



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
SWIMMING AND DIVING COMMITTEE
APRIL 13-14, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

Action Items: The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will be asked to approve the 2024 zone diving sites (see Action Item 2).

KEY ITEMS.

- **2024 zone diving host sites.** The committee is recommending the five zone diving host sites for the 2024 championships.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **2024 zone diving host sites.**

(1) Recommendation. Approve the following institutions and sites to host the 2024 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Zone Diving Championships from March 11-16, 2024:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Host Institution</u>	<u>Location</u>
A	Princeton University	Princeton, New Jersey
B	University of Georgia	Athens, Georgia
C	University of Louisville	Louisville, Kentucky
D	University of Houston	Houston, Texas
E	Northern Arizona University	Flagstaff, Arizona

(2) Effective date. Immediately for 2024 zone diving championships.

(3) Rationale. These recommended sites were the only bids submitted for their respective zone competitions. They were also recommended by the coaches in each zone.

(4) Estimated budget impact. The NCAA does not reimburse for travel or per diem expenses for the zone diving meets. The estimated expenses for the recommended sites range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 depending on the facility rental fee (which is the primary expense). Zone diving hosts do not charge admission to the event.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes are given the opportunity to compete at the best diving facilities in the country with staff that is experienced in hosting NCAA zone diving meets.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of agenda and schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.
2. **Annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from last year's annual meeting as submitted.
3. **Championship strategic plan.** The committee reviewed and approved the Division I Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships strategic plan for 2023-24 season with no changes.
4. **Playing rules discussion.** Greg Lockard, NCAA swimming and diving secretary-rules editor, and Ben Brownlee, NCAA assistant director of championships and alliances, joined the meeting to discuss areas of interest for the swimming and diving rules committee during their next meeting: bona fide competition, team diving event, technology and kinesiology tape.

The committee will annually address the language related to bona fide competition criteria that further clarifies which USA Swimming and USA Diving meets may be part of a team's schedule and be counted for qualifying for NCAA swimming and diving championships:

Select USA Swimming and USA Diving meets that are acceptable for achievement of time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards may be designated each year by the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committees in all three divisions.

Thus, the committee approved the following meets at which such standards may be achieved for the 2024 championships: the USA Swimming National Championships, World Aquatics World Swimming Championships and USA Diving National Championships. The committee will consider requests from the membership for another country's diving national championship/trial meets on a case-by-case basis. The committee did not support including USA Swimming Pro Series meets on the approved list.

The committee submitted its annual waiver request to the playing rules committee to not use human back-up timers for the 2024 championships due to using the OMEGA timing system with high-speed cameras.

5. **CSCAA report.** Samantha Barany, executive director of the College Swimming and Diving Coaches of America Association, and Maureen Palchak, chief operations officer, joined the committee and discussed the following items: (1) general feedback on the 2023 championships; (2) future championships feedback; and (3) recommendations for future championships.

The committee had additional discussions regarding the possibility of moving the championship dates. The committee will seek feedback on date options and the team diving event at the upcoming CSCAA convention. Following those sessions, the committee will reconvene to discuss feedback and possible next steps.

6. Officials.

- a. **Review of officials' application.** The committee reviewed the application and suggested adding international experience. Overall, the committee was pleased with the first year of the revised application and noted positive feedback from the officials. The committee asked NCAA staff to continue posting the application on the USA Swimming and USA Diving websites and including it in the quarterly newsletter to encourage more officials to apply to work an NCAA championship.
- b. **Selection timeline and process.** The committee discussed the process and reviewed the timeline for applications and the selection of officials and recommended no changes for the 2024 championships. The committee will continue to discuss eligibility requirements.
- c. **Review of officials.** The committee reviewed feedback on the swimming and diving officials at the championship and noted its commitment to growing the pool of qualified officials. The committee will work with the national governing bodies to identify top-tier officials to work the NCAA championships.

7. Coordinators.

- a. **Review of administrative referee responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the responsibilities of the administrative referee and recommended minor edits to reflect recent responsibilities. Additionally, the committee voted to extend an offer to Brad Erickson to serve as the administrative referee for the 2024 men's and women's championships.
- b. **Review of officials' coordinator responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the officials' coordinator responsibilities and made no adjustments for the 2024 championships.
- c. **Review of swimming and diving data specialist responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the swimming and diving data specialist responsibilities and made no adjustments for the 2024 championships.
- d. **Selection of data specialists for 2024 championships.** The committee recommended inviting Herb Schwab to serve as the swimming data specialist for the 2024 men's and women's championships. The committee recommended Lia Fusaro to serve as the diving data specialist for the 2024 men's and women's championships. NCAA staff will work with them to determine availability and finalize contracts.

- e. **Selection of swimming and diving announcers for 2024 championships.** The committee recommended inviting Michael Poropat to serve as the swimming public address announcer for the 2024 men's and women's championships and Lia Fusaro to serve as the diving public address announcer for the 2024 men's and women's championships. NCAA staff will work with them to determine availability and finalize contracts. The committee was pleased with the performance of both individuals.

8. Qualifying.

- a. **End-of-season competition process and form.** The committee reviewed the end-of-season competition process and form and made no changes for the 2023-24 season. The committee will spend this year evaluating the current end-of-season competition process and seek feedback from the membership.
- b. **Qualifying standards and conversions.** The automatic-qualifying standards for individual events will remain as the average of the eighth best time on the performance list over the past three years, except for the women's 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle, 1,650 freestyle, 200 butterfly, 200 backstroke, 200 individual medley and 400 individual medley, and the men's 1,650 freestyle and 200 backstroke. Those events will remain at the standards established for 2023 since they are faster than those projected for 2024. The committee reset the women's 500 freestyle to the three-year average of the eighth best time on the performance list over the past three years, noting that the 2023 standard was not within statistical range.

The "B" standards for individual events will remain as the three-year average of the 125th best time on the performance list, except for the women's 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 1,650 freestyle, 200 butterfly, 200 backstroke, 200 individual medley and 400 individual medley. Those events will remain at the "B" standard established for 2023 since they are faster than those projected for 2024.

For relay events, the qualifying standards will remain the three-year average of the 16th best time on the championship finals performance list, except for the women's qualifying standards in all relays and the men's qualifying standards in the 200 freestyle relay, 800 freestyle relay and 400 medley relay. Those events will remain at the standards established for 2023 since they are faster than those projected for 2024. The committee adjusted the criteria for the provisional standard to be the three-year average of the 24th best time on the performance list (noting that there are not always 24 relays at the championships), except for the women's 200 freestyle relay and 800 freestyle relay and the men's 400 medley relay. Those events will remain at the standards established for 2023 since they are faster than those projected for 2024.

For diving, the committee recommended no adjustments to the current qualifying standards.

The committee discussed and approved the use of 50-meter racing courses to achieve time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards for the 2024 Division I Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships. The committee noted that times achieved in 50-meter racing courses must adhere to Rule 9 (bona fide competition requirements) and will be converted to an equivalent time for a 25-yard racing course in order to select and seed swimming participants during the 2023-24 regular season. The committee directed staff to add the long-course conversion factors chart to the 2024 Division I Men's and Women's Qualifying Standards. This is in place only in an Olympic year. In non-Olympics years, time standards achieved in 50-meter racing courses are not eligible for selection.

9. Review of 2023 championships.

- a. **Participant survey results.** The committee reviewed the participant surveys from the 2023 championships and will relay host-specific feedback to the tournament managers. The committee noted the excellent work of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and University of Minnesota, Twin Cities staffs to successfully host the 2023 championships.
- b. **OMEGA timing system.** The committee reviewed the performance of the OMEGA timing system and timing crew.
- c. **Virtual coaches meetings.** The committee noted the benefits of a virtual format for the coaches meeting and agreed to continue with that format for 2024.
- d. **Team seating selection process.** The committee confirmed its commitment to use the same process for selecting team seating as was done and noted the positive feedback of completing the seating selection before the coaches meeting on Wednesday.
- e. **Massage therapy policies.** The committee agreed to change the order of the massage therapy selection process to match the team seating selection process based on order of finish from the previous year's championship rather than the current first-come, first served order. However, the committee agreed the timing of the process should remain on Tuesday at 8 a.m. and those not in attendance at that time will be skipped in the order and selected upon arrival.
- f. **Team ticket sale policies.** The committee reviewed the team ticket sale policies and revised the policy to state that, when possible, 10 percent of the total number of seats available per venue should be held back for public sale. This will help to provide an opportunity for the general public to purchase all-session tickets. The committee encouraged staff to work closely with both 2024 hosts to ensure plans and timelines are followed for the men's and women's championships at separate sites.

In an effort to reduce the number of unused team tickets, the committee agreed to revise the process by which teams request tickets. Teams will be allowed to request up to 40 all-session tickets by the established deadline. Once the psych sheets are published, teams will be allowed to reduce their requests based on the number of tickets actually needed. Tickets that become available as a result will be offered to other teams first and then will be released to the general public.

- g. Media – review of policies and access on deck by photographers/videographers.** The committee reviewed policies regarding videographer/photographer access to the competition pool and within the venue and confirmed no changes for 2024.
- h. Access to competition pool during diving.** The committee reviewed the policy regarding warmups in the competition pool during diving and reconfirmed that this should be managed by the administrative referee to minimize the distraction for competing divers.
- i. Awards presenters and schedule.** The committee affirmed the practice of the host providing awards presenters. Should there be coverage gaps, the coach of the national champion will be asked to present the awards or committee members will perform that duty. The committee reviewed feedback on the timing of the awards for the 100 backstroke who then must prepare for the 400 medley relay. The committee agreed to tighten up the timing and immediately introduce the divers following the interview of the 100 backstroke national champion before the awards ceremony for the 100 backstroke. The committee noted the relatively brief time of the diver introductions is needed for the 100 backstroke award winners to get organized and ready for the awards ceremony.
- j. Deck passes and credential policies.** The committee received feedback from both host institutions on the challenges presented to their security staff when coaches and team personnel do not wear their wristbands on their wrist. The committee will empower the host with better enforcement of the deck pass policies and require all wristbands to be on the wrists and displayed at all times.

10. 2024 action plan.

- a. Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the schedule of events and made no changes. However, the committee discussed at length a request to move the start times later one hour for prelims in the morning. The committee noted that the timing of events does not permit only moving the prelims start time without also moving the finals start time. The committee believes a later finals start time would be detrimental to the rest and recovery of all participants along with their ability to get dinner at the conclusion of the finals each night. The committee will continue to seek feedback on this topic.

In addition, the committee discussed a request to move the diving consolation finals from directly after the conclusion of the prelims to a 5:15 p.m. start before the 6 p.m. finals

session. This would provide the consolation divers, who are scoring, some rest and recovery before competing again and provide an improved student-athlete experience as there will be more spectators in attendance along with the swimming student-athletes at that time as opposed to the current sparsely attended diving prelims. The committee noted the impact on swimming warm-ups but the diving representatives noted positive feedback from two conferences that tried this during their conference championships. The committee suggested additional feedback be gathered from the CSCAA regarding the diving consolation schedule. This will be reviewed following the upcoming meetings.

The committee will review lane assignments for practice and warm-up each day based on the facility for each championship and will revise the schedule accordingly for the participant manual.

- b. Host requirement – web stream commentators for prelim sessions.** For 2023, each championship host provided commentators for the prelim sessions as a championship enhancement. The committee was appreciative of the efforts of each host but took no action to make it a requirement going forward. Should the championships hosts not provide commentators, the public address announcer audio will be available for the streams as in the past.
- c. Dynamic warm-up spaces.** The committee reviewed feedback to provide some dynamic warm-up spaces for the championship but noted the challenges of each facility. Host sites have been assigned through 2026 so the committee will look for opportunities for such spaces at the currently assigned hosts and will add it to preferred facility amenities for future site selections.
- d. Team banners.** The committee voted to discontinue the tradition of teams providing team banners to display at the championship final site. In lieu of that, the NCAA will incorporate the logos of the participating institutions into the championship décor and signage package at each site as is done at other NCAA championships. This decision is an effort for a more uniform look and eliminate the negative impact of team banners being removed on the final day during competition to the overall look and feel of the championship experience.
- e. Splits.** The committee agreed to direct the timing company to show 25 splits on the videoboard during the following events: 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay, 400 medley relay, 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke and 100 butterfly.
- f. Areas of focus for 2024 sites.** The committee discussed initial plans for the 2024 championships and emphasized the importance of gender equity between the separate men’s and women’s championship sites. To achieve that, the committee recommends a few joint host calls focused on shared issues and specific goals. The committee will also focus on the following areas with each host: student-athlete and fan experience, team seating, diving meet operations, venue air quality and community engagement opportunities.

11. Selection of swimmers.

- a. **Review of selection and relay qualification procedures.** The committee recommended no changes to the current procedures for the 2024 championships. The committee will discuss potential changes to relay qualification procedures throughout the 2023-24 season before seeking feedback from the membership.
- b. **OME entry procedures.** The committee reviewed the current OME entry procedures and made no changes.
- c. **USA Swimming staff support and SWIMS database system.** USA Swimming staff recapped the rollout of the new SWIMS 3.0 database system and selection tool, noting challenges throughout the rollout for roster management and times reporting but expressed confidence those were unique to the initial rollout. USA Swimming staff touted the investment in the new system for NCAA swimming and its benefits going forward along with the success of the new OME and selection tool for the championships. The committee recognized Patrick Murphy, senior director of member data and product at USA Swimming, for his excellent responsiveness and efforts this season.

12. Diving.

- a. **DiveMeets zone diving registration process.** The committee reviewed the DiveMeets registration process and added a deadline for late entries (no late entries accepted after this date) to be the day before competition at noon local time to each site. The entry deadline remains unchanged. There were an inordinate number of late entries this year and the committee will ask the zone diving subcommittee to send regular deadline reminders to all diving coaches. The deadlines are annually posted on ncaa.org in a separate diving memo sent to all diving coaches in September, included in the pre-championships manual posted in December and regularly featured in the championships monthly newsletter throughout the season. The committee reminds the membership that DiveMeets is required for entries and results for the 2023-24 season and no paper entries or results will be accepted.
- b. **Diving site representative responsibilities.** The committee reviewed and made no changes to the site representative responsibilities.
- c. **Zone diving meet qualifying standards.** The committee made no changes to the current qualifying standards.
- d. **Zone diving scheduling options.** The committee modified the three scheduling options to permit the choice of running events simultaneously or consecutively.

- e. **2024 number of qualifying spots per zone.** The committee confirmed the number of qualifying spots for each zone for the 2024 championships as follows:

Women	1m	3m	Pl	Men	1m	3m	Pl
Zone A	5	5	5	Zone A	6	5	4
Zone B	10	8	7	Zone B	7	7	10
Zone C	7	11	11	Zone C	7	10	8
Zone D	11	9	9	Zone D	10	9	7
Zone E	8	8	9	Zone E	6	5	7

- f. **2024 reimbursement spots per zone.** The committee confirmed the reimbursement allocations for each zone for the 2024 championships as follows:

Zone	Women	Men
A	4	5
B	8	8
C	12	9
D	10	7
E	7	6

- g. **2024 zone diving dates and sites.** The committee reviewed dates and recommended sites for the 2024 meets (see Action Item 2-a).
- h. **Team diving event.** The committee reviewed a report from the diving representatives on the exhibitions of the team diving event during the season and at various conference championships. The committee discussed next steps in the process for the team diving event with it first needing approval from the playing rules committee to be added to the playing rules. After that, the committee will continue discussion and seek membership feedback on its inclusion in the championship schedule of events.
- i. **Squad size limit and institutionally funded divers.** The committee discussed but did not change the current practice of a diver counting as one half in the squad size limit.

In addition, the committee will provide all institutionally funded divers with a participant medallion on site at the championships starting in 2024. Institutionally funded divers qualify from their respective zones for the national championship and compete at the finals site, some of whom even score and win top eight trophies. Although their travel and per diem is funded by their institutions, it should not preclude them from the same experience as their fellow divers who are reimbursed by the NCAA. The committee has made every effort to ensure institutionally funded divers are provided the same experience that a reimbursed diver is provided. The two remaining items that are not the same are providing participant medallions and funding the student-athlete gift. As the participant medallion is

provided on site, that stands out to the institutionally funded divers and makes them feel like they are not part of the championship. The committee also notes that relay-only swimmers are also institutionally funded and do not receive a participant medallion on site; however, the committee noted that relay-only swimmers are not required to participate and did not directly qualify to the championship like institutionally funded divers.

- j. **Championship experience elements.** The committee noted the positive feedback on the diving-only bleacher provided at Minnesota and will seek to incorporate that at future sites if space is available. The committee will also encourage future hosts to provide comparable preliminary session streaming coverage.

13. Committee.

- a. **Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee composition will remain intact with the reappointments of Steve Schaffer and Richard Marschner.
- b. **Selection of committee vice chair.** The committee voted Mike Spiegler, senior associate athletics director at the University of Florida, as vice chair for the 2023-24 academic year.
- c. **Committee timeline.** The committee reviewed the proposed timeline for 2023-24 and made no changes. The committee agreed to hold its next annual meeting April 15-16, 2024, in Indianapolis. Staff will schedule all conference calls with the appropriate parties throughout the year.
- d. **Committee responsibilities and championships coverage plan.** The committee reviewed responsibilities during the championships and will add more detail to their internal responsibilities document to better explain assigned duties.

14. Manual updates and review. The committee asked staff to make the necessary changes and general updates to the manuals in preparation for the 2023-24 season.

15. Future sites. In 2024, the University of Georgia will host the women's championships at the Gabrielsen Natatorium in Athens, Georgia, and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and Indiana Sports Corp will host the men's championships at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis. A site visit will be scheduled with all key stakeholders in August or September.

Committee Chair: Hollie Bonewit-Cron, Miami University (Ohio); Mid-American Conference
Staff Liaisons: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances
Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances
Michelle Perry, Championships and Alliances

Division I Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee April 13-14, 2023, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Matt Barany, University of Richmond.	
Hollie Bonewit-Cron, Miami University (Ohio).	
Charvi Greer, Tulane University.	
Jamie Greer, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Lisa Liotta, Canisius College.	
Richard Marschner, University of Utah.	
Ryan Rougeux, University of Louisville.	
Steve Schaffer, Grand Canyon University.	
Mike Spiegler, University of Florida.	
Absentees:	
Krista Balogh, University of Vermont.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Samantha Barany, Collegiate Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America.	
Shana Ferguson, USA Swimming	
Greg Lockard, NCAA Swimming Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Meghan Lowrey, USA Swimming.	
Macie McNichols, USA Swimming.	
Patrick Murphy, USA Swimming.	
Maureen Palchak, Collegiate Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America.	
Joel Shinofield, USA Swimming.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
John E. Bugner, Paige Newman and Michelle Perry.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee and Antonio Cannavaro.	