



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 9-10, AND AUGUST 7 VIDEOCONFERNCES

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualifying conferences.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Atlantic Sun, Conference USA, Big West, Mountain Pacific, Sports Federation, Sun Belt, Southland, Ohio Valley and West Coast Conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2026 championship.
- (2) Effective date. 2026 NCAA National Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the schedule and agenda for the meeting.
2. **Review of 2025 championship.** The committee first acknowledged the undertaking that Gulf Shores shouldered in hosting this event with 100 days notice. It was done exceptionally well, and the committee and teams were very complimentary.

The committee discussed the potential of adding hotel rooms to the room blocks that each team receives. The new Embassy Suites property will be open. Staff will work with city to see what options are available.

For the 2026 championship each team will use two practice courts on Thursday. This will allow the teams to spread out prior to being on the competition courts.

Moving the reception outside this year provided a different experience for all the teams. The addition of the announcement of the AVCA All-Americans at the event was a great addition. Teams will be reminded in the future that attendance at the reception is mandatory. The teams all appreciated this chance to kick off the championship.

The team seating continues to be well received. For the 2026 championship the staff will make sure that those seated in the seats are directly across from their specific team benches. committee discussed the potential of adding specific team seating on each court.

The format for the championship day of playing all five pairs on a stagger went very well for television and the teams. The 12-minute staggered start allowed for the competition to be on ESPN and provided a great avenue for telling the stories of the student-athletes and teams.

For the 2026 championship all rostered student-athletes will be allowed to practice, dress, and warm up. Once the official 10-minute warm up begins, only the 10 participating student-athletes are allowed. The committee will continue to monitor the squad size discussion as the summer progresses.

3. **2026 Tournament format.** The committee recommends that the duals on both Friday and Saturday of the championship start at 9 ET. All duals on Friday will be played on all five courts and start at the same time. The first four duals on Saturday will follow the same format as the Friday duals. The semifinals will use all five courts, two courts will start and after 12 minutes the additional three courts will begin. The championship dual on Sunday will follow the same format as the semifinals.

It was also noted that the semifinals should have a set "not before" start time in a non-weather situation. The other duals will have a rolling start.

4. **Selection criteria/selections.** The selection announcement will be made the morning of Sunday April 26. Conferences will need to determine their automatic qualifiers by 6 p.m. ET on Saturday April, 25. The committee would like to see if there is any opportunity to increase the length of the selection show. Staff will follow up internally.

The committee would also like to work the use of the RPI into the selections process. Staff will work internally on taking the necessary steps to implement this metric. If possible, the committee would look to pilot the RPI with the 2026 season. The committee would evaluate the tool at its 2026 annual meeting and potentially recommend implementation for the 2027 championship.

5. **Lineups.** The committee continues to review the lineup process currently in place for the season and the championship. The AVCA coaches' group that conducted lineup challenges this

past season will continue to look at them for 2026. The overall lineup process continues to be a topic for the committee.

6. **Rules modifications.** The committee reviewed the rule modification that went to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. This will allow for coaching, including instruction, between rallies. The new rules modifications will be updated by early January 2026.
7. **Future championship enhancements.** The committee discussed ideas for future championships with Gulf Shores as the host through 2031. Some ideas are the addition of lights, a double decker VIP tent and ESPN announce position, additional bleacher seating, the potential of bowl type seating enclosing all the courts as well as working with the city on additional signage opportunities.
8. **2025-26 committee timeline.** The committee will continue its current timeline structure for the 2026 season.
9. **2026 annual meeting.** The committee will meet in June 2026.

Committee Chair: Ashley Armstrong, Loyola Marymount University,
Staff Liaison: Kristin W. Fasbender, NCAA Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee June 9-10, and August 7 2025 Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ashley Armstrong, Loyola Marymount University.	
Kyrsten Becker-McBride, Morehead State University.	
Dain Blanton, University of Southern California.	
Maria Hickman, University of South Carolina	
Rachel Sloane, Eastern Kentucky University.	
Steven Walker, Arizona State University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
James Davidson, ESPN.	
Pat Lowry, ESPN.	
Dan Margulis, ESPN.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Mary Eiland, Championships and Alliances.	