



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 1-2, 2022, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Future Championship Format.** The committee recommends being afforded some flexibility on the bracketing principles beginning with the 2022 championship. (See Action Item 2-b.)
2. **Selection Criteria.**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - None.
2. **Nonlegislative items.**
 - a. **Championship Format.**
 - (1) Recommendation. That starting with the 2023 championship the championship format consists of 16 teams playing in a single elimination tournament at one site. The format would have eight duals conducted on the first day, six duals conducted on the second day and the championship dual on the final day. The tournament would fall on the current tournament days of Friday – Sunday.
 - (2) Effective date. 2023 National Collegiate Beach Volleyball championship.
 - (3) Rationale. After a review of the 2022 championship which included the addition of eight teams to the bracket and the implementation of automatic qualifiers, all at one site, the committee determined that this format enhanced the overall experience for the student-athletes. Feedback from coaches, committee members as well as the championships broadcast partner informed this decision. It should be noted that the format used for the 2022 championship was one day, Wednesday, of eight single elimination duals, with the eight winners advancing to the traditional eight team double elimination format (Friday-Sunday) that had been used in previous years. The committee determined that a sixteen team single elimination tournament provides for the best experience for the student-athletes. Our broadcast partner is very supportive of this format and the opportunity it provides to tell the stories of the teams and have enhanced coverage. Having early round matches at multiple regional sites would not necessarily allow for the media coverage the championship has currently been

accustomed. While the single elimination nature of the format is a departure from what has traditionally been done, it is in line with most of the NCAA championships.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The finance staff has provided an estimated cost savings of at least \$27,000 with regards to transportation and per diem. There will be operational cost savings with have only one site to manage as is the current structure. Staff will continue to work with the finance staff to determine the other cost saving areas this proposal will provide.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The student-athlete impact will be a very positive one with the implementation of this format. The overwhelming feedback received from the teams that participated in the 2022 championship was the positive experience that was had with all teams at one location. This format will allow for additional media coverage and championship experiences for the student-athletes.

b. Selection Criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. That with the 2023 season, teams will be selected for the championship on a national process. There will no longer be a requirement that a certain number of teams be selected from each geographic region.
- (2) Effective date. 2023 National Collegiate Beach Volleyball championship.
- (3) Rationale. With the bracket expansion and the addition of automatic qualifiers, the committee determined that it is the right time to implement a national selection process. This will mean that the at-large teams will be selected using the selection criteria listed below.
 - a. Head-to-head competition.
 - b. Results versus common opponents.
 - c. Strength of schedule.
 - d. Overall record. (must be .500 or above)This is the current process for selection the four at-large teams that are no required to be from a certain geographic region.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This is a positive impact on the student-athletes, as they would experience a bracket that has the national selection process. They would have a similar selection experience to their counterparts in other sports.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the schedule and agenda for the meeting.
2. **Review of 2022 championship.** The committee was very happy with the execution of this year's championship. The addition of eight teams as well as the implementation of automatic qualifiers added some new tweaks and elements to the tournament. It was noted that the teams were appreciative of the expansion occurring for the 2022 championship.

The committee noted that the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach sports commission are always very responsive and great partners in the event. They were able to adjust and adapt to the changes that were made with the number of teams and provide an outstanding experience for all involved.

The committee discussed the potential for additional seating options in future years at the site. The championship continues to grow and staff will look at the ability to have more courtside seating, special standing room only sections and the potential for additional bleachers added to the end of courts two and three. The layout of the courts provided access for fans to see multiple courts and the paring down to three courts on Sunday added additional courtside seating opportunities. However, in looking at the layout and the flow of the tournament, the committee has decided to run all matches on five courts. Early matches will start simultaneously on all five courts. As the tournament progresses, the semifinal and final matches will be played in a staggered start. Courts two and four and will start first with courts one, three, and five starting 12 minutes later. This provides for a better atmosphere for the fans and competition for the student-athletes.

The committee would also like to adjust the banquet to a reception. This would allow for teams to still gather and be welcomed, but also provide them an opportunity to have their own team meal the night before competition.

This year the practice of a virtual coaches meeting was still used. Going into the 2023 season, this will be reviewed, as the ability to have coaches gather in person may present itself.

It was noted that for the 2023 championship the team credential wristbands can all be one color.

The tents used for the championship this year worked very well. For future years, it will be reviewed to see if the current size of the operations tent is sufficient or if that be made larger.

The committee would also like staff to research the use of Hudl or a similar video recording service for the championship. This would be a way for all teams to receive the matches via download, versus all setting up their own cameras at the end of the courts.

3. **Television.** Pat Lowry, Dan Margulis, and James Davidson joined the committee to review the 2022 championship. ESPN continues to show a great passion for this championship with the coverage and engagement they provide. They made quick changes when the field was expanded and covered all eight matches on the preliminary day of competition. The committee was very pleased with the coverage and the commitment from ESPN. ESPN noted that all sixteen teams at one site allows for greater coverage of this championship. Having all five courts in action at one time during a match, while harder to cover, provides a better television experience for the fans.

While the overall ratings numbers were down a little from 2021, the ESPNU and E3 numbers were up. Fans are consuming this content in multiple ways and it is showing in the uptick of the digital numbers on E3.

4. **Selection criteria/Selections.** The committee noted that starting with the 2023 championship the regional aspect of the selection process will be eliminated. Those teams that are not automatic qualifiers will be selected as at-large teams on a national basis. This falls in line with the current practice of other Division I and National Collegiate championships. It was also determined that the selection announcement will be made on the morning of Sunday April, 30. Conferences will need to determine their automatic qualifiers by 6 p.m. ET on Saturday April, 29.
5. **Meeting with American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) representatives.** The committee met with Kathy DeBoer and Beth Van Fleet from the AVCA. The coaches and teams were very excited about the implementation of the bracket expansion and the automatic qualifiers for this years' championship. It was noted that in feedback from the coaches, they would like to see all 16 teams continue to participate at the championship site, but in a double elimination tournament format. The committee did note that the continuation of 16 teams at the final site is being recommended, but it would be in a single elimination format.

They commended the committee for their support of by-law 2021-28 which passed for implementation in the fall of 2022. This will allow for more participation opportunities for the beach student-athletes to play in pairs matches in the fall.

There was discussion about the use of indoor beach courts by teams for competition. The committee noted that it needs to be clear for teams what is allowed. Staff and committee will work to make sure the information is relayed to all institutions.

6. **Playing Rules.** The committee met with Katy Meyer, rules interpreter, to review any questions that had arisen throughout the season. There are multiple items that will be included in an upcoming rules survey to coaches.

It was also noted that in the preseason communication, expectations for hosts need to be noted when it comes to setting up of the facility. It was brought to the committee's attention that many facilities are relying on officials to set up the facility when they arrive.

7. **Lineups.** The committee continues to review the lineup process currently in place for the season and the championship. It was decided that the season lineup challenge opportunity will continue. The committee would also like staff to review the tennis lineup form and determine if there are best practices from that process that can be applied to the beach volleyball process.
8. **2022-23 committee timeline.** The committee will continue its current timeline structure for the 2023 season.
9. **2023 annual meeting.** The committee will meet in May 22-23, 2023.

Committee Chair: Joan McDermott, University of San Francisco, West Coast Conference
Staff Liaison: Kristin W. Fasbender, NCAA Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee June 1-2, 2022, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Dain Blanton, University of Southern California.	
Julie Cribbs, Louisiana State University.	
Taylor Mott, Austin Peay University.	
Ed Jackson, California State University, Sacramento.	
Joan McDermott, University of San Francisco.	
Alicia Queally, Stetson University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Kathy DeBoer, American Volleyball Coaches Association.	
James Davidson, ESPN	
Pat Lowry, ESPN.	
Dan Margulis, ESPN.	
Katy Meyer, PAVO, Rules Interpreter.	

Beth Van Fleet, AVCA.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances.
Deja West, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Mary Eiland, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances.