



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
MAY 8, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended the seven conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2023 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; rather, the bracket would be reconfigured to include a single opening-round game. (See Action Item 2 and Informational Item 7.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2023 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship: Big West Conference, Collegiate Water Polo Association, Golden Coast Conference, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mount Pacific Sports Federation, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Western Water Polo Association.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2022
- (3) Rationale. All conferences eligible for automatic qualification 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 the 2021 annual meeting.** The committee approved the May 16, 2021, annual meeting report.

3. Review of the championship process and structure.

- a. **Selection process and criteria.** The committee reviewed and recommended retaining the women's water polo selection criteria as is.
- b. **Practice and game times.** The committee reviewed the proposed practice and game time schedules for the 2023 championship and noted that game times could fluctuate based on ESPN's broadcasting schedule and allowing adequate rest between games.
- c. **Award ceremonies.** The committee recommended discontinuing award ceremonies on deck for the semifinalist and runner-up teams. No teams were interested in an award ceremony after not advancing. The committee liaison to those teams will present the trophies to the team in their locker rooms after the game. The committee will revisit this decision again next year.
- d. **Pregame timing sheet.** The committee recommended adjusting the pregame timing sheet so the clock would hit zero when teams need to clear the pool from warm-up as opposed to having it hit zero and resetting it when the game starts.
- e. **Facility/host.** The committee thanked the University of Michigan staff for a great championship experience. The committee noted a few suggested areas of improvement, which the NCAA staff will relay to future hosts.
- f. **Banquet.** The committee noted that the championship banquet was a fantastic experience. The committee agreed to continue holding the administrative meeting virtually and to move it a day earlier so teams have adequate time getting from practice to the banquet.
- g. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee requested that the committee's responsibilities be more defined to assist new committee members at the championship.

4. 2023 championship update.

- a. **Date inaccuracy.** The committee noted that the date listed for the 2023 championship did not match the date formula. The championship is supposed to be held the second weekend in May, but the date was listed as the first weekend, May 5-7, 2023. Because this was inaccurate and would cut into the playing season, the date was updated to the correct date, May 12-14, 2022. The host, hotels and conferences were notified of the update.
- b. **2023 host.** The committee reviewed the schedule and facility for the 2023 championship and made note of specific things to address on the site visit. A site visit will be conducted in early fall.

5. **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 shared through ArbiterSports central hub to continue to provide educational content for officials.
6. **Rules subcommittee update.** David Alberstein, secretary-rules editor, updated the committee on the work with the rules committee. The rules subcommittee had its in-person rules meeting after the conclusion of the 2022 championship.
7. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed applications from the seven conferences requesting automatic qualification to the 2023 National Collegiate Women'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 (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. The committee also noted a couple conferences that were interested in picking up water polo and receiving an automatic qualification in future years.
8. **Review of manuals.** The committee will continue to review manuals leading up to the championship. The committee noted updates that should be included in the participant manual.
9. **Committee chair.** The committee recommended Chris Vidale of Marist College to continue serving as chair for the 2022-23 academic year.
10. **2023 annual meeting dates.** The committee will continue meeting in conjunction with the 2023 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship.

Committee Chair: Chris Vidale, Marist College, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.

| NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee May 8, 2022, Meeting | |
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| Attendees: | |
| Taylor Dodson, Indiana University, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. | |
| Erica Monteabaro, University of California, Irvine, Big West Conference. | |
| Rachel Roche, University of Redlands, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference | |
| Chris Vidale, Marist College, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. | |
| Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials. | |
| David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor. | |

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| Absentees: |
| Daniel Teliski, Gannon University, Western Water Polo Association. |
| NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance: |
| Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances. |