



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended the six conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2022 NCAA championship. The remaining spots shall be filled by two at-large teams. If any conference identifies that it intends to not accept its automatic bid to the championship, the spot in the tournament field would not be filled by an additional at-large team.
- 2. Committee chair.** The committee approved George Nelson, associate director of athletics at U.S Air Force Academy, to serve as chair for the 2022-23 academic year.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences be awarded one AQ spot for the 2022 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship: 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 (Men).
- (2) Effective date. 2022 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review and approval of the 2020 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2020 annual meeting report as drafted.

2. **Review of the 2021 championship.** The committee reviewed the championship, including the opening-round games, and addressed the following:
 - a. **General review/comments.** The committee thought the 2021 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship was well administered. The committee discussed the need to confirm the course and lane lines are correct prior to games beginning. The committee also discussed the officials' security on a deck with limited space and fans close by. The committee suggested potentially leaving the first row of bleachers empty to provide adequate space to ensure the officials' safety.
 - b. **Review of opening-round games.** The committee discussed implementing goal judges for the opening-round games since they are used for the semifinals and final. The committee also discussed that since the women's championship uses goal judges for all rounds, the men's should be consistent with that.
3. **Committee suggestions for the 2022 championship.** The committee reviewed a variety of championship-related issues and made the following suggestions:
 - a. **Game schedule.** The committee decided to keep the game times that were modified in 2019. Semifinals will take place at 2 and 4 p.m. and the championship will be played at 2 p.m.
 - b. **Selection procedures.** The committee had no changes.
 - c. **Championship enhancements.** The committee noted that due to health and safety concerns, there was no banquet. In place of a banquet, the committee supported using funds to provide a dinner for teams and put on a virtual banquet with student-athlete speakers. The committee thought the virtual banquet went well. The committee also discussed the use of fan enhancements and will want to use seat cushions for the 2022 championship.
 - d. **Bracket format.** The committee made no bracket changes but did discuss how the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) not using its AQ affects the bracket annually.
 - e. **Facility setup and layout.** The committee noted the lack of locker rooms for the female officials and wants to make sure future hosts can provide adequate accommodations for officials.
 - f. **Other items.** The committee discussed sharing rosters with teams prior to the games but ultimately decided it was not necessary and that it would be difficult logistically.
4. **National coordinator of officials report.** The national coordinator of officials plans to continue using Arbiter to provide education and training for officials and to collaborate more with the coaches association.

5. **Selection criteria.** The committee agreed that no changes were needed to the selection criteria.
6. **Review of Rating Percentage Index (RPI) report.** 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. **Selection process.** No changes were suggested regarding the selection process.
8. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee anticipates additional institutions may begin sponsoring men's water polo in the future.
9. **Review of manuals.** The committee plans to review the manuals and to suggest any necessary changes to staff prior to the 2022 championship.
10. **Meet with women's water polo committee.** The committee thought it would be relevant to meet annually with the women's water polo committee in light of the gender equity review. This meeting will take place in early summer.
11. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the strategic plan and made no changes.
12. **2022 annual meeting dates.** The committee wants to continue meeting in conjunction with the 2022 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. The annual meeting will begin on Saturday December 3 and conclude the morning of Sunday, December 4.
13. **Other business.**
 - **Committee chair.** The committee approved George Nelson, associate director of athletics at U.S. Airforce Academy, to serve as chair for the 2022-23 academic year. The committee recognized and thanked outgoing members, Andy Fee and Ted Minnis, for their service.
14. **Future championship sites.**
 - a. **2022.** University of California, Berkeley, Spieker Aquatics Complex (December 3-4, 2022).
 - b. **2023.** University of Southern California, Uytengsu Aquatics Center (December 2-3, 2023).
 - c. **2024.** University of California, San Diego, Canyonview Pool (December 7-8, 2024).

Committee Chair: Andy Fee, Long Beach State, Golden Coast Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee December 5, 2021, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Matt Elliott, University of California, Los Angeles; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.	
Andy Fee, Long Beach State University; Golden Coast Conference.	
Nikola Malezanov, Washington and Jefferson College; Collegiate Water Polo Association.	
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, Direct of Athletics; Pennsylvania State University, Erie, the Behrend College.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	