



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 26, 2024, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Regional alignment.

(1) Recommendation. Approve the regional alignment adjustments as presented in the Attachment.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. As a result of the increase in conferences sponsoring men's volleyball, the committee is looking to maintain a competitive balance among the four regions along with balancing the number of sponsoring institutions per region.

Men's volleyball has experienced growth in recent years not only in terms of sponsoring institutions but also in conferences eligible for automatic qualification. With the addition of a few multiple-sport conferences, the AQ allotment is increasing from 11 in the 2023-24 playing season to 14 for the 2024-25 playing season. A few key factors are listed below:

- Historically, the only in-region competition waivers have come from Region IV (Midwest/ West), primarily concerning the institutions located in California. Those institutions would not be affected by these adjustments.
- Implementing the proposed changes would maintain the competitive balance among regions.
- The balance among regions with regard to the number of teams being considered for regional rankings throughout the season also would be maintained.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Automatic qualification.

(1) Recommendation. That the following 14 conferences be approved for automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Continental Volleyball Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference; Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League; New England Volleyball Conference; Northern Athletic Collegiate Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; United East Conference; United Volleyball Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.2 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.

Anticipated Pool Allocations:

Pool A – 14

At-Large – 5

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Championship date formula.

(1) Recommendation. Conduct the finals in a Thursday-Saturday model versus the current Friday-Sunday approach.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. The committee believes the following factors support completing the championship on a Saturday rather than a Sunday:

- Participants, committee members, NCAA staff and other constituents prefer to return home immediately following the conclusion of the championship; however, flights can be difficult to come by on a Sunday evening. Given the upcoming

championship locations, the probability of needing connecting flights to and from the site is high. he

- The committee feels that a Saturday evening championship match will provide a greater atmosphere for everyone involved. The committee also noted the likelihood of increased community engagement with a Saturday championship.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Playing on Sunday afternoon doesn't provide a true championship atmosphere. The committee believes a Saturday evening timeslot for the competition would increase the championship atmosphere.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
2. **2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report as presented.
3. **2024 championship review.**
 - a. **Host operations.** The committee appreciated the experience Loras College was able to create for the participating institutions. The committee received many positive remarks on the venue and the host accommodations throughout the week of the competition.
 - b. **Film exchange policy.** Committee members continue to support the relationship and film exchange process through Hudl for future championships. The committee is exploring avenues to encourage future hosts to install a Volleymetric camera to enhance film exchange at the finals site. The committee also discussed possibly supplying access to institutions that don't subscribe to Hudl or Volleymetrics. This would help make the quality of video being submitted more consistent.
 - c. **Banquet.** The committee discussed how to continue enhancing the banquet, including exploring ideas around how to efficiently increase attendance from student-athletes' family members. In addition, the committee agreed to continue collaborating with the AVCA to announce and honor the All-American award winners in attendance.

4. **Governance update.** Staff updated the committee on the budget cycle, playing rules, championship enhancements, the emergence of women's wrestling as an NCAA championship, and the status of the student-athletes-as-employees litigation and issues related to student-athlete name, image and likeness.
5. **Playing rules update.** The playing rules staff provided updates to the Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees, including a discussion of items (e.g., continue to explore a men's volleyball rules book; the restraining line rule; bench conduct and decorum; and Challenge Review System). The playing rules staff also briefly mentioned that additional information will be provided as it relates to the finalized processes for federated playing rules across all three divisions. The Division III Men's Volleyball Committee approved one rules modification proposal for the 2025 season.
6. **Preview of 2025 championship.** The committee discussed the 2025 championship to be conducted in Salem, Virginia, co-hosted by the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and the City of Salem. The committee reviewed the facilities and the proposed budget. A site visit is planned for August.
7. **Future championship dates and sites.**
 - a. 2025 – Old Dominion Athletic Conference and City of Salem, April 24-26.
 - b. 2026 – Springfield College, April 23-25.
8. **2026-28 bid cycle.** The committee discussed the upcoming championship bid cycle along with the locations that submitted bids. The new bid cycle will include 2026-27 through 2027-28.
9. **2024-25 committee calendar.** Committee members reviewed the committee schedule, noting they would like to continue conducting regional advisory committee calls on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and national committee calls on Wednesdays.
10. **National and regional advisory committee updates.** The committee reviewed the current regional advisory committee roster and noted the vacancies that need to be filled for the upcoming year. NCAA staff will work with conference commissioners to fill the vacancies. The committee also agreed that Nikki Ayers, director of athletics at Juniata College, will serve as chair of the national committee for 2024-25. The national committee discussed the possible changes to the current regional advisory committee with the implementation of the NPI.
11. **Bench size.** The committee discussed the intention to increase the bench size to allow additional student-athletes in the bench area at the next available opportunity. The committee

will allow student-athletes outside of the squad size to be in uniform and participate in warm-up activities.

Committee Chair: Robert Wingert, Misericordia University
Staff Liaison(s): Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee June 26, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Dan Ames, Aurora University.	
Nikki Ayers, Juniata College.	
Kulsum Khan, Pratt Institute.	
Robert Wingert, Misericordia University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Connor Lancashire, Championships and Alliances.	
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.	
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs	