

## REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4-6, 2019 MEETING

## ACTION ITEMS.

- 1. Legislative items.
  - None.
- 2. Nonlegislative items.
  - a. Automatic qualification.
    - Recommendation. That the following 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Athletic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

## Anticipated pool allocations

Pool A - 43

Pool B - 2

Pool C - 19

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) <u>Rationale</u>. Each conference meets the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

## b. Appointment of committee chair.

- (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. That Moira Long, head women's volleyball coach at Springfield College, serve as chair of the committee.
- (2) <u>Effective date</u>. Immediately.
- (3) <u>Rationale</u>. Ms. Long will replace Matt Schoultz, who resigned from the committee. Ms. Long has served on the committee for three years and will be an excellent leader and spokesperson for the committee.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements. The committee chair welcomed the committee members.
- 2. Meeting schedule and agenda. The committee chair reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
- **3. 2018 annual committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual committee meeting report as submitted.
- 4. 2018-19 NCAA Division III Championships Committee actions. The committee reviewed actions the NCAA Division III Championships Committee took in 2018-19 relevant to the work of the women's volleyball committee. The committee noted that the Championships Committee did not approve the request to amend the championship date formula for all regional tournaments from a Friday-Sunday format to a Thursday-Saturday format due to concerns about an additional day of missed class time for student-athletes.

- 5. 2018 American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention report. The committee reviewed the report that NCAA staff presented to the Division III coaches during the American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention in December 2018. Mr. Schoultz and Ms. Gentry also jointly presented an educational session entitled "Inside the NCAA Division III Tournament Selection Process" as part of the AVCA Convention programming. The information presented provided greater transparency regarding the ranking and selection process for the coaches.
- **6. Division III governance update.** NCAA governance staff provided updates on several topics, including: 1) the annual education requirement relating to sexual violence prevention; 2) sports wagering; 3) eSports; 4) the NCAA transfer portal; 5) Division III University; 6) the Sport Science Institute; 7) the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group; 8) the Faculty Athletics Representative Engagement Working Group; 9) the LGBTQ Working Group; 10) Gameday the DIII Way; and 11) the Division III identity initiative, including plans for Division III Week April 1-7.
- 7. Division III academic and membership affairs update. NCAA academic and membership affairs staff provided an update regarding legislative proposals discussed at the 2019 NCAA Convention.
- **8. Review of 2018 championship.** The committee reviewed participant surveys from the finals site, which was hosted by SportsPITTSBURGH and Saint Vincent College on the Duquesne University campus. The committee noted that the 2018 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship was the first of 22 NCAA preliminary rounds and championship events that will be hosted in Pittsburgh in 2018-2022. The committee commended the hosts for providing an excellent championship experience for the teams and fans.
  - a. <u>Championship venue</u>. The championship was held in the Duquesne basketball arena, and a practice gymnasium with two full-size basketball courts was conveniently located in close proximity to the main court and the team locker rooms. The Duquesne staff was very accommodating regarding access to the facilities, and SportsPITTSBURGH and Saint Vincent College provided many special touches to enhance the experience of the participating teams.
  - b. <u>Sportsmanship/misconduct</u>. The committee discussed a situation in which a student-athlete on one team allegedly initiated inappropriate contact (including physical pushing/shoving) with a student-athlete of another team. The issue was addressed on site with the coaches of the two teams. During the annual meeting, the committee recommended additional correspondence with each institution. NCAA staff will confirm whether additional follow-up after the annual meeting is permitted within the timeline included in the misconduct procedures.

c. <u>Breakfast at headquarters hotel</u>. The committee noted the importance of ensuring that 1) the team breakfast offered at the headquarters hotel provides a variety of healthy food options, including fruit; 2) the price is reasonable; and 3) the hotel staff is prepared to promptly restock breakfast items as needed.

The committee also reviewed participant surveys from the eight regional sites and identified strengths and suggestions for improvements for each site. The committee noted that although it is helpful for regional hosts to have a practice court proximate to the main court available for teams to use to warm up with volleyballs, at a minimum a host is expected to have a separate area available for teams to use to stretch.

9. Officials. The committee reviewed the process and timeline to select postseason officials with Steve Thorpe, the NCAA National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials, via teleconference. Mr. Thorpe will work with the regional advisors of the officiating program and Division III conference assignors to identify and recommend top officials (four referees in rank order, plus two alternates) for each region. After the regional officials are approved by the committee, NCAA staff will send them a "save the date" memo. The committee identified and approved the four officials for the 2019 finals site. Staff will send contracts to those officials.

The committee confirmed that officials are not required to work a minimum number of Division III matches to be eligible to be selected for the Division III postseason, officials are not required to work a Division III regional tournament in order to be eligible to be selected for the finals site, and conference assigners are eligible to be selected as postseason officials. The committee reviewed conflict of interest language and supported adding that language to the host operations manual and to the letters that staff sends to officials for the finals and regionals. The committee noted that hosts should make every effort to use the same four line judges consistently throughout each round of competition.

- 10. Ranking and selection process. The committee discussed the "results versus ranked Division III teams" selection criterion and confirmed that the committee should consider the quality and quantity of ranked opponents (in addition to the winning percentage) for that column. The committee also discussed that the Division III nonconference strength of schedule criterion in the secondary criteria is considered separately from the Division III strength of schedule criterion in the primary criteria.
- **11.** National committee and regional advisory committee rosters. The committee reviewed the committee rosters and noted vacancies for 2019-20.
- **12.** Committee chair and vice chair. The committee confirmed that Moira Long, the head women's volleyball coach at Springfield College, and Danny Miller, the associate director of athletics, compliance officer and head women's volleyball coach at Averett University, serve as the committee chair and vice chair, respectively, for 2019-20 (Action Item No. 2-b).

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## 13. Plan for 2019 championship.

- a. Submission of team rosters. The committee confirmed that teams that travel with more than 17 student-athletes will be permitted to submit a different roster each day (rather than one roster per round of competition) to identify the 17 student-athletes who will be in uniform that day. This will allow coaches to provide an opportunity to additional student-athletes to be in uniform, which will enhance their championship experience. This will not increase the current bench size or squad size for each match and will not provide a competitive advantage to teams that carry larger rosters. The committee noted that the Championships Committee is continuing to evaluate potential bench size and/or squad size increases for all Division III championships.
- b. Practice schedule at finals site. Effective with the 2019 championship, practices will be determined based on match order (rather than travel distance), with the visitor in Match 1 practicing first, the home team in Match 1 practicing second, etc. This schedule may be adjusted by the women's volleyball committee due to extenuating circumstances or extreme travel situations. On the practice day (Wednesday), practices will start at 8:30 a.m., with no break in the schedule for lunch. NCAA staff will communicate the assigned seeds of the eight advancing teams and anticipated practice times to the teams Sunday night. After team travel arrangements have been confirmed, the committee will finalize the practice schedule and staff will email it to the teams by 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday.
- c. <u>Practice schedule at regionals</u>. Practice times on the practice day at regionals will continue to be determined based on travel distance. Practice times cannot be switched or adjusted based on agreement of coaches without the prior approval of the site representative.
- d. Schedule of events. At regionals, the host team shall continue to play the last match on the first day. At the finals site, the committee will schedule the match anticipated to have the best attendance draw as the latest match (8 p.m. local time) on Wednesday. The highest seed (No. 1 or No. 2) on each half of the bracket will play the corresponding early/late match (i.e., if the No. 1 seed plays in the later game on the lower half of the bracket, then the No. 2 seed will play in the later game on the upper half of the bracket).
- e. <u>Championship date formula</u>. The committee discussed the pros and cons of several different potential championship formats. The discussion was prompted by coaches at the AVCA Convention raising student-athlete welfare concerns due to playing three matches per weekend, possibly for three consecutive weekends (conference tournament, regionals and finals). Key issues included whether the championship finals, which currently are held the Thursday-Saturday before Thanksgiving, should be moved to after Thanksgiving, and whether four or eight teams should advance to the finals site. The committee intends to

survey the membership in the fall of 2019 to gather feedback regarding the identified potential format options.

- f. Krossover film exchange. The committee noted that 2018-19 was the third year of the NCAA's three-year agreement with Krossover for film exchange. The committee participated on a teleconference with Krossover staff to review the film exchange requirement and process. The committee discussed a variety of topics with the Krossover staff, including 1) decreasing the time required to upload film (e.g., uploading directly from iPads); 2) direct film exchange with opponents; 3) a lockout feature to prevent coaches who haven't uploaded their film to view the film of other teams; 4) the availability of multiple films for some teams if they were the final opponent for more than one team in the championship; 5) an editing system to break down film; 6) a filter to detect if uploaded film is of insufficient quality to break down; 7) the responsiveness of Krossover staff when there are issues in uploading or accessing film; and 8) granting access to site representatives to confirm whether teams have uploaded their film. The committee confirmed a one-year contract extension to Krossover to provide film exchange services for the 2019 championship.
- g. <u>Minimum expectations of sports information directors/media coordinators</u>. NCAA staff will conduct a teleconference with host institution sports information directors on the Monday following selections to review minimum expectations (e.g., press conferences, webcasts, etc.) for the regional tournaments.
- h. <u>Challenge Review System</u>. The committee reviewed the implementation of the Challenge Review System (video replay) for the 2018 finals site and agreed that it was a positive addition to the championship. The committee noted that very few Division III institutions use CRS during the regular season. However, the committee discussed the importance of "getting the call right" and approved the use of CRS for the 2019 championship (finals site only).
- i. <u>Seating</u>. The host should provide a buffer (e.g., one or two empty rows) between team benches and fan seating.
- j. <u>Locker rooms</u>. The host should include a whiteboard and marker in each team's locker room.
- k. <u>Student-athlete banquet</u>. The committee identified several potential changes for the banquet at the finals site, including 1) having only one student-athlete (instead of two) from each team speak on behalf of the team at the banquet; 2) highlighting stats only for All-Americans present at the banquet; 3) considering elimination of the entertainment portion

- of the banquet; and 4) including footage of the advancing teams celebrating winning the regional championship in the championship video created for the banquet.
- 1. <u>Team hotels</u>. The committee emphasized that teams should not be required to change hotels or agree to a minimum number of nights at a hotel during regional tournaments.
- **14. Sport sponsorship and pool allocations.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship for 2018-19 and the 2018 pool document. The committee also reviewed the automatic qualification applications for 2019-20 and recommended that 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 championship (Action Item No. 2-a).
- **15.** NCAA volleyball rules survey. The committee reviewed results for the 2018 NCAA women's volleyball rules survey and data relating to the challenge review system.
- **16. Manuals.** The committee reviewed the following manuals and made revisions as appropriate: committee operations manual, pre-championship manual, host operations manual, site representative manual, participant manual for the finals and template for the participant manual for regionals.
- **17. Annual committee meeting.** The committee identified Monday-Wednesday, February 3-5, as the dates for the 2020 annual committee meeting.

### 18. Other business.

• Genius Sports. The NCAA statististics staff provided an update regarding the NCAA's new relationship with Genius Sports, a statistical solution for member institutions. In this first year (2018-19), Genius Sports was used at men's and women's basketball predetermined sites. In the second year, there will be internal testing for volleyball and soccer, with StatCrew used as the primary statistics program and Genius Sports as the secondary program. Genius Sports will be available to the membership by the summer of 2019. For women's volleyball, use of the program will be mandated only for the finals site in 2019.

Committee Chair: Matt Schoultz, Lawrence University, Midwest Conference

Staff Liaison: Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances

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## Division III Women's Volleyball Committee February 4-6, 2019, Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Johan Dulfer, Ithaca College; Liberty League.

Ed Garza, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Sue Hozak, Saint Vincent College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.

Kim Kelly, Carnegie Mellon University; University Athletic Association.

Moira Long, Springfield College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

Danny Miller, Averett University; USA South Athletic Conference.

Beth Wilmeth, University of Northwestern-St. Paul; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.

### **Absentees:**

Matt Schoultz, Lawrence University, Midwest Conference.

### **Guests in Attendance:**

Steve Thorpe, NCAA National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials (via teleconference).

Daniel Pesce, Krossover (via teleconference).

Anne Pufahl, NCAA Women's Volleyball Secretary-Rules Editor (via teleconference).

# NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.

Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.

## Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Kaitlyn Purcell, Academic and Membership Affairs.

Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.

Rachel Seewald, Playing Rules.