



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 8-10, 2022, MEETINGS

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee recommends 32 conferences to receive automatic qualification privileges for the 2022 championship. (See Action Item 2-a.)
2. **Bracketing principles.** The committee recommends being afforded some flexibility on the bracketing principles beginning with the 2022 championship. (See Action Item 2-b.)

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 2022 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. 2022 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Bracketing principles.**

- (1) Recommendation. That with the 2022 the committee be allowed to seed the top 32 teams in the bracket, avoid first-round conference matchups only, and continue to pair teams 33-64 geographically with the new caveat that a team would not go to the same site in consecutive years.
- (2) Effective date. 2022 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The committee continues to explore ways to enhance the integrity of the current bracket. By seeding 1-32 and implementing the additional changes, teams will be playing a more truly seeded bracket. It has also been a major discussion over the past few years that teams repeatedly travel to the same site strictly due to geography. Allowing for a team to not travel to the same site in consecutive years enhances the student-athlete experience.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. TBD Waiting for numbers from travel.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This is a positive impact on the student-athletes, as they would experience a more competitive bracket and have the opportunity to go to different locations. The committee is committed to continuing to enhance the experience and exposure for the championship.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

**1. Review of 2021 championship.**

- a. **Site review**. The committee was pleased with the championship experience that was provided throughout the tournament this year. Committee members noted from the evaluations that a call with potential host tournament directors in the summer may be beneficial. As items change, this may be a great way to update them on new initiatives for the tournament. One addition was the reminder to hosts that hotels need to be full service. Staff will make sure this is stressed in the bid information.

The addition of the Taraflex floor this year's championship finals site was a benefit for all teams. It was a great enhancement for the participants and the committee was very pleased with the implementation. Members discussed what options may be available to use Taraflex at more sites. Staff will follow up internally on the length of the current agreement with Gerfloor and what options there may be in the future.

- b. **Operations review**. The fact that modified COVID protocols were still in place for the championship meant there were four individual team dinners provided for each team in lieu of one banquet. The committee noted that this may be a good alternative for future

championships. Staff will work with future hosts to establish what would work best in their city.

Red carpet welcomes were reinstituted for the championship and continue to be very well received. These grow each year and are a great experience for the teams. They have provided a great opportunity to welcome the teams to the final night of competition and give the fans a chance to cheer them on.

For future championships staff will review the practice schedule for Friday and adjust later to allow for more time for teams.

Columbus provided a specific team lounge at the venue on practice day for the student-athletes to relax while they were adhering to media obligations. Staff will work with future hosts regarding the ability to implement these at future sites.

On the media coordination side, the committee noted the hybrid in-person/virtual press conferences and the opportunity it provided media that could not be on site.

The ability to allow all non-dressed student-athletes in the bench area for this year's championship was very well received by all.

The day off at the regional sites was much appreciated by all the teams. The committee noted that the schedule for practices on that day should be 90 minutes and not start before 10 a.m. local. This will be implemented for the 2022 championship.

The committee also agreed to increase the guarantee to host first- and second-round competition from \$7,500 to \$10,000 and the regionals from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

- c. **Selections/rankings.** The committee reviewed the process and tools used during selections for the 2021 championship. Kevin Pagua joined the committee to discuss the KPI metric. The committee will work with Mr. Pagua over the 2022 season to run the KPI for their review at the February 2023 annual meeting. This will provide committee members with the necessary information before a potential request to implement it for the 2023 season.

The committee continues to support the midseason Top 10 reveal and will continue it for the 2022 season.

- 2. **Playing rules.** The committee reviewed items discussed at the rules committee meeting. For the 2022 championship members noted that only the head coach will be allowed to address the officials. For the 2023 rules meeting, the committee will work to provide any pertinent information on the challenge review system that the rules committee may need.

3. **Challenge review system (CRS).** The committee continues to discuss the needed preliminary-round requirements for CRS on campus. Continuing to increase the frame rate speed on the replay cameras is important for the reviews to be effective. The committee will continue to work with hosts on this item.
4. **Television.** The committee met via videoconference with staff from ESPN to review the championship. The 2022 championship was the highest-rated ESPN volleyball match ever regardless of network, as 1.2 million viewers saw the championship match on ESPN2.

This year all first- and second-round matches were streamed on ESPN+. Through the work of hosts and ESPN, this was a great opportunity to continue to increase exposure for the volleyball championship.

For future championships, the committee noted that match times will move to a “followed by” versus a set start time. There will still be a minimum of 30 minutes between matches, but this will allow ESPN to provide more volleyball-specific content between matches. ESPN continues to work closely with individual team videographers to gain additional content and will look to do that in the future.

5. **Committee chair.** Pauline Thiros from Idaho State University will serve as the committee chair for the 2022-23 year.
6. **AVCA presentation.** Representatives from the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) joined the committee to discuss the recent championship. The group commended the committee for the implementation of Taraflex, the day off at regionals and the additional student-athletes allowed in the bench area. These were all priorities that the AVCA expressed in the summer of 2021.

Both the committee and the AVCA appreciate the working relationship between these groups over the years, as it has resulted in a true partnership. The open dialogue on how to continue growing the sport and working together is at the forefront. The committee chair and NCAA staff liaison will continue to meet with the AVCA head coaches committee throughout the academic year. There is amazing potential to continue to grow this sport and championship and the coaches continue to be impassioned and vocal. The AVCA and committee will continue to work together to keep these discussions going.

7. **Future championship items.** The committee did discuss some ideas for the future of the championship, including the concept of bringing eight teams to the final site and having the regional finals, national semifinals and the national final all occur at the same location. The staff and committee will continue to analyze this idea and research what impact this would have on the championship.
8. **2023 annual meeting dates.** The committee will meet February 7-9, 2023.

9. **Committee update.** Staff will work with the conference offices to fill regional advisory committee vacancies for the 2022 season.

*Committee Chair:* Sherene Brantley, Duquesne University  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee February 8-10, 2022, Meetings	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Karen Baebler, University of Washington.	
Sherene Brantley, Duquesne University.	
Angie Boyd Keck, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Danielle Josetti, Marquette University.	
John McCammon, Western Kentucky University.	
Janine Oman, The Ohio State University.	
Chris Plonsky, University of Texas.	
Holly Strauss-O'Brien, Loyola University, Chicago.	
Pauline Thiros, Idaho State University.	
Makini Thompson, Appalachian State.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Keegan Cook, University of Washington, AVCA.	
Sharon Clark, Butler University, AVCA.	
Brent Crouch, Auburn University, AVCA.	
Kathy DeBoer, AVCA.	
Meg Aronowitz, ESPN.	
Dan Margulis, ESPN.	
Maria Soares, ESPN.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Lauren Daniel, Championships and Alliances.	
Mary Eiland, Championships and Alliances.	

Megan Hall, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances.
Deja West, Championships and Alliances.