



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Feb. 16-18, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**KEY ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Actions.**

**a. Ground transportation in the nonchampionship segment.**

(1) Action. The NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Oversight Committee introduced a proposal into the June 2026 legislative cycle to eliminate the restriction to ground transportation during the nonchampionship segment in women's volleyball.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. Institutions are best positioned to make decisions regarding competition-related transportation during both the championship and nonchampionship segments. Local autonomy will allow institutions to make decisions to promote the well-being of student-athletes and promote additional flexibility during the nonchampionship segment. Further, this proposal would not amend the prohibition on missed class time for nonchampionship segment competition.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Dependent on institutional decision making.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Dependent on institutional decision making.

**b. Competition in conjunction with high school, preparatory school or two-year college events.**

(1) Action. The committee introduced a proposal into the June 2026 legislative cycle to eliminate the restriction on hosting a high school, preparatory or two-year college competition in conjunction with an intercollegiate competition in women's volleyball.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. Volleyball is a rapidly growing sport with healthy, interconnected development pathways. Current restrictions limit opportunities that are otherwise commonplace and appropriate in most Division I sports. The benefit of opportunities to promote volleyball outweighs the potential impact on recruiting that hosting intercollegiate competition in conjunction with competition involving prospective student-athletes may cause.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. AVCA Showcase – Frequency of participation restriction.**

(1) Action. The committee introduced a proposal into the June 2026 legislative cycle to allow institutions to participate in the AVCA Showcase no more than twice every three years.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The AVCA Showcase was established to promote volleyball through early season, high visibility competition that expands national exposure. Reducing the participation restriction better aligns with the event's goal to drive growth of the sport overall without significantly reducing opportunity for women's volleyball programs to participate for the first time.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative Action.**

- **Blanket Waiver – Exhibition Contests – Women's Volleyball.** The committee approved a blanket waiver for the 2026-27 season to allow women's volleyball programs to participate in up to two scrimmages/exhibition contests prior to the first scheduled regular-season contest, provided the scrimmage or exhibition contest is conducted during the institution's declared playing season and is counted against the maximum number of contests.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review of Proposal No. 2026-8.** In preparation for the Cabinet's April 14-15 review of Proposal No. 2026-8 (Playing and Practice Seasons – Foreign Tour – Time Lapse Between Tours – Basketball – Once per Year), which would eliminate the once-in-four-years timing limitation and permit an institution to take a foreign tour once per year, the committee discussed whether the proposal should apply to women's volleyball. The committee has no formal position on the proposal applying to women's volleyball; however, the committee noted that existing legislation allows institutions to provide student-athletes with educational travel experiences that do not include competition, including foreign travel. The committee noted that deregulation of the foreign tour legislation would result in an increase on student-athlete time

demands (e.g., practices associated with preparation for foreign competition), as well as increased expectations for student-athletes to engage in fundraising activities.

2. **Playing and practice season model.** The committee discussed a playing and practice season model recommended by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and will continue discussions at a future meeting.
3. **Automatic qualification.** The committee discussed automatic qualification submissions and approved the 32 AQs as provided in the materials.
4. **Playing Rules.** The Division I Women's Volleyball Oversight Committee reviewed and approved 12 rules changes and one experimental rule submitted by the Division I Women's Volleyball Playing Rules Subcommittee, which included:
  - a. Permitting a maximum of two commercial or nonprofit logos on the playing court within the boundary lines. The logos shall fit into a box that is not larger than 10 feet by 10 feet, with no more than one logo in each half of the playing court. For logos placed on the playing court, this box shall be located between the attack line and end line and must not interfere with any required court markings or boundary lines. Logos and commercial advertising are not permitted in the front zone. There are no restrictions on NCAA, team or conference logos, names, or abbreviations on the playing court, provided they do not obscure any required court markings or boundary lines. For conference tournaments and neutral sites, one combination conference or title event logo that includes a commercial or nonprofit logo is permitted on the playing court when located in the front zone. The combination logo shall not count as one of the two permitted commercial logos authorized by this rule.
  - b. Requiring all individual misconduct sanctions to remain in force for the entire match and be recorded on the score sheet.
  - c. Implementing a two-match suspension to a disqualified player and head coach if the disqualified player doesn't sit out the next match as required. If a disqualified coach doesn't sit out the next match as required, the head coach will be required to serve a two-match suspension.
  - d. Removing limitations on jewelry worn above the chin. No jewelry is allowed to be worn below the chin.
  - e. Allowing referees to consult the official match statistics and/or the challenge review system (CRS) to resolve a scoring discrepancy. A coach would not be required to lodge a protest in these instances.

- f. Requiring teams to change sides of the court only at the end of the second set. At the coin toss prior to the fifth set, the team that wins the toss may choose to serve, receive or select side of the court. Teams will remain on their respective side of the court for the fifth set.
- g. Adding an alternative timeout protocol for a technical timeout.
- h. Disallowing any player on the serving team from raising their hands above the head during service until the ball has passed beyond the net.
- i. Allowing a ball to be played back to a teammate that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone over or outside the antenna after a team's first contact or block, provided the pursuing player does not cross under the net, net cable or referee platform.
- j. Ruling a violation for completely crossing the center line with the foot or feet and adding center line to the categories of reviewable decisions.
- k. Requiring head coaches to request a challenge by forming a "C" with their hands.
- l. Requiring a challenge to be requested immediately after the play in which the challengeable action occurred and before a timeout is initiated.
- m. Allowing conferences to experiment during the 2026 season with the electronic transmission of live statistical data and/or live video to the bench area for coaching purposes. Video transmitted to the bench may not be used to show the referee(s) a possible missed call or interpretation.

The committee also approved an editorial change to address the placement of commercial logos on the uniform. The additional logos are permitted on a combination of either the uniform (jersey or bottoms) or any apparel used in competition. If a commercial logo is on the uniform bottoms, it must be located on the front or side of the bottoms.

- 5. **Review of the 2025 championship.** The committee discussed various aspects of the 2025 Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in Kansas City, Missouri. Specifically, the committee discussed equipment, signage, and the success and areas of improvement for ancillary activities associated with the championship, including the student-athlete championship reception, team welcomes, the student-athlete lounge, fan experience, and the Championship Fan Zone.
- 6. **First and second rounds review.** The committee discussed feedback from the first and second rounds of the 2025 Division I Women's Volleyball Championships.

7. **Seeding/Bracketing/Rankings.** The committee briefly discussed feedback regarding the seeding and bracketing, as well as rankings for the 2025 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball tournament.
8. **Selections and rankings.** The committee discussed the use of the Rating Percentage Index as a factor in selections criteria. The committee will continue discussions on this topic and explore additional metrics and tools for selections and rankings at a future meeting.
9. **Top 16.** The committee discussed the mid-season preliminary top 16 rankings and will continue to conduct top 16 rankings in the future.
10. **Challenge review system.** The committee discussed the challenge review system, including minimum requirements, NCAA RFP, and regional systems. Specifically, they discussed the challenge review system through the 2025 Women's Volleyball season, and changes for the future. The committee will continue discussions about implementing minimum standards for camera setup and connectivity at a future meeting.
11. **ESPN championship recap.** ESPN staff provided the committee with a recap of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in Kansas City, Missouri. Specifically, they discussed programming, growth of the sport, viewership, and The Fifth Set coverage.

*Committee Chair: Jennifer Saxon, The University of Mississippi.*

*Staff Liaisons: Kristin Fasbender, NCAA Championships and Alliances.*

*Karen Metzger, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.*

*Jay Jay Rackley, NCAA Championships and Alliances.*

| <b>NCAA Division I Volleyball Oversight Committee<br/>Feb. 16-18, 2026, Videoconference</b>   |  |
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| <b>Attendees:</b>   |  |
| Joeleen Akin, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlantic Coast Conference.   |  |
| Laura Alexander, San Jose State University.   |  |
| Nayelis Cabello, University of Louisville, Atlantic Coast Conference.   |  |
| Ally Cordes, Samford University.  |  |
| Jaime Gordon, American Volleyball Coaches Association.  |  |
| Erin Hagen, Liberty University.   |  |
| Elizabeth Heinrich, University of Michigan, Big Ten Conference.   |  |
| Ava Kanj, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York.  |  |
| Jill Keegan, University of Colorado, Boulder, Big 12 Conference.  |  |
| Kathy Litzau, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.   |  |
| Ryan MacDowell, NCAA national coordinator of officials.   |  |
| Lori Martin, Louisiana State University, Southeastern Conference.   |  |
| Kelli Myers, Georgetown University.   |  |
| Jennifer Saxon, University of Mississippi, Southeastern Conference.   |  |
| Adam Tschour, University of the Pacific.  |  |
| Julie Voeck, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor.   |  |
| Scott Wetherbee, Eastern Michigan University.   |  |
| <b>Absentees:</b>   |  |
| None.   |  |
| <b>NCAA Staff in Attendance:</b>  |  |
| Kristin Fasbender, Brandy Hataway, Ariona Johnson, Catherine Lant, Karen Metzger, Jay Jay Rackley, Rachel Seewald, Luke Schultheis, and Natalie Steger. |  |
| <b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>  |  |
| Ian Dunning and Mallory Kenny, ESPN.  |  |