



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
MAY 8, 2020, ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE

KEY ITEMS.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended the seven conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2021 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. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2021 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, 2020.
- (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 2019 annual meeting and follow up meeting reports.** The committee approved the May 12-13, 2019 annual meeting report and July 22, 2019 teleconference report as written.
3. **NCAA COVID-19 and Championships financial review update.** The committee heard a report from staff regarding the steps the NCAA is taking during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce costs and to develop strategies for addressing a return to championships.
4. **Review of championship process and structure for 2021.** The committee reviewed and confirmed the following details for the 2021 championship at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA):
 - a. Selection process and criteria. The committee reviewed the women's water polo selection criteria and made no recommendation for change.
 - b. Practice and game times. The committee reviewed the proposed practice and game time schedules for the 2020 championship and recommended no changes for the 2021 championship.
 - c. Site visit. Staff shared that all staff and committee travel must be approved for the 2020-21 year and a site visit to UCLA would need to be approved. More information will be provided during the fall semester.
5. **Officials.** The committee heard a report from Amber Drury, national coordinator of officials. The report included information about the in-person referee school transitioning to a virtual setting, as well as information that has been shared through the ArbiterSports central hub to continue to provide educational content for officials.
6. **Water polo rules subcommittee update.** The committee heard a report from Brian Streeter, secretary-rules editor. The report included an update on the proposed changes the rules subcommittee recommended for consideration by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP). Staff noted that PROP will consider the rules subcommittee report on June 24.
7. **2023-2026 championship bid review.** The committee reviewed bid materials submitted by potential hosts for the 2023-2026 NCAA National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championships. The committee discussed the merits of each site and emphasized a desire to host the championship outside the state of California at least once during the four-year cycle. The committee believes hosting the championship outside of California will continue to help grow the popularity of the sport and still provide an excellent championship experience for student-athletes. The committee narrowed its list of possible hosts for each year and will conduct a follow-up videoconference to finalize recommendations in late June.

- 8. Automatic qualifications.** The committee reviewed applications from the seven conferences requesting automatic qualification to the 2021 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship (see Action Item 2). 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.
- 9. Future meetings.** The committee will have a follow-up videoconference to further discuss the 2023-26 championship host bids in late June.
- 10. Committee chair.** The committee recommended Katherine Zedonis of University of California, Davis serve as chair for the 2020-21 academic year.

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

Staff Liaisons: Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee May 8, 2020 Annual Meeting Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno; Golden Coast Conference.	
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:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.	