



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
MAY 16, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Championship date change.** The committee recommended the championship dates for the 2022 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship (May 13-15, 2022) be moved back one week (May 6-8, 2022) to prevent an overlap in competition and to accommodate student-athletes participating in the FINA World Championship (May 13-29, 2022).
- **Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended the seven conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2022 NCAA championship. The remaining spots shall be filled by three 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.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Championship date change.

- (1) Recommendation. That the championship dates be moved a week earlier (May 6-8, 2022) to accommodate student-athletes participating in the FINA World Championship being held during the currently scheduled NCAA championship.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. Due to the postponed 2020 Summer Olympics, the FINA World Championships were required to push back to dates that now conflict with the National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship. This could potentially impact more than 20 Olympic-qualifying student-athletes and potentially an entire collegiate team. The committee believes moving the championship will allow the NCAA championship to have its own prominent place in the water polo season and not be diminished by the international championship event. The host institution, the University of Michigan, has confirmed it can accommodate the change.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Many student-athletes wouldn't be able to participate if the dates remained the same. If student-athletes chose to compete in the NCAA championship with the current dates, it could impact their ability to be selected for the Summer Olympics.

b. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2022 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship: Big West Conference, Collegiate Water Polo Association, Golden Coast Conference, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Western Water Polo Association.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2021.
- (3) Rationale. All conferences eligible for an automatic qualification bid are being recommended.
- (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 2020 annual meeting and follow up meeting reports.** The committee approved the May 8, 2020, annual meeting report.
- 3. Review of championship process and structure for 2022.** The committee reviewed and confirmed the following details for the 2022 championship at the University of Michigan.
 - a. Selection process and criteria. The committee reviewed and recommended retaining the women's water polo selection criteria as is.
 - b. 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.

- c. Practice and game times. The committee reviewed the proposed practice and game time schedules for the 2021 championship and recommended additional warm-up time for the 2022 championship.
 - d. Site visit. Staff shared that all staff and committee travel must be approved for the 2020-21 year and a site visit to Michigan would need to be approved. More information will be provided during the fall semester.
 - e. Championship date change recommendation. The committee reviewed the dates for the 2022 championship (May 13-15, 2022) and raised concern regarding overlap of dates with the FINA World Championships (see Action Item 2a). The committee is concerned that conducting the championship at the same time as the World Championship will diminish the importance of the NCAA championship for women's water polo. Changing the championship date will allow athletes that compete for their national team to still compete for the institution prior to the FINA World Championships.
- 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 the ArbiterSports central hub to continue to provide educational content for officials.
- 5. Automatic qualifications.** The committee reviewed applications from the seven conferences requesting automatic qualification to the 2022 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship (see Action Item 2b). The committee discussed concerns regarding the USA Water Polo Division III championship and the intention of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) 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 and the bracket would include a single opening-round game.
- 6. Review of manuals.** The committee asked staff to review the various manuals and the committee would like more input in reviewing manuals before they are published.
- 7. 2022 annual meeting dates.** The committee will continue meeting in conjunction with the 2022 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship.
- 8. Committee chair.** The committee recommended Katherine Zedonis of University of California, Davis, to serve as chair for the 2021-22 academic year.

Committee Chair: Katherine Zedonis, University of California, Davis, Big West Conference

Staff Liaisons: Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee May 16, 2021, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Taylor Dodson, Indiana University, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation	
Adam Pack, Utica College, Collegiate Water Polo Association.	
Julie Snodgrass, Azuza Pacific University, Golden Coast Conference.	
Chris Vidale, Marist College, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Katherine Zedonis, University of California, Davis, Big West Conference.	
Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials.	
Guests in Attendance:	
David Alberstein, incoming Secretary-Rules Editor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.	