



REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2024, AND FEBRUARY 4, 2025, ANNUAL MEETINGS

KEY ITEMS.

- **Automatic qualification.** The NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee recommends the seven conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2025 NCAA championship. (See Action Item 2 and Informational Item 5.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship: Big West Conference, Collegiate Water Polo Association, Mount Pacific Sports Federation, Northeast Water Polo Conference, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, West Coast Conference and Western Water Polo Association.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. All conferences eligible for automatic qualification are being recommended. The remaining two spots shall be filled by 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.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their time.
- 2. Review and approval of the 2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the December 3, 2023, annual meeting report.

3. Review of the championship process and structure.

- a. **Selection process and criteria.** While the committee made no changes to the selection criteria for 2025, the committee will begin looking at Rating Percentage Index adjustments that include both bonuses and penalties for nonconference games that would reward teams for wins in the top 30 and penalize teams for losses out of the top 10. The committee also asked staff to consider if the KPI could be used as a resource for water polo selections in the future. This will not affect selections for the 2025 season.
 - b. **Practice and game times.** The committee reviewed the proposed practice and game time schedules for the 2025 championship and noted that game times could fluctuate based on ESPN's broadcasting schedule and allowing adequate rest between games.
 - c. **Facility/host.** The committee thanked the Stanford University staff for a great championship experience. The committee noted a few suggested areas of improvement, which the NCAA staff will relay to future hosts.
 - d. **Banquet.** The committee discussed whether teams want to continue having the banquet. The committee received feedback that the banquet is repetitive and time consuming, especially since it is held the day before competition starts. The committee instructed staff to survey teams to receive feedback on continuing the current banquet format.
 - e. **Student-athlete conduct.** The committee discussed the conduct of athletes during this championship. There were multiple unsportsmanlike conducts, and two red cards were administered. The committee will continue to iterate with participating teams the importance of their conduct as well as administer formal misconducts and penalties when appropriate.
4. **Officials.** The committee heard a report from Amber Drury, national coordinator of officials. The report included officials' selection criteria, review of championship officials and information that has been shared through RQ+ to continue providing educational content for officials.
 5. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed applications from the seven conferences requesting automatic qualification to the 2025 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. The committee discussed concerns regarding the USA Water Polo Division III championship and the intention of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference to participate in that event. The committee understands that if a conference declines to accept its automatic qualification bid to the NCAA championship, that spot in the tournament field would not be filled by an additional at-large team. (See Action Item 2.)
 6. **2025 annual meeting dates.** The committee will continue meeting in conjunction with the 2025 National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship.

Committee Chair: Wes Yourth, University of the Pacific, West Coast Conference
Staff Liaison: Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee December 5, 2024, and February 4, 2025, Annual Meetings	
Attendees:	
Brian Kelly, Iona University.	
Andrea Lapoint, Harvard University.	
Daniel Leyson, University of California, Davis.	
Greg Lonzo, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Wes Yourth, University of the Pacific.	
David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.	