



## MEMORANDUM

October 21, 2019

### VIA EMAIL

TO: Selected NCAA Directors of Athletics and Head Men's Water Polo Coaches.

FROM: Randy L. Buhr  
Director, Championships and Alliances.

SUBJECT: Pre-Championship Updates.

1. Opening round game hosting. The opening round information and bid checklist can be found at <http://www.ncaa.org/championships/national-collegiate-mens-water-polo>. Any institution interested in hosting an opening round game should submit a bid to host. There will be one opening round game played at a non-predetermined site on Saturday, November 30 and two additional opening round games on either Wednesday, December 4 [possible campus host site(s)] or Thursday, December 5 [possible game(s) being played at the site of the championship at the University of the Pacific]. Teams that are competing for their respective conference championship are encouraged to submit a bid to host an opening round game. Please be aware of the upcoming bid deadline. **All materials are due by 5 p.m. Eastern time, Friday, November 1.**
2. Championship bracket format. For the 2019 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship, there were six conferences awarded automatic qualification (AQ). These conferences included the Collegiate Water Polo Association, Golden Coast Conference, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, Northeast Water Polo Conference, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and the Western Water Polo Association. Please note that the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has recently provided written notice to the NCAA that they are going to decline or withdraw their AQ into the championship in order to participate in the USA Water Polo sponsored Division III Collegiate Water Polo National Championship. As such, there are now five AQ eligible conferences but only a four-team championship bracket, so three opening round games will be required (as opposed to four opening round games last year). The top two seeded teams, as determined by the Men's Water Polo Committee, will be placed in the championship bracket. The remaining five teams will compete in opening round games to determine which two teams will advance to the championship bracket. Opening round teams, match-ups, competition dates, and locations will be determined by the Men's Water Polo Committee at the time of selections. Opening round games must be completed before the semifinal round of the championship begins.
3. Bracket update. An updated bracket for the 2019 Men's Water Polo Championship is attached based on the aforementioned information.

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Please contact Trina Simerly ([tsimerly@ncaa.org](mailto:tsimerly@ncaa.org)) or me ([rlbuhr@ncaa.org](mailto:rlbuhr@ncaa.org)) at the NCAA national office if you have any questions regarding the upcoming championship.

RLB:tns

Attachment

cc: NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee