



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 17-19, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Automatic Qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following five conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020 NCAA National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship: Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Approval of annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as submitted.
- 2. Review actions from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (COC).** The committee reviewed COC actions and noted the priorities that have been identified during the course of the year.
- 3. Review of sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sponsorship for the current year, noting a few changes that are anticipated with institutions adding the sport. Further review will take place once 2019-20 information is available to make sure all schools are represented and assigned to the correct region.
- 4. Review of 2019 championship.**

- a. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and agreed that the current schedule works well. Members will continue to review and make adjustments based on travel time and facility availability in the future.
- b. Opening Round matches. The committee reviewed the opening round matches and appreciated Barton College hosting the first match the weekend prior to the finals site as well as Long Beach State's flexibility and execution in hosting the remaining two matches during the week of the championship. Members continue to stress their belief that having two of the three opening round matches at the finals location (understanding that the first opening round match would take place on Thursday of the week prior to the championship on the campus of a participating institution) provides for the best student-athlete experience and protects bracket integrity to the extent possible, given the extra opening round match.
- c. Semifinals/final. The committee was pleased with how the finals hosted on the campus of Long Beach State were administered and attended. Attendance numbers for the event indicated capacity crowds for both nights and created a memorable atmosphere for the participating student-athletes, coaches and fans. The committee noted items that were administered smoothly as well as areas to be considered for improvement for upcoming championship sites.
- d. Suppliers.
 - (1) Molten. The committee emphasized its appreciation for the level of support, customer service and commitment to the championship that Molten provides annually. Staff will continue to work with Molten to update equipment and support needs for future championships.
 - (2) Sport Court. The committee appreciates Connor Sport Court as the championship playing surface provider and their increased support; including areas related to installation of the court and any additional support/quality control needed during the championship. The NCAA staff and committee look forward to continue working with Sport Court for future championships.
 - (3) Sports Imports. The committee was pleased with the outstanding level of service and product Sports Imports provides for the championship.
- e. Evaluations. The committee reviewed the evaluations and noted areas for improvement; however, members also noted that the low amount of feedback from the surveys makes it difficult to identify if there are actual trends to consider.
- f. Timing sheets/protocol. The committee believes that the updated timing sheets worked well but did note that it is important for the officials to provide clear direction to the teams related to the pregame protocol. NCAA staff will also communicate this expectation during

the officials meeting prior to the matches. The committee would also like for the NCAA to continue its practice of supplying the timing sheets/protocol to conferences in advance of the season in the event a conference wishes to adopt a similar protocol for its regular-season and/ or conference championship.

- g. Banquet. The committee agreed that the banquet went well this year and appreciated the hosts effort to select a venue that effectively highlighted the city and institution. Various challenges or adjustments were reviewed and noted to address for future banquet planning.
- h. USA Volleyball. The committee appreciates USA Volleyball's continued commitment to growing the game and emphasized the importance of the organization's presence at the championship and the banquet. Members also noted that USA Volleyball could serve as a tremendous resource in assisting with marketing efforts for next year's championship.
- i. American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). The committee appreciated the AVCA's presence during the championship planning phase and noted that presenting the All-America awards at the banquet is a nice element for continued incorporation to celebrate student-athlete achievement. The committee and staff will continue to involve the organization in promoting the championship.
- j. Selection show. The committee reviewed the content involved with the selection show for this year's championship and believed including volleyball talent to provide analysis added value to the production. This is an element the committee would like to continue providing in future years, when possible.

5. Preview of 2020 championship.

- a. Schedule of events. With the additional opening round match, the committee discussed dates and a schedule for that round to occur at a campus site. For the finals site schedule of events, the committee does not anticipate changes from last year and asked staff to make sure that the host (George Mason University) is prepared throughout the year, as well as willing to host the second and third opening round matches the week of the semifinals and final, in the event matches are not played on participating teams' campuses.
- b. Ancillary events. The committee discussed ideas for ancillary events that would add to the championship experience for participants and fans, including USA Volleyball and AVCA involvement in an interactive area or a possible USA Volleyball exhibition match during the championship.
- c. Selection of game officials. The committee discussed the process for selecting officials and will continue to work with conference commissioners and assignors to select the officials. A timeline similar to that used in 2019 will be followed for the upcoming year.
- d. Attendance/financial summary. The committee reviewed the attendance and financial summary from the championship and was pleased with the attendance. The championship atmosphere was tremendous given that a few teams were proximate to the finals site.

George Mason University, host for the 2020 championship, is already in the process of developing a number of marketing strategies to potentially increase attendance for next year.

- e. Participant manual. The committee reviewed the participant manual and made changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute. Staff will work with the championship host to solidify changes and site-specific information.
 - f. Television. The committee was pleased with the ESPN2 broadcast of the finals. NCAA staff and committee members noted that ratings had rebounded 29 percent from the previous year. The committee also appreciated ESPN's efforts in highlighting the "Watch Party" that was taking place at the Beach Volleyball Championship, using that footage on many of the lead-ins during the broadcast.
6. **Automatic qualification**. The committee noted that the championship would consist of five automatic qualifiers and two at-large teams, which would again provide for a seven-team field in the 2019-20 academic year, pending approval of the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (see Action Item 2-a above).
 7. **Future championship sites**. The committee reviewed upcoming championship sites. NCAA staff updated the committee with details related to the site visit at George Mason University, host of the 2020 championship, and discussed areas of focus for championship planning leading up to the event. Additionally, The Ohio State University, host for the 2021 championship, had informed NCAA staff of the opening of its new on-campus volleyball facility. They would like for the committee to consider moving the championship to its new venue, the Covelli Center, in place of the previously agreed upon facility, St. John Arena. It is worth noting that the Covelli Center meets the minimum seating requirements outlined in the applicable bid specification documents from the previous bid cycle. NCAA staff will plan to visit the new venue and will review any concerns with the committee prior to any action taken.
 8. **2023-26 bid process/specifications**. The committee discussed the upcoming bid cycle and reviewed the timeline relative to the process. During this time, the committee reviewed the previous set of bid specifications and made necessary adjustments to put in place for the coming cycle.

As a part of this discussion, the committee also reviewed feedback from various representatives within the men's volleyball membership to consider adjusting the date formula so that the championship is conducted on the second full weekend (Thursday-Saturday) in May instead of the first, as is currently done. Among the rationale for doing so was to enhance student-athlete well-being (allowing for the playing season to begin the first week of January instead of during an institution's winter break in December) and removing competing interests for volleyball fans so that they would have the ability to view/attend beach volleyball the first weekend of May and then be able to view/attend men's volleyball during the second weekend. The committee noted that the adjusted playing season conversation would be a lengthier topic to work through; however, with the calendar shift in 2020, the men's volleyball championship will take place the week after beach volleyball. This will create an opportunity for the

committee to monitor any changes in how the championship is affected by competing on a different weekend and what ramifications (existing television agreements, etc.) might occur should the committee pursue a shift in the date formula to the second weekend.

- 9. Strategic plan.** The committee discussed goals for the men's volleyball championship and identified key areas to include in its short- and long-term strategies.
- 10. Selection criteria/RPI review.** The committee reviewed selection criteria and took no action.
- 11. Rules.** The committee discussed the proposed rules changes from the membership. The committee discussed proposals regarding the permissible number of substitutions and proposed changes to the current net violation rule and took no action. The committee also reviewed the topic of a standalone NCAA Men's Volleyball Rules Book with the NCAA playing rules staff. The committee recommended maintaining the current rules process of using the USA Volleyball (USAV) and International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) rules as a guide to maintain the sport's connection to Olympic and international play that club boys and men's volleyball players predominantly come from to play college volleyball.
- 12. Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and agreed that the timing used this year worked well. Staff will continue to provide conference commissioners with information regarding the process of recommending officials as early as possible.
- 13. Review of manuals.** The committee reviewed the host operations, pre-championship, site representative and tournament participant manuals and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute. NCAA staff also reviewed the committee operations manual and discussed best practices related to the administration of the championship.
- 14. Committee.** The committee reviewed the national committee roster and timeline and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute for the upcoming year.

Committee Chair: Lenny Kaplan, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Staff Liaison: Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee June 17-19, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Ashley Armstrong, University of California, Los Angeles
Tim Heffron, Purdue University Fort Wayne
Lenny Kaplan, New Jersey Institute of Technology.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Nick Strah, Championships and Alliances.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS REFERRED TO PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL (PROP)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Challenge Review System (CRS) – maintaining challenge.**

- (1) Recommendation. Each coach begins the match with three (3) challenges through the Challenge Review System (CRS). If a coach is successful in challenging the result of a play using the CRS, the coach will retain the use of that challenge. The challenge is lost if the challenge is not successful.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The intended use of the CRS is to make sure that the correct call is made. By losing the challenge opportunity, regardless of the result, the coach may be reluctant to challenge a call early in a match that should be corrected in fear of not having a challenge late in a match.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.