



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S  
SWIMMING AND DIVING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 15-16, 2019, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Minimum contest and participants requirements.**
  - a. Recommendation. That after three years of sponsoring the sport, an institution must meet the swimming and diving minimum contests and participants requirements for sport sponsorship to be eligible to be selected to the Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships.
  - b. Effective date. September 1, 2019.
  - c. Rationale. The Division II Management Council and Division II Championships Committee directed that championship participation minimums should match sport sponsorship minimums. Staff is working with USA Swimming, the results reporting vendor, to determine if it can create an automated process to check this information. The process would be complicated by diving results, which currently are not included in the USA Swimming database. If USA Swimming is unable to meet this request, committee members will have to check each institution's team schedule and results for each gender sponsored or have the institutions attest to sponsorship.

Currently, an institution is required only one bona fide competition to have a student-athlete earn a qualifying swim time or dive score. According to self-reported sport sponsorship, only one institution with championships participants in the past five years did not meet sport-specific sponsorship requirements. The committee recommends an exemption for new swimming and diving programs within their first three years. The exemption period will allow an institution to begin sponsoring and stagger scholarships throughout a four-year period. The committee anticipates that having a student-athlete selected to the championships will greatly assist with an institution's recruiting efforts and, thus, help grow the squad size.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Agenda review.** The committee reviewed the meeting agenda and re-ordered a few items.
2. **Review/approve 2018 annual meeting report.** The committee approved its 2018 annual meeting report as submitted.
3. **Items from College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America.** These items are addressed elsewhere in the report. The committee did not receive a request to use long-course times from Olympic trials events as qualifying times for the NCAA championships. The committee will wait for additional information from the Division I Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee regarding this issue.

#### **4. Review of championships**

- a. **Facility.** The committee noted that the IU Natatorium was an outstanding venue for the Division II championships, with improved lighting and video board, seating, and deck space. In addition, the hosts were experienced in running NCAA championships and other large, high-profile events. However, participants expressed concerns about the condition of the locker rooms and the audio quality.
- b. **Officials.** Several new officials joined this year's officiating crew and some key roles, such as head referee, were filled by new individuals. All worked well as a team. The increased fees, along with travel, lodging and per diem payments, provided for the best dive judge panel ever, particularly for the qualification meet.
- c. **Banquet/hospitality.** The banquet was held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and participants were allowed to drive the track, which, along with an inspirational guest speaker, provided an unforgettable championships experience. The food quantity and quality were appropriate, and attendees appreciated the gluten-free options. The guests also welcomed the Make-A-Wish presentation. A new seat reservation method was used and will be tweaked for future championships. It was particularly helpful to have assigned team seating, although not all teams attended this mandatory celebration. The committee asked that staff continue to emphasize that banquet attire is professional/business.

Hospitality at the natatorium was very good, but student-athletes filling their bags rather than just taking items for consumption in the facility was problematic. Some coaches commented that they would prefer a hospitality area separate from the student-athletes.

- d. **Volunteers.** The host secured many well-trained volunteers, including younger ones who assisted with finals parades and awards presentations.

- e. **Awards presentation.** The awards presentations went well. The committee will continue to have the head coach of the event winner present the awards with young volunteers assisting.
- f. **In-venue production.** The committee applauded the efforts of the host personnel who served as producer. In addition, the NCAA communications staff created outstanding content used in-venue and distributed through social media. The host provided talented anthem performers. However, as with many similar facilities, the acoustics were inadequate. The committee will consider whether to continue to include interviews with event champions, based on personnel and space availability.
- g. **Electronic distribution of heat sheets and results.** It was helpful to have the Hy-Tek operator distribute heat sheets and results to coaches via email and linked to the Meet Mobile application.
- h. **Results online/webcasting.** The committee received feedback indicating the live webcast was well done, although the camera tended to focus on the top two or three swimmers rather than wide angle to include the entire field.
- i. **Evaluation results.** The committee reviewed the evaluations, again noting the low response rate. The committee also noted the feedback about the locker rooms and asked staff to share with the natatorium staff.

## 5. Action plan for 2020 championships and beyond.

- a. **Championships and qualifications meet schedules of events.** The committee approved the permanent addition of a 5-minute break for relay video review when there is no other break or conclusion of the session events. The committee moved the introduction of dive finalists before the awards presentation. The committee also agreed to introduce student-athletes or relay teams before taking the start for the consolation finals.

The committee chair will discuss a potential alternate qualification meet format at the coaches convention. In addition, the committee will continue to work with the Coaches Connection representatives to create an accurate list of institutions that sponsor diving. This will assist with considering regionally located qualification meets.

- b. **Warm-up schedule.** The committee asked staff to emphasize with the host that deck marshals must be experienced and remain attentive. The committee will make an outside lane available for the use of equipment or, alternatively, a designated lane in the back practice pool.

The committee will continue to review whether to open the pool for swim practice Sunday before the championships.

- c. **Selection of officials/diving judges.** The committee will continue the current officials' application process and will name the head and assistant swim referees, as well as the diving meet referee. The head and assistant swim referees will recommend a panel from the pool of applicants. The committee also will ask for recommendations from the secretary-rules editor, who is familiar with many of the officials' qualifications.

The playing rules liaison is working to strengthen the national office's relationship with USA Diving and will ask them to promote the application process. The committee will also ask the diving meet referee to rank applicants for the committee to review and select.

The committee will work with staff to prepare detailed job descriptions for the officials and other key positions.

- d. **Hospitality.** The committee will work with the host to find a coach and team personnel area separate from the student-athletes'.
- e. **Banquet.** The committee will continue to ticket the event and directed staff to create a seat reservation form with a deadline.
- f. **Host teleconferences.** As next year's facility, the SPIRE-Institute Aquatics Center, has been put up for sale, the committee recommended starting host teleconferences much earlier in the fall.
- g. **Announcers.** The committee will select the announcers with input from the championships host. For the qualification diving meet, one dive announcer will be selected by the committee and the second by the host, with committee approval.
- h. **Participant music.** The committee asked staff to determine if a paid music coordinator position can be added and directed staff to invite the same coordinator who served in this role for the past several years for the 2020 championships. The committee will remind the music coordinator to adhere to the student-athlete deadline to submit walk-out music.

The committee disapproved of playing music during the dive trials.

- i. **Deck pass limits.** The committee decided to keep the same deck pass formula.
- j. **Timers/volunteers.** The committee will encourage future hosts to solicit volunteers from youth club teams and get them more involved as parade leaders, basket transports and

award presentations. The committee strongly recommends the host provide deck marshals to assist with lane use during warm-ups and practice.

**k. Selection process.**

- (1) Sports sponsorship and participant caps.** The committee reviewed the historical survey of sports sponsorship numbers and is preparing a request to increase the cap for the next triennial budget cycle. Data from the last 10 years, when the participant cap was implemented, show that sponsorship and participation for men and women increased significantly. [Attachment].
- (2) Online regular-season entry procedures and reporting of times.** The committee will continue to support using the 50-yard splits for relay entries. All communications with the membership will continue to stress deadlines and financial penalties for late results submission.

The committee chair will discuss at the coaches convention whether to continue to require submitting all dive qualifying scores.

- (3) USA Swimming online meet entry process for submitting championships entries.**
  - (a) Timeline for entry submissions.** Staff will make changes to the memorandum to ensure consistency.
  - (b) Deadline to request split times.** All communications with the membership will continue to stress deadlines and financial penalties for late requests.
  - (c) Aggregate relays.** An institution may continue to enter its fastest actual relay time, or if faster, its fastest aggregate relay time.
  - (d) Relay-only swimmers.** While selecting swimmers in only individual events has helped improve the quality and depth of the championship fields, the limit of the participant cap still affects the quality of the championships. Divisions I and III have higher caps, so their fields are deeper. To field at least 16 relay teams in each relay event, the committee will continue to provide institutions with the option to bring relay-only swimmers. Institutions will continue to be financially responsible for bringing these individuals to the meet.

The committee will continue to monitor the number of relay-only swimmers brought to and competing in each championship and will work with the membership to determine if an increase in the participant cap would warrant a change in the relay-only swimmer policy.

(4) **Event entry limits.** The event entry limits will remain the same for 2019-20.

(5) **Standards and selections.**

(a) **Optional events (individual/relays) and scratch process for selected student-athletes.** This process will remain the same for 2019-20

(b) **Review process for notification of swimming alternates.** This process will remain the same for 2019-20.

(c) **Qualifying standards.** The committee will postpone approving the 2019-20 qualifying standards pending the upcoming NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee meeting and a possible review of the altitude adjustment formula.

(6) **Diving.**

(a) **Regular-season and championship entry process.**

- **Reporting of qualifying scores.** The committee directed staff to compile data from the last three years of qualifying scores to determine if the process for reporting qualifying scores will remain the same for 2019-20.

(b) **Qualification standards.** The qualification standards will remain the same for 2019-20.

(c) **Competition standards.** The competition standards will remain the same for 2019-20.

(d) **Qualification meet.** The committee chair will solicit feedback at the coaches convention regarding a potential format change and alternatives to the current qualification dive meet conducted at the championships site the day before the start of championships competition.

**l. Manual review.** The committee will review the committee operations, pre-championships, host operations and participant manuals and provide staff with changes as necessary.

**m. Committee calendar.** The committee tentatively approved next year's committee calendar, pending finalized dates for host teleconferences and officials review and approval. The 2020 annual meeting will take place April 15-16.

6. **Playing rules.** The NCAA playing rules staff and the secretary-rules editor reviewed the playing rules survey. They will solicit additional feedback at the upcoming coaches convention.
7. **Future sites and bid timeline.** The committee acknowledged that Lake Erie College no longer is sponsoring swimming and diving but is willing to fulfill its role as institutional host for the 2020 championships. The pending sale of the host facility is causing concern, but the committee and staff have been assured by the co-host.

Specifics of the host bid timeline for the 2023-2026 championships will soon be finalized and communicated with the membership and other interested parties.

8. **Committee composition.** The committee elected Jennifer Mervar, assistant athletics director at the University of Indianapolis, as committee chair.
9. **Sponsorship lists.** The committee reviewed the sponsorship lists and noted institutions considering adding or dropping the sport.

**10. Other business.**

- a. **Seasons of competition.** The committee will coordinate with the Coaches Connection representatives to develop potential legislation regarding use of seasons of competition for activity during the break between first-time full-time enrollment and re-enrollment. The committee has directed staff to work with other championships managers of sports also interested in developing a legislative proposal. The committee spoke with academic and membership affairs staff who will collaborate with the Eligibility Center staff on research to support anecdotal evidence regarding the age and competitive experience of championships participants. However, there may be legalities that prevent using such data.
- b. **Division II updates.** The committee learned about the Division II priorities and strategic plan, as well as the preliminary report from the Division II National Championships Festival Working Group. The committee used the tenets of the Division II strategic plan to create a draft Division II men's and women's swimming and diving championships strategic plan. The plan will be reviewed annually and revised if necessary.

*Committee Chair:* Roger Karns, Lewis University  
*Staff Liaison:* Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances

<b>Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee April 15-16, 2019, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jennifer Alger, University of Tampa.	
Roger Karns, Lewis University.	
Jennifer Mervar, University of Indianapolis.	
Barbara Parker, University of West Florida.	
Nancye Rahn, King University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Greg Lockard, NCAA Swimming and Diving Secretary Rules Editor, by teleconference.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.	
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.	
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Maritza Jones, Law, Policy and Governance.	
Ryan Jones, Law, Policy and Governance.	



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