



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 28-29, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule.
2. **Review/approval of 2019 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2019 annual meeting report as submitted.
3. **NCAA updates.** A governance staff representative discussed with the committee the budgetary and approval process for joint championships, as well as the bracketing principles reviewed by the Regionalization Working Group. Of particular interest is the regional crossover bracket currently employed by football. However, the committee learned the football bracket is unique and the bracket change was approved to minimize costs.

Review of Division II Championships Committee actions. The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year. The committee renewed the request to change the criteria for at-large selections to include an in-region, nonconference match within the selection region.

4. **Review of American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention reports.** The committee reviewed the AVCA convention report. The group addressed items throughout the meeting.
5. **Review of 2019 championship.**
 - a. **Bracket.** The committee reviewed and approved the current bracket design. The members noted that the interactive bracket on ncaa.com was not always displaying set scores and the scores tab was not updated live. The Live Stats function was not as extensive or as up to date as what was available on hosts' or participants' websites.
 - b. **Evaluations/reports.**
 - The committee reviewed the crew chief reports and survey results and noted that host requirements related to providing qualified scorekeepers and assistant scorekeepers/libero trackers must be reinforced. If an electronic score sheet is used, a monitor must be provided for the alternate official to view.
 - Regional hosts did a much better job this year of crowd control.

- The committee will review whether to revise the requirement that regional hosts are responsible for securing four line judges to be used throughout the regional.
- The finals site head of officials suggested that line judges be more included in pre- and in-championship communications to the referees so they may function as a cohesive unit.

c. Regional sites.

- (1) **Facility specifications.** The committee reviewed the playing rules and the bid specifications regarding ceiling height, which depends on the date of facility build.

The committee also noted the need to reinforce the requirement that if a regional host uses the challenge review system, it must meet the playing rules' best practices with a minimum of three cameras.

- (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 host suggested a good adjustment to the referees debrief location. Other meeting spaces were appropriate.

(b) **Hospitality.** Overall, the food was adequate, although there were some challenges with timing and keeping beverages stocked.

(c) **Officials meeting area.** The officials meeting area was fine, especially after being relocated.

(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 glass hallway, was challenging when the general student body was using it to access final exam locations.

(e) **Competition venue.** The committee indicated the venue was of a high caliber and the perfect size for this championship. Hosts suggested a proactive adjustment to spectator seating for semifinals and finals that alleviated potential sportsmanship issues.

- (2) **Administrative meeting.** The committee noted that hosting the administrative meeting immediately after the banquet worked well and will make some changes to the pre-championship teleconference agenda.
- (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. The committee suggests the host display institutional logos on video boards, when available.

The committee will reinforce the need for participating teams to communicate with committee liaison, particularly if not using or using only a portion of practice time.

- (4) **Press conferences/interviews.** The committee liked conducting the pre-championship press conferences throughout the practice schedule.
- (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 members suggested regional hosts have live stream commentators focus more on institutional and participant name pronunciation.
- (6) **Challenge review system.** In the second year of use, the committee continues to learn more about desired system specifications. In addition, if live stream sets up for camera angles that are different than the host's challenge review system, a monitor with those additional angles for playback and review needs to be included.
- (7) **Award ceremonies.** The committee directed staff to remind participants of NCAA legislation and policy relating to presenting outside awards, particularly at the championship banquet.

Post-match awards ran very smoothly thanks to the staffing and preparation the host provided.

- (8) **Attendance.** The committee greatly valued the community engagement activities, particularly the standing-room only youth crowd for the first quarterfinal match.

While the quarterfinal live stream looked better because of the host's efforts to confine spectators to the side of the court opposite the cameras, the committee indicated it preferred having both sides available for spectator seating, particularly for game environment issues. Having local teams participating, and campus support of those teams, greatly enhanced the experience for all involved.

(9) **Committee responsibilities.** The committee conducted business with only six members participating and the collegial “everyone pitch in” attitude was appreciated. In addition, the well-prepared and intuitive host staff helped considerably.

(10) **Hosts.** The committee lauded the efforts of the championship host, specifically recognizing their preparation, organization and willingness to provide input on game management topics. One future consideration is to have hosts check signage at the facility entrance rather than once spectators are seated.

6. Officials.

a. **Review of 2019 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. The committee approved the changes to the referee rotation order.

c. **Selection of 2020 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 the spring of the championship year. The national coordinator will rank the officials recommended by the conferences and committee members and will provide an ordered recommendation for committee review and action.

d. **Selection of line judges.** The committee discussed assigning line judges rather than having hosts select them. The members decided instead to have potential regional hosts propose line judges, scorer and assistant scorer by the host bid deadline. The members continue to support prioritizing funding for transportation and lodging for line judges as a financial request in the next budget cycle.

7. Rankings/selections.

a. **Review of 2019 selections and selection show.** The committee felt selections went well and noted its preference to continue to rotate the regional order of announcements during the selection show.

The committee acknowledged that using social media to reveal the seeding of the final eight teams continues to be well received.

To increase transparency, the committee directed staff to work with the Coaches Connection to discuss ranking and selection criteria and the availability of the criteria data with published rankings

b. Time of selections teleconference. In non-festival years, Monday selections work well because all competition has concluded before the regional advisory and national committee teleconferences are conducted.

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. The committee requested a programming change to alphabetize common opponents, as well as a labeling change within the team sheets.

d. Selection requirements/criteria. The committees discussed possible revisions to the selection criteria and will finalize requests, if necessary, during future teleconferences.

The committee believes playing in-region, conference crossovers is necessary and renewed their recommendation relating to the need for nonconference competition within the selection region. The formal recommendation will be submitted for the Championship Committee's review of selection criteria in June 2020.

e. Seeding of final eight teams. The committee will continue to discuss selection and seeding criteria to prepare its response in order to meet the deadline for selection criteria requests presented at the June 2020 Division II Championships Committee meeting. The committee

believes that while some of the current selection criteria are national in scope, an additional national metric would be more predictive.

- f. **Automatic qualification.** The committee will review and approve automatic qualifiers once conferences submit their application forms for the 2020-21 academic year.

9. Planning for 2020 championship and beyond.

- a. **2020-21 calendar/timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved the timeline for the next season with the championship site visit and host teleconferences to be determined. The committee directed staff to include a deadline for regional hosts to share hotel assignments and practice times with their respective participating teams.

b. Budget requests.

- (1) **Official travel party.** The committee members reinforced their commitment to prioritize a request for an increase to the official travel party. The committee will continue to monitor data regarding squad size as it is approaching the line supporting an increase. The deadline has passed to revise the request for a corresponding increase in squad size.

- (2) **Joint championship with Division I.** The committee is encouraged by the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee's openness to the concept of a joint championship and will look to activate during the next host bid cycle.

- (3) **Day off from competition.** The committee tabled the discussion of a request for a day off between semifinals and finals for both regional and championship competition until the next budget cycle.

- c. **Bench size.** The bench size will remain the same; however, the committee agreed to announce the names of participants, up to the bench size of 25, during team introductions and awards.

- d. **Video exchange.** The committee would like to continue to work with VolleyMetrics powered by Hudl to execute the championship video exchange process; however, the committee will continue to review whether this process can be executed without using an outside vendor.

The committee asked staff to continue informing conference commissioners 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.

- e. **Challenge review system.** The committee will permit regional hosts, at their own cost, to use a challenge review system as long as they meet minimum camera requirements and placements as set forth in documents prepared by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee and secretary-rules editor.

- f. **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 will leave the interval at three minutes between each set.

- g. **Regional hosts.**

- (1) **Bid timeline.** The committee will maintain the current regional bid timeline.

- (2) **Sport-specific facility evaluation form.** The committee reviewed and will maintain the same the sport-specific facility evaluation form.

- h. **Finals.** The committee discussed the site selection and bid process timeline for the 2022-2026 championship site selection campaign and will schedule additional teleconferences to meet the timeline requirements.

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 directed staff to revise the format and timing of the new committee orientation teleconference.
- c. Committee chair recommendation.** The committee recommended Kevin DesLauriers, associate athletics director for operations at Molloy College, as chair for the 2020-21 academic year, noting his leadership skills, contacts within the coaching community and years of service to the committee. In particular, the committee noted Mr. DesLauriers' leadership of both the East and West regional advisory committees this past season.

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 proposals.

14. Future dates and sites.

- a. Future championships.** The committee reviewed the dates and sites for 2020-21 championships.
- b. 2021 annual meeting.** The committee agreed to hold the next annual meeting January 26-27.

15. Other business. None.

Committee Chair: Josh Collins, Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Staff Liaison: Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Committee January 28-29, 2020, 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.	
Melanie Robotham, Lone Star Conference.	
Jill Stephens. Florida Southern College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	

None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Maritza Jones, Governance.
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.
Steve Thorpe, Women's Volleyball National Coordinator of Officials (via teleconference).