



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 3-4, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1(a) Executive Regulations – Selection of Team and Individuals for Championships Participation – Automatic Qualification (Pool A) – Requirements – Division Championship – Conference Competition – Exception.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the Division III Women's Volleyball Committee be granted an exception to NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1(a) to adjust the automatic qualification deadline to 8 p.m. local time the Saturday of selections weekend.
 - b. Effective date. September 1, 2025.
 - c. Rationale. With the recent implementation of the NPI, data are available earlier. The NPI has eliminated hours of selection deliberation, allowing the committee to bracket earlier on Selection Sunday. The committee believes it would be beneficial for the selected teams and selected host institutions if selections were to occur on Sunday evening. With a 64-team bracket, the volleyball committee would use Sunday afternoon to finalize the bracket and championships material.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would provide additional preparation prior to traveling to the regional sites.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

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. 2024 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 2024.

4. **2024-25 NCAA Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee received an update from Laura Peterson, Division III Championships Committee liaison, who discussed potential new roles for regional advisory committees given the implementation of the NPI; the new streaming partnership with HUDL; and feedback regarding the NPI from fall sport committees. Further, the committee discussed new NPI release dates and how the structure of rankings will change moving forward.
5. **Division III governance and academic and membership affairs update.** NCAA governance staff provided updates on several topics, including the mental health partnership recently approved by the Division III Presidents Council, the transfer eligibility proposal, the federated rules process, a proposal to establish a coaches connection program for Division III, and discussions regarding potentially deregulating sports betting to allow betting on professional sports.
6. **Volleyball playing rules update.** NCAA playing rules staff provided an update on the proposed rules changes for 2025. The committee reviewed the results from the 2024 NCAA women's volleyball rules survey and data. As this coming year is a rules change year, the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee will meet with the sport committee prior to and at the conclusion of the championships to gather feedback from Division III apart from the federated rules process.
7. **NPI.** The committee reviewed and discussed the dials the committee selected in summer 2024. Members provided feedback on areas they would like to see adjusted. In addition, the committee provided feedback on implementing a minimum strength of schedule for teams to receive an at-large berth into the championship field, which the committee believes would encourage coaches to develop more challenging schedules.
8. **Review of 2024 championship.** The committee reviewed participant surveys from the championship, which was hosted by The City of Salem and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. The committee commended the hosts for providing an excellent championship experience for student-athletes, teams and fans. The committee noted the importance of the host having a well thought out and meaningful community engagement activity for the participating teams. 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. The committee emphasizes regional sites having at least four private locker rooms for participating teams.
 - 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 that she will ask the committee to approve in late February. After the regional officials are approved by the committee, NCAA staff will send them a "save the date" memo. Ms. Penzkofer recommended four finals officials and line judges for the 2025 finals site, which the

committee discussed and will approve in late February. NCAA staff will send contracts to those officials.

The committee discussed the challenge review system process at the finals site and areas to consider for improvement with camera angles and quality of replay video provided by DVSPORT. In addition, the committee also discussed the possibility of implementing challenge review process at regionals and discussed how this may be beneficial ahead of the championships.

- b. **Banquet.** The committee discussed how to continue enhancing the banquet and areas to consider for an improved experience for student-athletes, including food options and setup. In addition, the committee agreed to continue collaborating with the AVCA to enhance the All-American award winners.
 - c. **Streaming.** The committee discussed the successful implementation of the inaugural streaming requirements for the championship preliminary rounds.
 - d. **ESPN.** The committee discussed the inaugural media rights deal, producing the championships quarterfinal, semifinal, and finals on ESPN+. The coverage received positive feedback from the membership.
 - e. **Press conference protocol.** The committee discussed the importance of press conferences being held following each match at the regional and finals sites. Further, the committee noted that each regional tournament should not only hold a press conference but also make it accessible on their championship's website.
 - f. **Film exchange policy.** The committee discussed issues related to film exchange and recommended a meeting with Hudl to improve upload and exchange. The committee further considered Hudl contacting select head coaches the evening of Selection Sunday once the NPI is final to provide adequate time for film upload ahead of regional matches.
 - g. **Awards.** The committee reviewed and approved the current award allotment for the 2025 championships. The committee also discussed solutions to help improve the awards presentation and providing a more inclusive ceremony.
9. **National committee and regional advisory committee rosters.** The committee reviewed the committee rosters and noted vacancies for 2025-26.
10. **Committee chair and vice chair.** The committee confirmed that Drew Hargrave, the head women's volleyball coach at Haverford College, and Melanee Wagener, director of athletics at Mount St. Joseph University, will serve as the committee chair and vice chair, respectively, for 2025-26.

11. Annual committee meeting. The committee identified Tuesday-Wednesday, February 3-4, as the dates for the 2026 annual committee meeting.

Committee Chair: Sam Atkinson, Gallaudet University.
Staff Liaison(s): Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Women's Volleyball Committee February 3-4, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Josh Edmed, Connecticut College.	
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.	
Melanee Wagener, Mount St. Joseph.	
Matt Hill, University of Northwestern St. Paul.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Denise Penzkofer, NCAA Division III National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Alice Rogers, AVCA Division III Staff (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Nancy Mueller (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Eric Hartung, Division III Governance.	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Raymon Gaddis, Championships and Alliances.	
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Rachel Seewald, Playing Rules (<i>virtual attendee</i>).	
Lucas DuMars, Broadcast.	