



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 15-17, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following five conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2021 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 2019 annual meeting report as submitted.
- 2. Review actions from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (COC).** The committee reviewed COC actions, specifically the updates related to COVID-19 and the Championships Finance Review Working Group.
- 3. Review of sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sponsorship for the current year, noting anticipated growth with several institutions adding the sport in the 2021 and 2022 academic years, including six members of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). Further review will take place once 2020-21 information is available to make sure all schools are represented and assigned to the correct region.

4. **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 2020-21 academic year, pending approval of the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (see Action Item 2 above).
5. **Rules modification discussion.** The committee reviewed the NCAA rules modifications document, discussed the rules modification process and a desire for clarification regarding the NCAA jewelry rule. NCAA staff will have the updated rules modification document available by September 1.
6. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and agreed that the timing used this year will work well for 2021. Staff will continue to provide conference commissioners with information regarding the process of recommending officials as early as possible.
7. **Preview of 2021 championship.**
 - a. Site visit. The committee would like to have NCAA staff and a committee member conduct a site visit for this championship, hosted by The Ohio State University. While Ohio State is an experienced host, it would mark the first time their new volleyball venue, the Covelli Center, will host an NCAA championship.
 - b. Selection show. The committee reviewed the content of its selection show and discussed opportunities to further enhance the production for 2021.
 - c. Timing sheets/protocol. The committee reviewed the existing timing sheets and pregame introduction protocols used in the 2019 championship and determined the documentation outlining the timing and team introduction protocols were sufficient. NCAA staff noted these protocols could be slightly adjusted for the 2021 championship, where appropriate, in response to COVID-19 preparedness.
 - d. Television. With the 2021 championship, the men's volleyball championship match will take place the same weekend as women's beach volleyball. The committee prefers the 7 p.m. Eastern time slot with the finals taking place in the Eastern time zone. NCAA staff will work with ESPN on finalizing details related to the timing.

Additionally, the committee commended ESPN on its cross promotional efforts to enhance the coverage of the men's game highlighting the beach volleyball "Watch Party" with live look-ins as well as commercial advertising promoting the upcoming men's volleyball championship during the beach volleyball coverage earlier in the day in 2019. Other suggestions were identified as possible areas for further enhancement to the broadcast such as panel analysis from the beach volleyball location to create a smooth transition to the men's match, understanding that match times would play into this consideration. The committee also discussed encouraging participating sports information directors to facilitate further access to ESPN during practice and walk-throughs in an effort to potentially identify additional story lines and possibly improve the pre-produced video packages highlighted throughout the broadcast.

- e. Schedule of events. For the finals site schedule of events, the committee plans to make adjustments to its practice day and walk-through schedule for the two teams advancing to the championship match. Additionally, for 2021, NCAA staff noted that the championship banquet will not be a part of the schedule. The schedule, including these updates, will be forwarded to the host (Ohio State) to ensure proper preparedness throughout the year.
 - f. Opening rounds/Finals. NCAA staff will confirm Ohio State's ability 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.
 - g. 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 interactive areas such as coaches clinics, All-American and NCAA Elite 90 presentations, etc.
 - h. 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.
- 8. Future championship sites.** The committee reviewed upcoming championship site, noting that the University of California, Los Angeles will be the final site within the current cycle. NCAA staff updated the committee with details related to a potential site visit at Ohio State, host of the 2021 championship, and discussed areas of focus for championship planning leading up to the event.
- 9. Division I Championship Finance Review Working Group update.** NCAA staff member Sharon Cessna met with the committee to provide an overview of the briefing document and recommendations from the working group. The committee had an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns they had regarding the proposed recommendations relative to the National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship.
- Following review of the briefing document, NCAA staff worked with committee members to formulate responses to the survey the working group provided.
- 10. 2023-26 site selections.** The committee reviewed submissions received during the current bid cycle and made recommendations for 2023-2026. The committee was pleased with the number of qualified bids available to choose from for this cycle.
- 11. Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed goals for the men's volleyball championship and identified accomplishments as well as key areas to include in its short- and long-term strategies.

- 12. Review of manuals.** The committee discussed the committee operations, host operations, pre-championship and site representative manuals and noted updates as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute.
- 13. Committee timeline.** The committee reviewed the timeline and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute for the upcoming year.
- 14. Other business.** NCAA staff notified committee that annual meeting for 2021 will also be conducted virtually instead of in person. The annual meeting for 2021 is tentatively scheduled for June 7-9.

Committee Chair: Lenny Kaplan, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Staff Liaison: Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee June 15-17, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
	Ryan Booher, King University.
	Lenny Kaplan, New Jersey Institute of Technology.
	John Kosty, Stanford University.
	David Matlin, University of Hawaii, Manoa.
	Tim O'Brien, Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association.
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.
	Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances.