**REPORT OF THE**
**NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE**
**JUNE 23-25, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative item.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

    a. Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2027 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 2025 annual meeting report.

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 in the upcoming academic year.

3. **Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended AQs as noted in Action Item 2 above as a part of a 12-team field in the 2027 championship. The committee also noted that the East Coast Conference and Great Lakes Valley Conference had submitted applications to indicate the schools that are poised to compete together for their second year, within the 2026-27 academic year.

4. **Future championship sites.** The committee discussed upcoming championship sites with the next two years taking place in Las Vegas at Orleans Arena.

5. **Rules.** The playing rules staff met with the Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees to discuss any modification proposals. The committees approved several rules modifications for the 2027 season. The Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees requested approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel on the following: 1) aligning with women's volleyball rules to consistently enforce updated changes to Penetration Under the Net; 2) align with FIVB rules regarding the Release, when any player may leave their correct rotation position at the moment the server's motion begins; 3) updating the modifications document to indicate the rules surrounding the use of Electronic Aids; 4) [National Collegiate only] increase the allowable substitutions from 6 to 8, with one re-entry; 5) [National Collegiate only] allowing a team that designates two liberos to switch the designations of who the liberos are between sets; 6) [National Collegiate only] outlining the permitted spaces for cheerleaders, bands, mascots to be located in nonplaying areas – at least 2 meters from the court or farther if the facility allows.

6. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and adjusted the timing/deadlines for 2027. 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 process will be updated to include working with a National Assignor that will be in place for the National Collegiate and Division III championships. This individual will work closely with the committees and conference assignors to identify, assign and evaluate officials selected to work with these respective championships.

The committee discussed other priorities surrounding future officiating improvements:

1) Increase fees. Committee members have indicated that the current fee structure does not meet the rates provided within various conference contests spanning across multiple regions. More information will be gathered to determine if conferences meet the overall championship compensation package (e.g. game fees, mileage, per diem and lodging). For 2026-27, Division I, National Collegiate and Division II championships received no increases for championship officiating fees. NCAA staff for men's volleyball will continue to include officiating fee increases as a part of its priorities for budget increases for future years.

2) Adding a third referee (R3) per match for regional sites. With the increased use of video replay technology included at the regional sites, there becomes a greater need for an official to work the table and help replay technicians identify the appropriate plays reviewed by the R2. The committee also acknowledges that with this increased use of technology, it may result in the reduction of line judges.

7. **Review of 2026 championship.**

a. Regional and finals site matches. The committee reviewed all rounds of the tournament and appreciated the efforts of all four regional host sites (Ball State University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Hawaii, Manoa; and Long Beach State University) and the University of California, Los Angeles (semifinals/championship) in administering the championship. The committee discussed areas for improvement to further enhance the event for fans and participants in the future.

b. 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 the actual match times.

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, including the addition of a large center court logo sticker, providing an enhanced viewer and student-athlete experience. 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 an enhanced look and feel for regional sites including a more robust signage package for hosts, along with emphasizing local marketing and awareness.

e. Timing sheets/protocol. The committee reviewed the existing timing sheets and pregame introduction protocols used for the 2026 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, along with working to add additional speakers/dignitaries to kick off the event.

g. USA Volleyball/American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). The committee appreciates the AVCA's presence during the championship planning phase and noted that presenting the All-America awards at the championship social continues to be a nice element for incorporation to celebrate student-athlete achievement. Committee and staff will continue involving the organization in promoting the championship.

The committee would like to look for avenues to partner and engage with USA volleyball when possible at the championship or during the student-athlete social.

h. Television/Webcast. The committee was pleased with the championship match production and timing window with ESPN2 and noted the overall increase in viewership during the championship. Regarding the webcasts, the committee was pleased with regional-round matches and semifinals being platformed on ESPN+ as a part of the agreement. Relative to the on-air talent, it was noted that play-by-play and color analysis during those matches had improved from the previous year. This continues to be a priority for the committee to ensure that the product is delivered to audiences at a high level. NCAA staff will continue to work closely with the hosts to begin the search process before the season in an effort to secure quality talent.

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 2027. Members believe that the men's volleyball-specific analysis from John Montgomery was a bonus to the standard selections coverage.

**8. Preview of 2027 championship.**

a. Site visit. NCAA staff will plan on conducting a site visit for this championship, hosted by University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

b. Participant manual. The committee reviewed the participant manual and made changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute. Members discussed that all potential regional hosts would need to prepare a participant manual as a requirement for hosting consideration, in advance of site selection. Staff will work with the championship hosts to solidify changes and site-specific information.

c. Championship format. While there are no adjustments to the format for the 2027 championship, the committee continues to discuss the current growth of the sport. It will be monitoring conferences nearing automatic qualification, along with the Division II membership vote on a proposal to establish men's volleyball as a championship sport at the NCAA Convention in January.

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

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

11. **Future meetings**. The committee agreed to conduct its 2027 annual meeting on June 22-24.

*Committee Chair:* *Anthony Holloman, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference*
*Staff Liaison:* *Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances*

| **NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee<br>June 23-25, 2026, Videoconference** |
|---|
| **Attendees:** |
| Karl France, Fairleigh Dickinson University. |
| Dan Friend, Lewis University. |
| Anthony Holloman, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. |
| Jennifer James, Pennsylvania State 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:** |
| Paden Alie, Championships and Alliances. |
| Connor Lancashire, Championships and Alliances. |
| Shelby Sonnefeldt, Governance and Member Services. |
| Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances. |