



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2023, IN-PERSON MEETING / JUNE 14, 2023 VIRTUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Bracket expansion.** The committee recommends the waiver request for the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference be approved for automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
- **KPI.** The committee recommends adding KPI as a selection criterion. (See Action item 2-c.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Waiver requests – conference automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the waiver request for conference automatic qualification move forward for the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 Men's Volleyball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The committee reviewed a waiver request from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) at its meeting in June. Upon review of the SIAC waiver, the committee felt that not only did they compete as a conference for two years (albeit with a provisional school to make up the sixth member, following its original sixth member, Paine College, that ended up leaving the Association); the conference has showed persistent commitment to fostering growth and diversity in a region that has had little representation for the sport at the national collegiate level, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the conference has remained steadfast in furthering growth by planning to add a seventh member (sixth full NCAA member) for the upcoming 2023-24 academic year. The addition of the SIAC as an automatic qualifier requires a format change to accommodate an eighth team.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. If the field is not expanded to 12 teams (refer to July 13, 2022, COC report), the estimated budget impact to approve the SIAC waiver along with the other conference automatic qualifiers (refer to Action Item 2-b) would be [Pending notification from Champs Finance and Travel assessments] to accommodate the additional automatic qualifier in the field.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommended approval of the SIAC waiver will provide more championship opportunities due to an additional team but will also continue to encourage increased diversity within the championship as this will be the first HBCU conference within the sport.

b. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following six conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024 NCAA National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship: Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation; and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences, including the SIAC waiver request, are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Selection criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. That the KPI be added to the primary selection criteria for the National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 Men's Volleyball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The committee had reviewed the data from the 2021-22 season and agreed that the metric adds value to the selection process by providing another data point to differentiate teams. The current selection criteria rely heavily on the strength of schedule, which is a component of the RPI. The RPI relies on winning percentage, yet it is known that winning percentage cannot tell the whole story of a team.

The recommendation had been tabled by the COC (refer to July 13, 2022 report) and the committee would ask for reconsideration following evaluation of field hockey piloting the tool during the 2022-23 season.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. There would be more data available to the committee to help select the best teams for the tournament.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Approval of annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report. It was noted that the committee had voted to recommend usage of the KPI metric tool as a part of the primary selection criteria for the championship. The committee has voted to put the recommendation forward again for the 2023-24 season. The COC tabled last year's committee recommendation for the 2022-23 season pending review of the pilot conducted by the Division I Field Hockey Committee during that time (see Action Item 2-c above).
2. **Review of sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sponsorship for the current year, noting that there continues to be an interest with new schools and conferences sponsoring the sport. Further review will take place once 2023-24 information is available to make sure all schools are represented and assigned to the correct region.
3. **Waiver requests – conference automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed two waiver requests, from the Northeast Conference (NEC) and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). The committee recommended the SIAC waiver move forward for conference automatic qualification (see Action Item 2-a). In reviewing the NEC waiver, the committee appreciates that they are also working toward providing for additional opportunities for the sport and that additional schools had been added at the start of the 2022-23 season. However, the committee would like for the NEC to complete its second year competing as a conference prior to being recommended for automatic qualification.
4. **Automatic qualification.** At the time of its review, the committee noted that the championship typically consisted of five automatic qualifiers and two at-large teams; however, two additional conferences (Northeast Conference and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) had put forward waiver requests for automatic qualification eligibility with the 2024 championship. The committee recommended that the usual five conferences (Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) and the waiver request for the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference would move forward as conferences approved for automatic qualifiers. This would provide for an eight-team field in the 2023-24 academic year, pending approval of the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (see Action Item 2-b above).
5. **Future championship sites.** The committee discussed upcoming championship sites, noting that Long Beach State University will be the finals site within the current cycle, and reviewed the remaining host sites awarded through 2026.

6. **Rules.** The playing rules staff provided updates to the Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees, including a discussion of items (e.g., continue to explore a men's volleyball rules book; the restraining line rule; bench conduct and decorum; and Challenge Review System). The playing rules staff also briefly mentioned that additional information will be provided as it relates to the finalized processes for federated playing rules across all three divisions. Both the Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees approved one rules modification proposal for the 2024 season. The Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees request approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel to mirror the women's volleyball challenge review system procedures with one exception of permitting three challenges. The National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committee approved another rules modification proposal for the 2024 season. The National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committee also requests approval from PROP to establish a 3-meter restraining line on the playing surface. Division III men's volleyball has already established a 3-meter restraining line. It was noted that this would align Division III and National Collegiate men's volleyball.
7. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and adjusted the timing/deadlines for 2023. Staff will continue to provide conference commissioners with information regarding the process of recommending officials as early in the season as possible but no later than March 1.

The committee also discussed its interest in moving toward having a National Coordinator of Officials for men's volleyball. With the championship moving towards expansion in the coming years and adding multiple non-predetermined preliminary-round sites, it will be more important for those assignments to become centralized in effort to coordinate those sites as well as to determine those officials that end up qualifying for finals site assignments.

8. Review of 2023 championship.

- a. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and agreed that the current schedule works well, with exception of a couple of modifications intended to enhance the student-athlete experience relative to increased rest time between the semifinal matches and the start times of practices on the following day. Members will continue to review and make adjustments based on travel time and facility availability in the future. Additionally, the committee would like to continue to increase its ability to utilize the NCAA's on-site communication software, Event Direct, to efficiently provide updates to all necessary parties.
- b. Opening-rounds and semifinals/final matches. The committee reviewed the opening-round matches and appreciated George Mason's willingness and flexibility in hosting and administering all three matches, including the finals, during the week of the championship. The committee also noted highlights and areas for improvement in order to further enhance the event for fans and participants in the future.

- c. Suppliers. The committee emphasized its appreciation for the level of support, customer service and commitment to the championship that Molten, Connor Sport Court and Sports Imports provide annually. The committee was pleased with the TeraFlex floor used at the finals site. It was noted that there were less concerns with the floor shifting, as there was in 2022, given the attention to improved taping technology from Connor Sport Court staff and its utilization on-site. The committee continues to value the partnership with the Division I Women's Volleyball Championship that makes this enhancement possible. The committee would like for NCAA staff to explore updated stickers/décor used for the Sports Imports net pole pads when new supplier contract discussions take place. Staff will continue to work with these suppliers to update equipment and support needs for future championships.
- d. Surveys/Evaluations. The committee reviewed the evaluations and noted areas for improvement such as continued review of hotel amenities and décor, facilities with quality locker rooms, local marketing and awareness and in-venue space designations for scouting. Members also noted that the low amount of feedback from the surveys.
- e. Timing sheets/protocol. The committee reviewed the existing timing sheets and pregame introduction protocols used for the 2023 championship. Members will coordinate and update documentation outlining the timing and team introduction protocols to provide consistent direction for the membership. NCAA staff will share these protocols with conferences sponsoring the sport.
- f. Championship Social. The committee agreed that while there was initial pause for the social event being held at a Dave & Busters entertainment venue, the event was well received by the participating schools in attendance. It was determined that if a similar venue space would be selected at future sites that the host and committee would work to ensure that the awards program space have more room to execute. The committee intends to move forward with the social and staff will work with future hosts to identify appropriate spaces to execute the event.
- g. USA Volleyball/American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). 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 social. Members also noted that USA Volleyball could serve as a tremendous resource in assisting with marketing efforts for next year's championship.

The committee appreciated the AVCA's presence during the championship planning phase and noted that presenting the All-America awards at the championship social 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.

The USAV/AVCA joint initiative of providing a “Volleycast” during the championship week was also an added enhancement to viewers looking to engage on social media.

- h. Television/Webcast. The committee was pleased with the championship match production and timing window on ESPN2; however, there were concerns with the match being joined in progress due to programming from the previous timing window running beyond the start time of the match. There were additional concerns with the webcasts for the opening rounds and semifinal matches, namely the play-by-play and color analysis during those matches. The committee would like to explore opportunities to ensure the talent is at an acceptable level for the men's volleyball viewership. NCAA staff will work with ESPN and Turner to explore options to enhance the viewer experience.
- i. Social media. The committee continues to express its concern relative to adequate content and impressions leading up to and through the championship, as it awaits an updated strategic plan from the NCAA social media staff.
- j. Ball rotation/shaggers. The committee reviewed the procedures that were in place for the ball rotation and shaggers protocols. The committee recommends that a three-ball system works best for our event. It was also noted that future hosts should be proactive in providing quality volunteer personnel for these positions, noting that each game day should consist of a pre-match meeting to provide reminders and review expectations. These individuals should be outfitted in proper host championship attire given their proximate work to the game action.
- l. Selection show. The committee reviewed the content involved with the selection show for this year's championship and discussed opportunities to further enhance the production for 2024. They believe that our men's volleyball specific analysis, from Vinnie Lopes, is well received in providing this coverage.

9. Preview of 2024 championship.

- a. Site visit. NCAA staff will plan on conducting a site visit for this championship, hosted by Long Beach University.
- b. 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.
- c. Championship format. Given the current growth where new conferences are nearing automatic qualification (pending any waiver approval(s)) and future bracket expansion, the committee continues to monitor the needs for adjusted championship formatting.

10. Gender equity topics/concerns. The committee continues to discuss areas of concern relative to the gender equity of the sport. Some of following are topics that have surfaced and will be shared with select championships staff members dedicated to tracking on gender equity issues:

- a. Announcer(s) for semifinals.
- b. Number of cameras for semifinal matches.
- c. Site specific logo.
- d. NCAA Social media plans and execution.

11. Committee timeline. The committee reviewed the timeline and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute for the upcoming year.

12. Review of manuals. The committee discussed the host operations and pre-championship manuals and noted updates as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute.

13. Bid cycle discussion. The committee reviewed the timeline and discussed strategies for soliciting bids in an effort to increase the pool for committee consideration.

Committee Chair: Tim O'Brien, Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association
Staff Liaison: Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee May 5, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Anthony Archbald, Princeton University.	
Ryan Booher, King University (Tennessee).	
John Kosty, Stanford University.	
David Matlin, University of Hawaii, Manoa.	
Tim O'Brien, Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	

Committee Chair: Tim O'Brien, *Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association*
Staff Liaison: Ethan Walker, *Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee June 14, 2023, Virtual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Anthony Archbald, Princeton University.	
Ryan Booher, King University (Tennessee).	
John Kosty, Stanford University.	
Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine.	
Tim O'Brien, Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Bri Rigney, Championships and Alliances.	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	