials.** The committee reviewed the 2018 preliminary-round and championship officials.
- 9. Review of national and regional advisory committees.** The committee noted vacancies for the upcoming season.

10. Committee chair reappointment. The committee reappointed Jim Moore, head women’s soccer coach at Georgian Court, as chair of the committee. Mr. Moore served the committee well in his first year as chair and the committee is confident in his abilities for a second year.

11. Manual review. The committee reviewed the 2018 championship manuals and noted edits for the upcoming season. Among notable edits are adjusting the rankings and selection timeline to account for the date formula change starting in 2019.

12. 2019 annual meeting dates. The committee voted to hold the annual meeting January 27-28.

Committee Chair: Jim Moore, Georgian Court University, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference

Staff Liaison: Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances

Division II Women’s Soccer Committee January 28-29, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
J.B. Belzer, Regis University (Colorado).	
Jason Carmichael, California State University, East Bay.	
Larry Carpenter, Lee University.	
Gary Kagiavas, Edinboro University.	
Kelley Kish, Lake Erie College.	
Jim Moore, Georgian Court University.	
Lewis Theobald, University of Central Missouri.	
Absentees:	
Jennifer Bell, Converse College.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.	
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.	