



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 6-7 MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Selection criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. Provide the committee the autonomy to utilize RPI Top 50 vs Top 100 as additional criteria to consider for ranking and selection purposes.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. The current selection criteria do not allow for RPI to be considered during the ranking and selection process. The committee must use the criteria listed in the primary and secondary categories. The opportunity to consider RPI Top 50 vs Top 100 would allow for more context and deeper look into a team's overall body of work. Further, this recommendation would help create a clearer separation between teams that remain on the board during selections.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Secondary criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. Add nonconference win-loss record to the secondary criteria.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. Because nonconference results are critical in comparing teams across regions, the committee believes adding the nonconference win-loss record to the secondary criteria will be beneficial in the selection process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Officials fees.

- (1) Recommendation. Increase fees for line judges and referees.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. The current pay structure for officials at regionals and finals is below the average officials receive during the regular season. The new championship format now overlaps with Division I and Division II championship weekends resulting in limited official availability. This recommendation will help secure quality officials and maintain consistency for championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$40,000.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. Additional championship awards.

- (1) Recommendation. Increase the number of participant medallions and mini trophies per team from squad size to bench size. Further, add a national runner-up trophy at the championship.
- (2) Effective date. 2023 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The current award allotment applies solely to squad size. With the recent change to bench requirements more student-athletes have an opportunity to travel and dress with their team. This recommendation allows all student-athletes to be included and recognized. Further, the committee suggests reverting to the 2021 award structure allowing all regional champions to receive a regional championship trophy at their regional site. This recommendation recognizes the final two teams and honors their accomplishments over the course of the season.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$8,000.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation enhances the student-athlete experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** The committee chair and championship manager welcomed the committee members.

2. **Meeting schedule and agenda.** NCAA staff reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
3. **2022-23 NCAA Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed recent actions of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee and heard from the Division III Championships Committee liaison regarding championship items emerging from the NCAA Convention.
4. **2022 American Volleyball Coaches Association convention report.** The committee reviewed the report that the NCAA staff presented to the Division III coaches during the American Volleyball Coaches Association convention in December 2022.
5. **Division III governance update.** NCAA governance staff provided updates on several topics.
6. **Division III academic and membership affairs update.** NCAA academic and membership affairs staff provided an update regarding legislative proposals discussed at the 2023 NCAA Convention, including the proposal regarding the acclimatization period for fall sports that was defeated. In addition, the AMA shared an update on the new NCAA Constitution, which will take effect in August 2023.
7. **Volleyball playing rules update.** NCAA playing rules staff provided an update on playing rules for the upcoming season. The committee reviewed the results from the 2022 NCAA women's volleyball rules survey and data.
8. **Review of ranking and selection criteria.** The committee reviewed and discussed the current selection criteria and suggested the option to add criteria to the set selection criteria as is done in Division II. The committee believes adding criteria will provide more context to the data. (See Action Item 2-a).
9. **Review of 2022 championship.** The committee reviewed participant surveys from the championship, which was hosted by Saint Vincent College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The committee commended the host for providing an excellent championship experience for student-athletes, teams, and fans. The committee also reviewed participant surveys from the eight regional sites and identified strengths and areas to consider for an improved experienced at regional competition.
 - a. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the process and timeline to select postseason officials with NCAA Division III National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials Denise Penzkofer, who is working to finalize the list of recommended regional officials and will ask the committee to approve in early February. After the regional officials are approved by the committee, NCAA staff will send them a "save the date" memo. Ms. Penzkofer recommended the four finals officials for the 2023 finals site, which the committee approved. NCAA staff will send contracts to those officials.

The committee discussed the current selection process of regional line judges. The committee suggested creating a separate memo that the host is responsible for sending to line judges and including Ms. Penzkofer and Ms. Lipscomb on the email notification. In addition, selected hosts should work directly with their assignor weeks prior to ensure qualified line judges are available if selected.

The committee discussed the current process for evaluating officials at the regional sites. The current process includes the site representative and the designated head official evaluating their performance and ultimately selecting which officials will advance throughout regional competition. NCAA staff will collaborate with Ms. Penzkofer to create a more streamlined process for communication and officials' evaluations.

The committee discussed a pay increase for regional and finals officials. The committee suggested changing the current pay structure to a flat rate rather than match by match. In addition, suggesting the flat rate be comparable to what an official would make during regular season matches. (See Action Item 2-c).

b. Banquet. The committee discussed bringing back a formal banquet and areas to consider for an improved experience for student-athletes. In addition, the committee discussed collaborating with the AVCA to enhance the All-American award winners.

c. Championship format. The committee has recommended modifying the current quarterfinal competition schedule for regionals and finals. The committee suggested having all quarterfinal matches begin at 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30, and 7 p.m. to help with timing and completion of matches.

d. Awards. The committee discussed the current regional and final site awards format and suggested all regional champions should receive a regional champion trophy at the regional site. In addition, the committee suggested at the final site the national runner up and national champion should receive a trophy.

The committee also discussed increasing the number of participant medallions and mini trophies offered to teams. The committee suggested there be an increase to cover the bench size rather than squad size. (See Action Item 2-d).

10. National committee and regional advisory committee rosters. The committee reviewed the committee rosters and noted vacancies for 2023-24.

11. Committee chair and vice chair. The committee confirmed that Sam Atkinson, associate athletics director for communications at Gallaudet University, and Drew Hargrave, the head women's volleyball coach at Haverford College, serve as the committee chair and vice chair, respectively, for 2023-24.

12. Annual committee meeting. The committee identified Monday-Tuesday, February 5-6, as the dates for the 2024 annual committee meeting.

Committee Chair: Paul Schlomer, Edgewood University, Heartland Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances

Division III Women's Volleyball Committee February 6-7, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Matthew McMasters, Tufts University.	
Paul Dill, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.	
Kristin Maile, Sarah Lawrence College.	
Sam Atkinson, Gallaudet University.	
Drew Hargrave, Haverford College.	
Caitlyn Moriarty, Berry College.	
Sarah Dehring, Alma College.	
Paul Schlomer, Edgewood College.	
Gretchen Hunt, Bethel University (Minnesota).	
Chris Duarte-McDermott, Whittier College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Denise Penzkofer, NCAA Division III National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Erica Rau, AVCA Division III Membership Liaison (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Alice Rogers, AVCA Division III Staff (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ali Spungen, Division III Governance.	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Rachel Seewald, Playing Rules.	