



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 27-28, 2020, 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 for the Women's Soccer Committee to continue seeding the four teams that advance to the finals of the Division II Women's Soccer Championship but to do so based on all applicable selection criteria. Further, the data used for seeding the advancing teams will continue to encompass only regular-season results since teams do not control who they play in the postseason.

b. Effective date. 2020 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 Performance Indicator (PI) in 2018 since it incorporates many factors into its formula (result, location, strength of opponent). In 2019, the soccer committee used Division II strength of schedule, Division II won-lost percentage and the PI. For year three, the committee feels that using all applicable selection criteria will help accurately seed the four teams.

The committee also wants to continue 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, and the recommendation supports using all the applicable selection criteria to achieve that goal.

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 2019.
2. **United Soccer Coaches update.** Committee member Jim Moore provided an update from the United Soccer Coaches meeting. The topics discussed included upcoming rules changes, selection criteria and the 21st century model proposal in Division I men's soccer.
3. **Review of the 2019 championship.** The committee reviewed the 2019 championship and noted the following items.

- a. Rankings. The committee discussed the rankings process and considered ways to create consistency overall and consistency with a tiebreaking method among regions. The committee also emphasized the need to educate new regional advisory committee members about the ranking process to ensure consistency across regions.

The committee continued discussing the PI scale 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 2020 season.

- b. Evaluations. The committee reviewed the evaluations from the 2019 championship. The committee noted the importance of preliminary-round hosts to have alternate field options in place prior to the selection process in case inclement weather would cause a change in venue.
- c. Championship format. The committee continues to be pleased with the bracket expansion to 56 teams and regional allocations based on access ratio. The committee recommended clarifying preliminary-round game times in the pre-championships manual and bid documents for potential hosts.
- d. Future pairing rotation. The committee confirmed the following for third-round and quarterfinal hosts in 2020: The Midwest will host the Central, the South Central will host the West, the Atlantic will host the East, and the South will host the Southeast.
- e. Site representative responsibilities. The committee is pleased with the level of education and preparedness of the site representatives.
- 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 at the championship.
- h. Hotels. The committee noted the importance of working with the team hotel(s) at the final site to provide meeting room space for student-athletes to study or take exams.

- 4. Discussion for date formula and policy changes for the 2020 championship.** The committee was pleased overall with the new policy in 2019 allowing flexibility for preliminary rounds to be hosted on either Thursday/Saturday or Friday/Sunday. The committee did note that with the new championship format, it is difficult for teams to compete Friday/Sunday in third and quarterfinal rounds and then have very minimal time to travel to the national championship to compete Thursday/Saturday the next week.

The committee also discussed the video exchange policy that was implemented in 2020. Details of those discussions can be found in the 2020 joint report with the men's committee.

- 5. Preview of 2020 championship final site.** The committee discussed the 2020 championships, which will be held on the campus of the University of Tampa. The committee reviewed bid information that was available and noted that off-campus training fields may be necessary, as the competition field is natural grass. Staff will work with Tampa to determine options that are available. Additional details can be found in the 2020 joint report with the men's committee.
- 6. Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the working draft the strategic plan for the championship and made additions and changes. The committee will review this document at each annual meeting.
- 7. Sponsorship analysis.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship list and regional map and noted changes for the 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.
- 8. Selection criteria review.** The committee reviewed all selection criteria for women's soccer. The committee discussed proposing a modification to the selection criteria to remove in-region nonconference won-lost record and add the regional rating percentage index (RPI). The committee believes this will help differentiate teams during the evaluation process and provide the committee with more useful data to evaluate teams. This change should more accurately reflect the best teams in each region, which will have a positive impact on student-athletes. As stated previously, the committee is also analyzing whether an adjustment to the PI scale is warranted to better reflect the performance of teams.
- 9. Officials.** The committee reviewed the 2019 preliminary-round and championship officials.
- 10. Review of national and regional advisory committees.** The committee noted vacancies for the upcoming season.
- 11. Committee chair appointment.** The committee appointed Gary Kagiavas, head women's soccer coach at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, as chair of the committee. Mr. Kagiavas will replace Jim Moore, head women's soccer coach at Georgian Court University, who served as chair for two years. The committee thanked Mr. Moore for his service.

12. Manual review. The committee reviewed the 2019-20 championship manuals and noted edits for the upcoming season.

13. 2020 annual meeting dates. The committee voted to hold the annual meeting January 25-26.

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

Staff Liaison: John M. Kuzio, Championships and Alliances

Division II Women's Soccer Committee January 27-28, 2020, Meeting
Attendees:
Jennifer Bell, Converse College.
Jason Carmichael, California State University, East Bay.
Larry Carpenter, Lee University.
Gary Kagiavas, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.
Kelley Kish, Lake Erie College.
Chad Markuson, Minnesota State University Moorhead.
Jim Moore, Georgian Court University.
Neil Piper, Texas A&M University-Commerce.
Absentees:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.
Nikki Buchanan, Championships and Alliances.
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.