



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Championship date formula change.** The committee recommends shifting the date formula to the last full weekend of April. (See Action Item 2.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Championship date formula change.**
  - a. Recommendation. In response to the adoption of Division I Proposal No. 2024-63, the committee is recommending shifting the championship date formula from the second weekend in May to the last full weekend in April (Friday-Sunday).
  - b. Effective date. 2026 NCAA National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship.
  - c. Rationale. The legislation provided women's water polo with an official start date after being one of the last Division I or National Collegiate spring sports to not have one. The new championship date formula supports the legislative change as well of a number of positive factors that the committee noted:
    - This now matches the length of the men's season and provides a competitive equity among teams for training purposes. This proposal was widely accepted and supported by the coaches association.
    - This will help alleviate conflicts that the championship currently deals with during May, including finals, graduation ceremonies, hotel availability and oversaturation of spring championships in May. This offers more flexibility for host staffs to provide an exceptional experience without spreading their staffs too thin.
    - Broadcast partners supported the shift.
    - With the desired effective date for 2026, there are three years remaining in the current cycle of awarded sites. NCAA staff has communicated with those sites

(University of California, San Diego – 2026, Stanford University – 2027; Greensboro Aquatic Center – 2028) and have confirmed availability for those sites.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. This will have a positive impact on the student-athlete experience as it reduces the length of the regular season and provides consistent and clear parameters for the duration of the women's water polo season. Shifting the championship out of May will also have a positive impact on student-athletes as it helps alleviate the conflicts around finals and graduation.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. **Site visit recap.** Staff provided an update on the recent site visit to the Indiana University Natatorium. The committee reviewed ticket prices, facility layout, the opening-round game and other items.
- 2. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the schedule of events and modified the game times for the semifinals on Saturday from 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to noon and 2 p.m. Because the championship is in Eastern time and the championship game on Sunday is at noon, the committee wanted to shift the semifinals to align with the championship game and provide adequate rest time between the games.
- 3. **Committee roster and timeline.** The committee reviewed the roster and timeline for the season and noted the date change for the participant call that was amended during the annual meeting.
- 4. **Rules update.** David Alberstein, secretary-rules editor, provided an update on rules interpretations as well as the head table staff.
- 5. **Officials update.** Amber Drury, national coordinator of officials, provided an update on her officials work thus far.

*Committee Chair:* Ted Minnis, Collegiate Water Polo Association  
*Staff Liaison:* Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee February 18, 2025, Videoconference
Attendees:

David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno.
Ted Minnis, Harvard University.
Erica Monteabaro, University of California, Irvine.
Meghan Morphy, Gannon University.
Rachel Roche, University of Redlands.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Markell Staton Championships and Alliances.