



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
MAY 14, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Automatic qualification.** The committee recommended the seven conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2024 NCAA championship. (See Action Item 2-a and Informational Item 5.)
- 2. Committee chair.** The committee recommended Taylor McInerney, head women's water polo coach at Indiana University, Bloomington, to serve as chair of the committee for the 2023-24 academic year. (See Action Item 2-b.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

(1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024 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, 2023.

(3) Rationale. All conferences eligible for an automatic qualification bid are being recommended. The remaining three spots in the 10-team bracket shall be filled by 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.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a waiver allowing Taylor McInerney, head women's water polo coach at Indiana University, Bloomington, to serve as chair for the 2023-24 academic year.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. Ms. McInerney is the most tenured member of the committee and is well respected within the coaching community. She has the unanimous support of the committee and outgoing chair. Additionally, the committee feels that a coach in the position of chair on this committee is best suited for the sport.
- (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 2022 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the May 8, 2022, 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 2024 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 to continue not presenting awards on deck for the semifinalist and runner-up teams. The committee liaison to those teams will continue presenting the trophies to the team in their locker rooms after the game. The committee suggested providing bags for the participant medallions to give to each team.
 - d. **Facility/host.** The committee thanked University of the Pacific and Visit Stockton staff for a great championship experience. The committee noted a few suggested areas of improvement which the NCAA staff will relay to future hosts.

- e. **Administrative meeting.** The committee agreed to continue holding the administrative meeting virtually and keep it on Wednesday evening so teams have adequate time getting from practice to the banquet.
 - f. **Pregame timing sheet.** The committee recommended allowing teams access to the pool and balls at the top of the hour prior to their game. This will allow consistency between each game.
 - g. **Table staff.** The committee recommended the secretary-rules editor establish table staff criteria to help select individuals who work the table during the championship.
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 ArbiterSports central hub to continue providing educational content for officials. The committee recommended changing the officials' selection criteria to require officiating a minimum of 15 contests during the regular season instead of 12.
5. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed applications from the seven conferences requesting automatic qualification to the 2024 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. (See Action Item 2-a.)
6. **Review of manuals.** The committee will continue reviewing manuals leading up to the championship. The committee noted updates they'd like to see included in the participant manual.
7. **2024 annual meeting dates.** The committee will continue meeting in conjunction with the 2024 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 14, 2023, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Taylor McInerney, Indiana University, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.	
Erica Montebaro, University of California, Irvine, Big West Conference.	

Rachel Roche, University of Redlands, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Daniel Teliski, Gannon University, Western Water Polo Association.
Chris Vidale, Marist College, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials.
David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.