



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 27-28, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Competition requirements for at-large selection.

- (1) Recommendation. That the at-large selection requirements be revised as follows:

Once the automatic qualification berths have been designated for each region, the remaining regional spots will be selected at large. To be considered during the at-large selection process:

- Only the best three-of-five-set match format will be considered.
- A team must play a minimum of 60 percent of an institution's matches against other Division II teams.
- A team must play a minimum of 15 matches against Division II opponents.
- **A team must play a minimum of one match against Division II nonconference opponents within their selection region.**
- A team must have a Division II won-lost record of .500 or better (except for automatic qualification).

- (2) Effective date. The 2020 championship.

- (3) Rationale. The current model allows an institution to compete against only its own conference members, against nonconference opponents that are considered regional opponents based on the contiguous state principle or against non-regional opponents, all without ever having to compete against nonconference opponents within their selection region. Anecdotally, some conference coaches have gone so far as to agree not to compete against nonconference teams within their selection region. Since the division adopted the regionalization philosophy, some of the teams selected to the championship have no direct points of comparison with other teams within their selection region, making it challenging for regional advisory committees and the national committee to rank and select teams.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Some institutions may face higher costs if they are located in areas where travel to nonconference institutions within the selection region is farther than travel to institutions considered in-region based on the contiguous state

principle. Some institutions may save money by competing within their selection region rather than travel more nationally.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Competition requirements for regional hosts.

- (1) Recommendation. That in order host a regional, a team must play a minimum of two matches against Division II nonconference opponents within its selection region.
- (2) Effective date. The 2020 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The current model allows an institution to compete against only its own conference members, against nonconference opponents that are considered regional opponents based on the contiguous state principle or against non-regional opponents, all without ever having to compete against nonconference opponents within their selection region. Anecdotally, some conference coaches have gone so far as to agree not to compete against nonconference teams within their selection region.

Division II prioritizes rank when determining regional hosting opportunities. Since the division adopted the regionalization philosophy, some teams selected to the championship have no direct points of comparison with other teams within their selection region, making it challenging for regional advisory committees and the national committee to rank and select teams. The committee emphasizes determining the top-ranked teams because they generally get the opportunity to host if they submitted valid bids.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Some institutions may face higher costs if they are located in areas where travel to nonconference institutions within the selection region is farther than travel to institutions considered in-region based on the contiguous state principle. Some institutions may save money by competing within their selection region rather than travel more nationally.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule.
- 2. Review/approval of 2018 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as submitted.

3. NCAA updates.

- a. **2019 NCAA Convention/legislative update.** Governance staff members provided an update of the recent Convention. They highlighted that Division II University, an online coaches education tool, was approved to replace the coaches certification examination.
- b. **Festival working group.** The festival working group is scheduled to complete its review of the events and formalize recommendations by June in time for the next host bid cycle. The committee members agreed that this year was the one of the best festivals. The social media coverage provided by NCAA interns and the additional Turner staff on-site greatly enhanced the Division II Women's Volleyball Championship.
- c. **Media agreement update.** The Division II Management Council Identity Subcommittee focused on priorities in distributing regular-season competitions. It has created a hybrid model permitting local streaming and television coverage as well as airing on conference platforms.

4. Review of Championships Committee actions.

The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year.

5. Review of American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention report.

The committee reviewed the AVCA convention report. Items were addressed throughout the meeting. Additionally, the committee discussed the following requests from the coaches association members:

- a. **Using an outside ranking source to seed the final eight teams.** The committee directed staff to discuss with the statistics and IT staffs whether the formula used by the Massey ratings service can be replicated within the score reporting system. The Massey ratings are updated daily with a national ranking focus. The committee believes that, although some of the current selection criteria are national in scope, an additional national metric would be more predictive.
- b. **Travel party increase to 22.** Coaches indicated their institutions are enrollment-driven and carry larger squad sizes. The current official travel party of 20 limits the number of student-athletes who will get a chance to participate in the championship. The committee asked staff to prepare a summary of sport sponsorship data to determine if a recommendation would be warranted for the next budget cycle.
- c. **Use of the Challenge Review System at regionals.** The committee agreed to allow regional hosts the option use the CRS system at their own cost. The system must have a minimum of three cameras – one net camera and one camera shooting each corner opposite the line judges.

6. Review of 2018 championship.

- a. **Bracket.** The committee reviewed and approved the continued use of the current bracket design.
- b. **Evaluations/reports.** The committee noted that host requirements related to providing proper crowd control must be reinforced. Hosts may need to remove spectators from the front row of bleachers in order to ensure the spectators do not encroach on the permissible playing area. Regional hosts also must be reminded that they are responsible for securing four line judges to be used throughout the entire regional.
- c. **Regional sites.**
 - (1) **Facility specifications.** The committee noted that some facilities may not have met minimum ceiling height requirements, but hosts did not disclose this in their bids. Staff will review the bid specifications and make appropriate updates, if necessary.
 - (2) **Follow-up with hosts.** The committee directed staff to share feedback with and solicit additional feedback from the regional hosts.
- d. **Finals.**
 - (1) **Facility setup.**
 - (a) **Meeting space.** The administrative meeting area was adequate. Other meeting spaces were good.
 - (b) **Hospitality.** Overall, the food was very good with many healthy choices; however, quantities were stretched due to additional credentialed persons attending the festival.
 - (c) **Officials meeting area.** The officials meeting area was shared with the committee and worked well.
 - (d) **Press conference room and location.** The committee noted the size and setup of the press conference room worked well, but the location, next to a building entrance, was challenging due to noise. The conference room was also shared with field hockey, which presented some minor timing and use issues.
 - (e) **Competition venue.** The committee indicated the venue was of a high caliber and the perfect size for this championship. The only drawback was the lack of reserved parking for the officials.

- (2) **Administrative meeting.** The committee noted the current administrative meeting structure works well.
- (3) **Practices.** The committee indicated that the current closed practice schedule works well and should be maintained. Teams will be permitted to play music with non-offensive lyrics.
- (4) **Press conferences/interviews.** The committee commended the extensive and continued preparation by the press conference moderator.
- (5) **Web streaming of matches and press conferences.** The committee noted the enhancement provided by the color commentator's division- and sport-specific knowledge during this year's production of the competition. The committee suggested the live stream producer verify that the institutional information for graphics is accurate.

The host needs to ensure all equipment works properly when recording and posting the press conferences. The committee recommended making two recordings of each press conference in case of mechanical or technological failure.

- (6) **Challenge Review System.** The committee members appreciated VidSwap's customer service and their system that truly enhanced the championship experience for the participants. The committee noted the review system also provided a valuable tool for evaluating the match officials.
- (7) **Award ceremonies.** The committee liked the enhancements made to this year's championship award ceremony. The participants greatly appreciated the round-specific mini-trophies.
- (8) **Attendance.** The committee greatly valued the community engagement activities, particularly the standing-room only youth crowd for the first quarterfinal match and the pre-match Make-A-Wish families recognition and march. The autograph session was well received. The live stream looked better because of the host's efforts to confine spectators to the bench side of the court.
- (9) **Opening and closing ceremonies.** The committee felt this was one of the best festivals. The relaxed and interactive opening ceremony was very well received. Despite blustery weather at the closing ceremonies, the championship teams enjoyed themselves, and the enhancements, such as the disc jockey, added to the experience.

- (10) **Hosts.** The committee lauded the efforts of the championship hosts, specifically recognizing the contributions of the Clarion University staff members who volunteered to assist the named hosts on event operations.

7. Officials.

- a. **Review of 2018 regional and national officials.** The committee noted the high competence and experience levels of this year's championship officials.

The committee will continue to explore ways to educate regional site representatives on how to evaluate and determine officials' assignments.

- b. **Evaluation forms.** The committee reviewed coach and crew chief evaluations of the regional and national officials.

- c. **Selection of 2019 championship officials.** The women's volleyball national coordinator of officials discussed with the committee his process for recommending officials for the Division II championship. He strongly recommended that in order to secure the most qualified officials, the committee should continue to invite the officials in spring of the championship year. The national coordinator will rank the officials recommended by the conferences and will provide an ordered recommendation for committee review and action.

The committee discussed assigning line judges rather than having hosts select them. The members will continue to evaluate whether to prioritize funding transportation and lodging for line judges as a potential financial request in the next budget cycle.

8. Rankings/selections.

- a. **Review of 2018 selections and selection show.** The committee felt selections went well. The members commended the statistics liaison for her diligence and timeliness despite various schedule changes.

The committee members noted their preference to continue to rotate the regional order of announcements during the selection show.

The committee suggested using social media to announce each region's automatic qualifiers rather than the top seed to build anticipation going into the selection show. Using social media to reveal the seeding of the final eight teams also was well received.

- b. **Time of selections teleconference.** The committee appreciated the regional advisory committees working through what-if scenarios rather than actual results due to the compressed selection timeline in a festival year. The committee felt the timing of the

selections teleconference was challenging because of the late finish of some conference championships and the time needed to conduct regional advisory committee teleconferences. In addition, multiple time zones and the need to review other regions' data before the national call complicate finding a better time. The committee recommends conference championships start earlier but understands this cannot be mandated.

c. Rankings.

(1) Regional advisory committees.

(a) Rosters/replacements. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee rosters and will discuss committee service with potential regional representatives.

(b) Regional advisory committee training. The committee reviewed and adjusted the timeline for training.

(2) Number and dates of ranking calls. The committee confirmed the number and dates of ranking calls are appropriate.

(3) Score reporting system. The committee indicated the score reporting system is a useful tool and noted the processing speed was better than in previous years.

d. Selection requirements/criteria. The committees are becoming practiced with the use of the new selection criterion, Performance Indicator, and prefer it to the previously used criterion, results against ranked opponents.

The committee believes playing in-region, conference crossovers is necessary and approved two recommendations relating to the need for nonconference competition within the selection region. (See Action Items).

e. Seeding of final eight teams. The committee discussed using an outside rating to assist with the seeding. The committee directed staff to determine if the Massey ratings formula can be replicated within the score reporting system before deciding on a recommendation to the Championships Committee.

f. Automatic qualification. The committee will review and approve automatic qualifiers once conferences submit their application forms for the 2019-20 academic year.

9. Planning for 2019 championship and beyond.

- a. **2019-20 calendar/timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved the timeline for the next season with the host teleconferences to be determined.
- b. **Video exchange.** The committee is encouraged by the enhancements made by the current vendor and appreciates its efforts to improve customer service. The committee would like to continue to work with VolleyMetrics powered by Hudl to execute the championship video exchange process. The committee and the vendor agreed that giving teams that do not meet the video exchange requirement access to their opponents' film and analytics creates an unfair competitive advantage. The vendor will determine how to lock teams out until the video and documentation requirements are properly completed.

The committee asked staff to continue keeping conference commissioners informed of video exchange requirements because conference tournaments are often the teams' last competition of the regular season.

Regional hosts will continue to be tasked with video upload within two hours after each match.

- c. **Challenge Review System.** The committee will permit regional hosts, at their own cost, to utilize a Challenge Review System as long as they meet minimum camera requirements and placements. Staff have been directed to revise the officials invitation letter to indicate that CRS may be used at regional sites.
- d. **Match format.**
 - (1) **Media timeouts.** The championship format will continue to default to the standard 90-second timeouts. If both teams return to the court before the end of the timeout period, officials may resume play unless a media format is used. Hosts must notify the NCAA championship manager if they will use the media format for regional matches. Hosts also must include in the regional participant manual the format used at their sites.
 - (2) **Intermission/interval between sets.** The committee decided to leave the interval at three minutes between each set.
- e. **Regional hosts.**
 - (1) **Bid timeline.** The committee will maintain the current regional bid timeline.
 - (2) **Sport-specific facility evaluation form.** The committee reviewed and approved minor revisions to the sport-specific facility evaluation form.

f. Finals. The committee noted that members of the 2019 championship host staff attended the entire 2018 championship and have already begun preparations.

10. Review of agendas. The committee reviewed and directed staff to make necessary changes to the championship agendas.

11. Manual revisions. The committee asked staff to revise areas in the committee operations, host operations, pre-championship, participant and site representative manuals.

12. National committee.

a. Committee openings and timeline. The committee reviewed the roster and discussed potential new committee members.

b. New committee orientation. The committee agreed to continue the new committee orientation teleconference.

c. Committee chair recommendation. The committee recommended Josh Collins, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, as chair for the 2019-20 academic year, noting his leadership skills, contacts within the coaching community and years of service to the committee.

13. Rules update. The playing rules representative reviewed the past season, the Women's Volleyball Rules Committee's focus on technology on the bench and noted the upcoming call for proposals.

14. Future dates and sites.

a. Future championships. The committee reviewed the dates and sites for 2019-21 championships and a tentative timeline for the next host bid cycle.

b. 2020 annual meeting. The committee agreed to hold the next annual meeting Jan. 28-29.

15. Other business. None.

Committee Chair: Doug Walters, Palm Beach Atlantic University
Staff Liaison: Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Committee January 27-28, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Josh Collins, Southwestern Oklahoma State University.
Kevin DesLauriers, Molloy College.
Dustin Fuls, North Greenville University.
Chris Gravel, Hillsdale College.
Karen Hjerpe, California University of Pennsylvania.
Mo Roberson, Concordia University Irvine
Melanie Robotham, Lone Star Conference.
Doug Walters, Palm Beach Atlantic University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Audrey Joslin, VolleyMetrics powered by Hudl (by teleconference).
Gabrielle Kuhl, VolleyMetrics powered by Hudl (by teleconference).
Brett Shamblin, VolleyMetrics powered by Hudl (by teleconference).
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Maritza Jones, Governance.
Ryan Jones, Governance.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.
Steve Thorpe, Women's Volleyball National Coordinator of Officials (by teleconference).