



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2020, 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 2020 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. 2020 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 2019 championship.

- a. Preliminary-round review.** The committee reviewed the survey results and noted that the preliminary-round sites did a great job this year. Staff will continue to look at ways to provide the necessary information to sites in a concise manner.

There continues to be discussion about the use of Teraflex instead of SportCourt during the championships. The committee submitted the request during last year's budget cycle but funding was not approved. Staff will continue to work internally and with the equipment provider to explore options for implementing a Teraflex court at some point in the future.

- b. Final site review.** Pittsburgh provided a great atmosphere for the participating teams. All involved did a great job hosting the final site, especially with the event this year being so close to the holidays.

This year Pittsburgh provided an athlete lounge at the venue on practice day. It was a great area for the teams to be in while they waited for their next media obligation. Staff will relay this to future hosts for potential implementation.

The committee discussed ways to enhance the autograph session. The committee likes the fan enhancement it provides, but members suggested that there be increased security for the lines and that fans are informed that due to the time constraints of the session, everyone may not receive an autograph. Opportunity for the teams to sign posters on Wednesday practice day would be an option to provide to fans that don't make it all the way through the line. The committee also suggested that there also be a countdown clock of the 30 minutes so that fans and teams can see the time remaining in the session. Staff will review these options and provide feedback to future hosts.

On the media coordination side, the committee noted for the 2020 championship there should be clarification for hosts on exactly where the photographers can be on the endlines.

For practices times, in the host operations manual, staff will make the edits to reflect the addition of "semifinal" to page 48 under bullet #2 and that bullet #1 should say "90 minutes."

- c. Selections/rankings.** The committee reviewed the process and tools used during selections for the 2019 championship. The committee received positive feedback across the board on how the selections were made this year, noting that the education provided to coaches over the past few years is helping them better understand the selection process.

The committee felt that the additional day for the midseason reveal was very beneficial for review. This will stay in place for the 2020 season.

- 2. Playing rules.** The committee reviewed items discussed at the rules committee meeting, including the length of the intermission. The committee reviewed comments from the membership and ultimately agreed to leave the intermission at five minutes.

The committee noted that starting with the 2020 season there will be a new penalty in place for illegal uniforms. Teams have had multiple years to comply with the uniform rules.

Starting with the 2020 season, a specific challenge review official will be allowed. The committee discussed possibly adding this official for the championships but agreed that due to the costs of doing so the review function would need to be handled among the current number of officials assigned. Staff will continue to review this with the national coordinator.

- 3. Challenge review system (CRS).** The committee continues to discuss the in-venue aspect of the challenge review, particularly whether the play under review should be shown on the videoboard while the challenge is being considered. After discussing it with the national coordinator, the committee agreed with doing so if the staff believes the logistics can be managed.

The committee agreed to continue working with preliminary-round hosts on the camera angles required for the CRS system. Also, the committee will remind hosts to provide a feed with a score bug as part of their duties.

- 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.

The committee thanked ESPN for their commitment to the volleyball championship. The addition of the pre-championship studio show on championship Saturday was a great enhancement for the championship. This show, along with the segment between the semifinal matches, truly gives the fans a great evening of volleyball. ESPN asked the staff to consider additional time for the teams on practice day to satisfy the media obligations.

- 5. Committee chair.** T.J. Meagher, University of Houston, will serve as the committee chair for the 2020-21 year.
- 6. Championship ticketing.** The committee reviewed a recommendation from the ticketing staff for the 2020 championship and approved the following procedures:

- For all first- and second-round sites, each participating institution will be allocated a maximum of 100 all-session, prime lower level seats.
- For regionals, each participating institution will continue to be allowed a maximum of 200 all-session tickets. Of those tickets, 100 must be prime, lower level seats.
- For the final site, team tickets will now be sold as single-session tickets.
- Each team will be allocated a maximum of 200 prime lower level seats for the semifinals.
- The two advancing teams will be allocated that same number for seats for the finals.
- The two non-advancing teams will not be allocated any tickets for the finals.
- Requests for additional tickets for either day of competition will be handled based on availability.

These procedures will be outlined in a memorandum to the membership in early spring to help institutions prepare for their season ticket renewal process.

7. **Bench size.** The committee noted that the bench size recommendation submitted to the Competition Oversight Committee in June 2019 was still on the table and may be revisited once the Championships Finance Review Working Group completes its overall review of bench size policies and procedures. The committee continues to believe some flexibility should be provided regarding the number of team personnel on the bench. Staff will continue to monitor and keep the committee informed.
8. **AVCA presentation.** Representatives from the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) joined the committee to discuss the recent championship. The AVCA noted that they are continuing to look for ways to keep their coaches engaged and interested in attending the convention and asked that the committee keep that in mind when selecting future sites. The AVCA gave some feedback on what potential enhancement opportunities may be available for fans after selections are released. Among suggestions were to preview some of the more high-profile and uniquely accomplished student-athletes in the field (e.g., comeback players, promising newcomers, etc.). They are willing to help assist our staff with ideas and content. Staff will follow up for more discussion on this topic as the summer progresses. Staff will continue to join the head coaches committee calls when needed. All parties appreciate the great relationship between the committee and the AVCA leadership team.
9. **2021 annual meeting dates.** The committee will meet February 1-3, 2021.
10. **Committee update.** Staff will work with the conference offices to fill regional advisory committee vacancies for the 2020 season.

Committee Chair: Michelle Durban, Samford University
Staff Liaison(s): Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee February 3-5, 2020, Meeting
Attendees:
Karen Baebler, University of Washington.
Sherene Brantley, Duquesne University.
Michelle Durban, Samford University.
Kelley Hartley Hutton, Purdue University Fort Wayne.
Angie Boyd Keck, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Karin Lee, Ball State University.
John McCammon, Western Kentucky University
T.J. Meagher, University of Houston.
Janine Oman, The Ohio State University.
Pauline Thiros, Idaho State University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Morgan Ainslie, ESPN. (via teleconference).
Brent Couch, Auburn 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:
Jeffrey Donley, Championships and Alliances
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances.
Lauren McLaughlin, Championships and Alliances.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances