



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 6-7, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- None.

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review and approval of the 2018 annual meeting report and April 2019 teleconference report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report and the April 2019 teleconference report as drafted.
2. **Review of the 2019 championship.** The committee reviewed the championship, including the opening-round games, and addressed the following:
 - a. **General review/comments.** The committee thought the 2019 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship was well administered.
 - b. **Review of opening-round games.** The committee noted that the pre-championship administrative meeting at each opening-round site should ideally take place the day before the competition, most likely in the evening. Members acknowledged, however, that this could be an issue at an East Coast site and could be modified if necessary.
3. **Committee suggestions for the 2020 championship.** The committee reviewed a variety of championship-related issues and made the following suggestions:
 - a. **Game schedule.** The committee decided to change the schedule so that the national semifinals take place at 2 and 4 p.m. Pacific time, and the national championship game is played at 2 p.m. Pacific time in future years. If the championship is taking place outside of the Pacific time zone, these times would need to be reviewed again to meet committee approval. In addition, the Saturday practices should take place from 9-11:05 a.m. Pacific time and the Sunday practices should take place from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Pacific time based on the change in the competition schedule.

In addition, the committee agreed that any opening-round games played at the site of the championship finals should start at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Pacific time on the Thursday of championship week. The practice times on this date should remain from 8-9 a.m. Pacific time for the teams playing in the first opening-round game of the day, and the practice times should remain from 9:05-10:05 a.m. Pacific time for the teams playing in the second opening-round game of the day.

- b. Selection procedures.** If the last conference championship game is played at 6 p.m. Eastern time on the day of selections (as was the case in 2019), the committee noted that they would ideally like to begin the selection meeting at 8 p.m. Eastern time instead of 10 p.m. Eastern time. The championship officials should be selected in advance of the team selections during the selection meeting. The officials' selection could be discussed from 8-9 p.m. Eastern time, and then the discussion about the teams can begin at 9 p.m. Eastern time.

The press release to announce the selections should continue to be issued at approximately midnight Eastern time on Selection Sunday.

- c. Championship enhancements.** The committee appreciated the rally towels provided as a fan giveaway and would ideally like to see a similar enhancement provided again in future years.
- d. Bracket format.** The committee made an editorial change to the championship bracket to place the higher-ranked teams (even though they are not seeded) playing their first opening-round game in opening-round games two and three on the top line of the bracket. This would mirror the format used for the semifinals in which the number one and two seeds appear on the higher line of the bracket. The teams on the top line will wear the dark caps.
- e. Championship banquet.** The committee recommended that all future championship hosts continue to provide a buffet option with plenty of food and multiple serving lines. The committee also continued to support having the championship host confirm a banquet speaker 60 days in advance of the championship. If the host cannot secure a speaker by that time, the committee and NCAA staff will work to secure one. In the future, the teams should proceed to the buffet line based on alphabetical order by school name. The next group should be the committee members and local organizing committee staff. If there are any additional tickets sold to family/friends of the participating teams, they should eat last. (A possible alternative to consider would be to allow each team to eat immediately upon their arrival at the banquet facility after the team photos are taken.) Finally, the banquet video highlights that are shown should only be from the current season.
- f. Facility setup and layout.** There were some minor issues with the facility setup and layout that were corrected on the facility walk-through (e.g., place stanchions in front of the first row of poolside seating; secure the goals so they do not move; and relocate the exclusion board so it is visible to both participating teams).

As for the 2020 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship, the committee will ask that Stanford University provide more food for VIP hospitality than was provided when Stanford hosted the 2018 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. The committee also noted the following: (1) Higher-seeded teams should get the locker

rooms/bathrooms on the side of the team benches; (2) Find a better location for team scouting seats (shift to the half side of the five-meter line); and (3) Separate locker rooms are needed for male and female officials.

- g. Pregame timing sheet for the championship game.** The committee recommended creating a pregame timing sheet template for the championship game that can primarily mirror the format used for the first semifinal.
- h. Other items.** The committee reviewed whether championship hosts should be required to provide referee headsets; however, no action was taken based on feedback from the national coordinator of officials.

4. National coordinator of officials report.

- a. The Referee School.** Officials are required to attend the referee school every two years in order to be considered for championship selection. The third such school will take place in August 2020 over three separate weekends at an East Coast site, a site in Northern California and a site in Southern California. The staff will provide consistent messaging at each site.
- b. Applying the rules as written.** The national coordinator of officials noted that applying the rules as written was a point of emphasis this year. To assist with this effort, the national coordinator of officials conducted bi-weekly calls with the conference coordinators of officials. The national coordinator of officials appreciated that ArbiterSports provided a hard copy of the rule book this year to new officials.

There were 134 reportable events/fouls during the 2019 season, 44 of which were submitted by the referees. The national coordinator of officials will track these statistics annually moving forward. The committee asked that the reports be tracked to also include the Northeast Conference and those institutions at the Division III level.

- 5. Selection criteria.** There are no changes needed to the selection criteria; however, the committee asked to consider adding language to the applicable manual(s) about allowing two teams from the same conference to be paired in the semifinal round.
- 6. Review of Rating Percentage Index (RPI) reports.** The committee members were reminded to continue reviewing the information (conference and team RPI reports) provided on a weekly basis for accuracy. Each committee member will be expected to review their own conference, and the conference that is not represented by a committee member will need to be reviewed by the committee chair.

- 7. Team score reporting protocol, expectations, and potential penalties.** There were no issues of concern from the recent season.
- 8. Selection process.** No changes were suggested regarding the selection process.
- 9. Allocation of automatic qualification bids.** The committee voted that if all six conferences submit their respective automatic qualification form by the February 1 deadline and they meet the criteria, they all should earn an automatic qualifier for the 2020 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. The committee understands that if the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is awarded an automatic qualifier but later withdraws their automatic qualification (as was the case in 2019), then the championship field would again consist of five automatic qualifying conferences and two at-large selections.
- 10. Sport sponsorship.** While there are currently 49 schools sponsoring the sport, the committee anticipates several more may add the sport in the future.
- 11. Review of manuals.** The committee asked staff to review the various operations and participant manuals and make the necessary edits.
- 12. Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee's strategic plan and noted that there are no changes needed to this document.
- 13. 2020 annual meeting dates – December 4-6.** The committee wants to continue meeting in conjunction with the 2020 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. The committee will begin meeting on Friday, December 4, after the championship banquet (most likely meeting from 8:30-11 p.m. Pacific time) and then complete the meeting on December 5, 2020 (most likely meeting from 8-10 a.m. Pacific time). There should not be any need to meet on December 6, 2020. The annual meeting will always conclude before the start of the national championship game on Sunday, which allows committee members to depart either Sunday night or Monday.
- 14. Future championship sites.**
 - a. 2020.** Stanford University, Avery Aquatic Center (December 5-6, 2020).
 - b. 2021.** University of California, Los Angeles, Spieker Aquatics Center (December 4-5, 2021).

15. Other business.

- a. **Committee chair.** The committee approved Andy Fee, director of athletics at Long Beach State University, to serve as chair for the 2020-21 academic year. This appointment will be effective as of September 1, 2020, provided this selection is also approved by the Division I Competition Oversight Committee.

The committee recognized and thanked outgoing committee member Matt Anderson of Connecticut College for his service on the committee and for also serving as the committee chair the last two years.

- b. **Communication of decision about officials selected to work the national championship game.** The national coordinator noted that she would communicate her recommendation of officials to work the national championship game to the NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee chair. If this recommendation is approved, then the national coordinator of officials will email all four officials, notifying them of the decision at the same time, and copying the NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee and the NCAA championship manager. The respective committee members assigned to the participating teams in the championship game will be responsible for notifying them of the championship game officiating assignments on Saturday night.
- c. **Warm-up time after an inclement weather delay.** The committee determined that 10 minutes of warm-up time should be the baseline standard if the delay lasts from 30-59 minutes. If the delay is one hour or more, then 20 minutes of warm-up time should be the baseline standard. However, committee members recommended communicating with both head coaches to determine how much time they would desire for warm-up if there is an inclement weather delay during the championship. If the coaches mutually agree that less warm-up time is needed, this should be considered when making a final decision.

16. **Adjournment.** The meeting lasted from 8:24-10:59 p.m. Pacific time on Friday, December 6, 2019, and then recessed for the evening. The meeting resumed from 8:07-9:50 a.m. Pacific time on Saturday, December 7, 2019, and then was adjourned.

Committee Chair: Matt Anderson, Connecticut College, Collegiate Water Polo Association
Staff Liaison(s): Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee December 6-7, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Matt Anderson, Connecticut College; Collegiate Water Polo Association.	
Andy Fee, Long Beach State University; Golden Coast Conference.	
Austin Lee, Stanford University; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.	
Ted Minnis, Harvard University; Northeast Water Polo Conference.	
George Nelson, United States Air Force Academy; Western Water Polo Association.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials.	
Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	