



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE  
JULY 22, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Committee chair.** The committee is requesting the continuation of the previously approved waiver to allow Natalie Benson, head women's water polo coach at California State University, Fresno, serve as the chair of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year (see Action Item below).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Committee chair, head coach.**

- a. Recommendation. That Natalie Benson, head women's water polo coach at California State University, Fresno, continue to serve as the chair of the committee for the 2019-20 academic year. The committee is seeking a waiver from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to allow a head coach to serve as the chair of the NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee.
- b. Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- c. Rationale. Ms. Benson is a women's water polo head coach, former NCAA student-athlete and Olympic medalist in women's water polo. The Competition Oversight Committee approved a similar waiver for Ms. Benson last year, and the water polo committee is requesting this waiver be continued for an additional year. She is a strong committee member who is well respected in the water polo community. Her experience both in and out of the pool gives an added level of confidence in committee decisions and will continue to be invaluable if she remains in her role as committee chair.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed those on the call and thanked everyone for their time.

2. **2019 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2019 annual meeting report as written.
3. **2019 championship survey results.** The committee reviewed the 2019 championship and the survey feedback from participating teams. Survey results indicated a desire for accommodating practice times when lodging is more than 20 minutes from the facility, as well as possibly rescheduling the administrative meeting to allow for an earlier banquet start time.
4. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee briefly reviewed the committee responsibilities document from the 2019 NCAA Women's Water Polo Championship and asked staff to make necessary edits for the 2020 championship and present the document to the committee for review and discussion during an early spring conference call.
5. **Postgame celebration.** The committee reviewed the postgame celebration for the 2019 championship and reaffirmed that presentation of participant awards for the semifinalists will be conducted in the team locker room, and that the committee liaison for the teams in the championship game will review the postgame individual award process with both teams prior to the championship game.
6. **Manual updates.** NCAA staff will send the committee members an electronic version of each manual for the championship and asked them to review and send initial edits for 2020 by Monday, September 2.
7. **2019 championships streaming results.** The committee reviewed a report on viewing results from the live stream of the 2019 NCAA Women's Water Polo Championship and noted that the total number of video starts as well as the total time spent watching the championship both showed significant increases over the prior year.

*Committee Chair: Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno, Golden Coast Conference*

*Staff Liaisons: Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee July 22, 2019, Teleconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
	Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno; Golden Coast Conference.
	Maggie Martini, St. Francis College Brooklyn, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
	Adam Pack, Utica College, Collegiate Water Polo Association.
	Julie Snodgrass, Azusa Pacific University, Golden Coast Conference.

Katherine Zedonis, University of California, Davis, Big West Conference.
Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Bob Corb, NCAA national coordinator of officials.
Amber Drury, incoming NCAA national coordinator of officials.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.