



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 4-6, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 32 conferences receive automatic qualification privileges for the 2019 championship: America East Conference, American Athletic Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Sun Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference, Big East Conference, Big Sky Conference, Big South Conference, Big Ten Conference, Big 12 Conference, Big West Conference, Colonial Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Horizon League, The Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Mountain West Conference, Northeast Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Pac-12 Conference, Patriot League, Southeastern Conference, Southern Conference, Southland Conference, Southwestern Athletic Conference, Sun Belt Conference, The Summit League, West Coast Conference and Western Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Review of 2018 championship.

- a. Preliminary-round review.** The committee reviewed the survey results and noted the need to clarify locker room requirements for hosts during the championship. Staff will review the host operations manual to make sure all the team needs are addressed.

The committee discussed the language that is used for host bids regarding location of team hotels. Some hotels were within the allocated miles from the venue, but the driving time (due to congestion, etc.) was extended, which did not provide the best student-athlete experience. The committee will clarify these requirements in the manual for future championships.

There were quite a few comments in the surveys regarding the potential use of Teraflex as the floor for the championship versus the current SportCourt. SportCourt owns Teraflex, so staff will work internally to explore a potential transition. The committee would like to have it for both the regional and final sites, but members acknowledged that a staggered approach could be applied due to the potential cost increase associated with the Teraflex floor.

The committee noted that the additional focus this year on securing potential site reps earlier paid off the weekend of selections. Committee members were able to confirm site reps much quicker and provide them with the necessary information. For the 2019 season, members recommended that the site rep conference call be recorded so that those who can't attend the original call are able to listen on their own.

For 2019, the committee will require that when streaming preliminary-round matches, a host must provide at a minimum a high definition stream that includes a score bug and match audio.

- b. Final site review.** Minneapolis did a great job hosting the final site and the committee commended them on the atmosphere and experience for the student-athletes and fans. The enhanced signage in the locker room hallways provided a great welcome for the teams when they arrived at the building. Committee members asked if there was a potential to do bus wraps for the teams at future championships. Staff will follow up on the feasibility of this idea.

The banquet was done well, and the addition of Holly Rowe as the emcee brought in a new element. The committee noted that adding another buffet table would help with the overall flow for future years.

On the media coordination side, the committee reviewed the overall media obligations of the teams. For the press conferences that occur on Friday, some adjustment may be made to those who are required to attend. Staff will look at the past transcripts and see how many questions the student-athletes are receiving. It may be determined that these press conferences become coaches only.

The committee noted that the in-venue use of LED blocks and the new team announcement time added to the overall atmosphere. The addition of the stage for the awards ceremony also formalized the overall presentation.

- c. Selections/rankings.** The committee reviewed the process and tools used during selections for the 2018 championship. The kick-off call for all the RAC members was well received and will continue to be a part of the schedule. Staff will look to record this call for those that can't attend.

Committee members reviewed current tools used for selections and agreed to monitor the effectiveness of the new NET tool in men's basketball and any potential implications that might have on other sports in the future.

The committee would like to add a second day of review for the midseason Top 10 reveal. The additional time this year to analyze those teams was helpful in the process. This will be added into the overall schedule for the year.

- d. Regular-season match viewing.** The committee felt that the increased opportunity for viewing regular-season matches was very well received. The committee wants to continue tracking weekly the matches members are watching. Staff will continue discussing with Volleymetrics what they can do to assist the committee with the process.
- 2. Rules.** The committee reviewed the items that were discussed at the rules committee meeting, including the length of the intermission. The committee agreed to keep the intermission at five minutes for the championship.

Members also discussed the number of challenges coaches are using and the length of those challenges and noted that overall, coaches are not coming anywhere close to using all their challenges during a match. The rules committee members will continue to monitor this as they go into a rules change year for 2020-21.

- 3. Challenge review system (CRS).** This was the first year in which CRS was implemented at all rounds of the championship. It worked well at all the sites and the committee was pleased with the commitment from the membership to have it available at the preliminary rounds.

The committee discussed the in-venue aspect of the challenge review and asked if those reviews should be shown on the videoboard while the challenge is being reviewed. Staff will continue to review the internal policies and what other championships are doing in this space.

Members also noted that future rules surveys will include a question regarding the use and implementation of a third official to review challenges. The committee will continue to monitor the issue.

- 4. Television.** The committee met via teleconference with staff from ESPN to review the championship. ESPN noted that the volleyball championship is one of their most valuable assets in the fall. ESPN wants to continue to grow the championship and look for more ways to tell the student-athlete stories. The return to a 60-minute selection show was exciting for the committee and the sport.

Some opportunities for next year involve reviewing the current access documents provided for coaches and determining what items may need to be added to the required list for coaches and teams. Staff will also look for ways to incorporate some time at the regional tournaments for talent

to meet with the coaches on the practice day. ESPN would like to continue to explore the use of different technology that can be used to enhance the broadcast. Staff will follow up internally on the current policies in place and whether any adjustments can be made.

5. **Committee chair.** Michelle Durban, Samford University, will serve as the committee chair for the 2019-20 year. T.J. Meagher, University of Houston, will serve as vice chair.
6. **Championship ticketing.** The committee clarified that for the 2019 championship the following ticketing procedures will be followed:
 - All preliminary-round sites will be required to have 100 tickets available for the general public after the selection announcement.
 - If a student ticket price is being offered, it must be offered to all teams participating at a site.
 - The team tickets at all rounds must be prime courtside seats.

These procedures will be outlined in a memorandum to the membership this winter so that they can prepare for their season ticket renewal process.

7. **Bench size.** For the 2019 championship the committee will allow the institutions to use their allotted bench size of 25 as they see fit. Within that, an institution can have no more than eight staff personnel. Only 15 student-athletes are still eligible to play, and those will have to be declared at the administrative meeting. However, coaches may now have more student-athletes on the bench and dressed as part of the 25. If they choose to have 20 student-athletes dressed, that will allow them five personnel. All dressed student-athletes will be allowed to warm up. Introductions will be just the starting seven student-athletes and the nonstarters will be announced during the team warm-up time.

This was a very important topic for the coaches and has been brought forward to the committee in the past. The committee feels that this is a great opportunity to give those student-athletes who have been a part of the team all season long the true championship experience. The committee will monitor how this goes this fall and evaluate it again at the 2020 annual meeting.

8. **AVCA presentation.** Representatives from the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) joined the committee to discuss the recent championship. The AVCA had another successful convention this year. The committee reviewed with the representatives the discussion on the bench size, the Teraflex floor for the finals, and the potential of using a third referee. The AVCA representatives noted that they understand the needs of television and will help the committee communicate with the coaching body on the access documents. Staff will continue to join the head coaches committee calls when needed. All parties appreciate the great relationship the committee and the AVCA leadership team have and are excited about ways to continue to enhance the championship for all those involved.
9. **2020 annual meeting dates.** The committee will meet February 3-5, 2020 in Indianapolis.

10. Adjournment.

Committee Chair: Carrie Coll, California State University, Fresno

Staff Liaison(s): Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee February 4-6, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Sherene Brantley, Duquesne University.	
Carrie Coll, California State University, Fresno.	
Michelle Durban, Samford University.	
Vanessa Fuchs, Florida State University.	
Kelley Hartley Hutton, Purdue University Fort Wayne.	
Karin Lee, Ball State University.	
John McCammon, Western Kentucky University	
Jenny McGhee, Southland Conference.	
T.J. Meagher, University of Houston.	
Janine Oman, The Ohio State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Morgan Ainslie, ESPN. (via teleconference).	
Kirsten Bernthal Booth, Creighton University, AVCA.	
Sharon Clark, Butler University, AVCA	
Kathy DeBoer, American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).	
Pat Lowry, ESPN (via teleconference).	
Dan Margulis, ESPN (via teleconference).	
Mark Rosen, University of Michigan, AVCA.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Sahar Abdur-Rashid, Championships and Alliances	
Jeffrey Donley, Championships and Alliances	
Jessica Jones, Championships and Alliances	
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances.	
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances	