



REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 11-13, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Automatic qualification.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2026 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 2024 annual meeting report.
- 2. Review of actions from the Division I Sports Oversight Committee.** The committee reviewed actions the Division I Council and Sports Oversight Committee took at their recent meetings.
- 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.
- 4. Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended AQs as noted in Action Item 2 above as a part of a 12-team field in the 2026 championship, with bracket expansion.

5. **Future championship sites.** The committee discussed upcoming championship sites, noting that University of California, Los Angeles, will be the finals site within the current cycle, and reviewed the remaining host sites awarded through 2028.
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., including the Challenge Review System; and Libero Designation [Division III only]). The Division III and NCAA Men's Volleyball Committees approved one rules modification proposal for the 2026 season. The Division III and NCAA Men's Volleyball Committees requested approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel to allow the following decisions as reviewable if the challenge review equipment provides a clear view of the center line: 1) Whether a player's foot/feet or other body part completely crossed the line, resulting in interference with the opponent's play, or; 2) Whether the encroachment presented a safety hazard to opponents.
7. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and adjusted the timing/deadlines for 2026. 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 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 2025 championship.

- a. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and agreed that the current schedule works well 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, along with adjustments for bracket expansion, when only four teams would participate at the finals site.
- b. Opening Round/Quarterfinal/Semifinal/Championship matches. The committee reviewed all rounds of the tournament and appreciated the efforts of Daemen University (Opening Round) and The Ohio State University (Quarterfinals/Semifinals/Championship) in hosting and administering 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 2025 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. 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.

- h. Television/Webcast. The committee was pleased with the championship match production and timing window with ESPN2. With the shift in the date formula as well as the shift of the championship match that will now be set for Monday instead of Saturday, the championship did not experience the bump to ESPN as it had in the past. Regarding the webcasts, the committee was pleased with opening round, quarterfinals and semifinals being platformed on ESPN+ as a part of the new agreement. However, it was noted that play-by-play and color analysis during those matches needed to be better versed in the sport. Given the host is responsible for contracting the talent for these webcasts, NCAA staff will work closely with the host to begin the search process before the season in an effort to secure quality talent.

- 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 2026. Members believe that the men's volleyball-specific analysis from Vinnie Lopes is well received in providing this coverage.

9. Preview of 2026 championship.

- a. Site visit. NCAA staff will plan on conducting a site visit for this championship, hosted by University of California, Los Angeles.
 - 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. At the time of the annual meeting, the committee had discussed the current growth where new conferences are nearing automatic qualification and future bracket expansion. In the event bracket expansion is funded with more updates to come in September, the committee will continue to discuss the championship with regional formatting, with four non-predetermined sites that would send the winners from each of those sites to the finals.
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 Anthony Archbald has rotated off the committee and that the nominating committee has appointed Jennifer James of Pennsylvania State University to the East Region. Additionally, the committee recommended that Anthony Holloman, Commissioner of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, serve as the new committee chair for 2025-26.
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. **Future meetings.** The committee agreed to conduct its 2026 annual meeting June 10-12.

Committee Chair: *Anthony Archbald, Princeton University*
Staff Liaison: *Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee June 11-13, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Anthony Archbald, Princeton University.	
Karl France, Fairleigh Dickinson University.	
Anthony Holloman, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Dan Friend, Lewis University.	
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.	