



REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 12-13, 2024, IN-PERSON MEETING

KEY ITEM.

- **Committee chair.** The committee selected Anthony Archbald, Deputy Director of Athletics at Princeton University, as the new chair for 2024-25.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Automatic qualification.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025 NCAA National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship: Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation; Northeast Conference and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
 - b. Effective date. Immediate.
 - c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Approval of annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report.
- 2. Review of actions from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee.** The committee noted the approvals of the waiver request granting conference automatic qualification access for the Northeast Conference as well as the date formula shift for upcoming 2024-25 academic year.
- 3. 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 2024-25 information is available to make sure all schools are represented and assigned to the correct region.

4. **Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended AQs as noted in Action Item 2 above and noted that this would provide for a nine-team field in the 2025 championship.
5. **Future championship sites.** The committee discussed upcoming championship sites, noting that The Ohio 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 NCAA 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. The NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee approved two rules modification proposals for the 2025 season. The Division III and NCAA Men's Volleyball Committees requested approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel to allow a double contact during a team's second hit when the next contact on the ball is a teammate. Implementation of this proposal is consistent with the adoption of this rule for the 2024 NCAA women's volleyball season. The NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee approved another rules modification proposal for the 2025 season calling for a replay request to be made within eight seconds after the rally is over, with the intent to promote continuous play and prompt decisions to reduce delays in the match.
7. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and adjusted the timing/deadlines for 2024. Staff will continue to inform conference commissioners about the process of recommending officials as early in the season as possible but no later than March 1.

The committee continued discussing its interest in moving toward having a national coordinator of officials for men's volleyball. With the championship likely expanding in the coming years and adding multiple non-predetermined preliminary-round sites, it will be more important for those assignments to become centralized to coordinate those sites as well as to determine those officials who ultimately qualify for finals site assignments.

8. Review of 2024 championship.

- a. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and agreed that the current schedule works well with the 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 the following day. Members will continue reviewing and make adjustments based on travel time and facility availability in the future. Additionally, the committee wants to continue increasing its ability to use the NCAA's on-

site communication software, Event Direct, to efficiently provide updates to all necessary parties.

- b. Quarterfinal/Semifinal/Championship matches. The committee reviewed the new quarterfinal-round format and appreciated Long Beach State's flexibility in hosting and administering all four matches, including the finals, during the week of the championship. The committee also noted highlights and areas for improvement 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/Gerflor and Sports Imports provide annually. The committee was pleased with the TeraFlex floor used at the finals site. The committee continues to value the partnership with the Division I Women's Volleyball Championship that makes this enhancement possible. The committee was pleased with NCAA staff in providing updated décor used for the Sports Imports net pole pads. 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/catering options and décor, local marketing and awareness. 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 2024 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 the event was well received by the participating schools. 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 would like to look for additional avenues to partner and engage with USA volleyball when possible.

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 involving 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 very pleased with the championship match production and timing window after learning of ESPN's plan to bump the match from ESPN2 and moving the coverage over to ESPN. The committee hopes that similar opportunities will present themselves with the upcoming shift in the date formula as well as the shift of the championship match that will now be set for Monday instead of Saturday. Last year, the committee was concerned with the webcasts for the opening rounds and semifinal matches, namely the play-by-play and color analysis during those matches. This year for those now quarterfinal matches and semifinal matches, the committee noted that the talent was much more well versed and engaging with the coverage of the sport. NCAA staff will provide feedback to NCAA.com/Warner Media of the committee's interest in bringing back that same talent for future years if schedules permit. NCAA staff will work with ESPN and Warner to explore options to enhance the viewer experience.
- i. Social media. The committee continues to express its concern relative to inadequate content and impressions from NCAA social accounts leading up to and throughout the championship. NCAA championships operations staff will continue seeking opportunities to meet with social media staff to explore strategic options that enhance coverage.
- j. Ball rotation/shaggers. The committee reviewed the procedures in place for the ball rotation and shaggers protocols and agreed that a three-ball system works best. Members 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 2025. Members believe that the men's volleyball-specific analysis from Vinnie Lopes is well received in providing this coverage.

9. Preview of 2025 championship.

- a. Site visit. NCAA staff will plan on conducting a site visit for this championship, hosted by The Ohio State 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 and future bracket expansion, the committee continues to monitor the needs for adjusted championship formatting. With adding a ninth school to the field, the quarterfinal round format at the finals site will remain; however, there will be one opening-round match that will take place on campus of one of the two participating teams that will compete prior to the winner advancing to the finals.
 - d. Videotaping policy. With new conferences receiving automatic qualification access this past year and for the upcoming season, the committee noted the importance of sharing the videotaping policy with those conferences in advance of the season's start to better manage the expectation that is in place for schools competing in the championship.
- 11. Committee.** The committee reviewed the timeline and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute for the upcoming year. Members noted that Tim O'Brien will be rotating off the committee and that the nominating committee is working toward providing a replacement for the Midwest Region. Additionally, the committee recommended that Anthony Archbald serve as the new committee chair for 2024-25 (see key item above).
- 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 bids for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 championship cycle. NCAA staff gathered final questions from the committee to inquire with bidders prior to the committee submitting its recommendations.
- 14. Future meetings.** The committee agreed to conduct its 2025 annual meeting June 11-13.

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

NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee June 12-13, 2024, In-Person Meeting	
Attendees:	
Anthony Archbald, Princeton University.	
Karl France, Fairleigh Dickinson University.	
Anthony Holloman, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Tim O'Brien, Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association.	

Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Connor Lancashire, Championships and Alliances.
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.