



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WRESTLING COMMITTEE
APRIL 18-19, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Weighted selection criteria.** The Division I Competition Oversight Committee is asked to approve modifying the weighted selections criteria. (See Action Item 2-b.)
2. **Conference participation.** The Division I Competition Oversight Committee is asked to approve increasing the conference participation minimum. (See Action Item 2-c.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Approval of automatic-qualifying conferences.**

1. Recommendation. That the following conferences be awarded one automatic qualification (AQ) spot for each of the ten weight classes to the 2024 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship: Atlantic Coast Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association; Mid-American Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and Southern Conference.
2. Effective date. 2024 championships.
3. Rationale. The conferences listed meet AQ requirements. Each conference receives one automatic-qualifying positions for the champion in each weight class. In addition, pre-allocated spots are awarded to conferences on behalf of the wrestlers competing in the respective conference who meet the established standard.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides the seven conferences access to the 2024 championships.

b. Weighted selection criteria.

1. Recommendation. Modify weighted selection criteria by increasing the conference place finish to 15 percent and reducing coaches rank to 10 percent.
2. Effective date. 2024 championships.
3. Rationale. The modification is consistent with the value that the committee continues to place on conference tournament participation.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. The modification places more value to an objective criterion that student-athletes will have more control over than coaches' rankings.

c. Conference championship participation.

- (1) Recommendation. Require a wrestler to have participated in at least two matches in his respective conference tournament to be considered for at-large selection to the championships.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The current policy calls for a wrestler to participate in the conference tournament to be considered for at-large selection but does not define what that participation must be. This recommendation aligns with the committee's position of valuing conference tournament participation, and further discourages forfeits and defaults at conference tournaments, while rewarding true participation.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The modification places more value to an objective criterion that student-athletes will have control over. Further rewards student-athlete participation at conference tournaments.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review and approval of the 2022 annual meeting report.** The NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report as drafted.
2. **Review of the 2023 schedule of events.** The committee recommends continuing to have the doors open to the public 90 minutes prior to competition. The committee agreed to retain the

Tuesday afternoon/evening open practice session, as well as scheduled practice times for teams on Wednesday at the competition venue. The committee directed staff to explore the possibility of having practice mats at the team hotels.

3. **Operations review.** The committee reviewed operational functions and made several recommendations.
 - a. **Alternate notification.** The committee recommended that the first alternate from each weight class be notified at the same time brackets are released. If the first alternate is moved into the bracket the second alternate shall be notified immediately. The deadline to invite an alternate shall be Monday (prior to the championships) at 5 p.m. ET.
 - b. **Seeding.** The committee discussed the current practice of seeding all 33 wrestlers in each weight class. The committee reviewed feedback from the NWCA leadership group and decided to continue to seed all 33 wrestlers. The committee believes the selection criteria is effective and are confident in the formula and process that is in place.
 - c. **Pre-allocations thresholds.** The committee reviewed a comparison of threshold levels (a) .750% Win, Top 25 Coaches Rank, Top 25 RPI, and (b) .800% Win, Top 20 Coaches Rank, top 20 RPI. After the review, the data showed that increasing the minimum thresholds would increase the number of at-large wrestlers the committee would select, and that the increases would have significant impact on smaller conferences. The committee decided to retain the current threshold levels of .700% Win, Top 30 Coaches Rank, Top RPI.
 - d. **Championship format.** The feedback on the championship format changes was positive, and the committee agreed to move forward with maintaining the format with continuous wrestling with championship and consolation matches by weight class during the second round of competition. Also, during the medal round, continue to wrestle matches in place order and not by weight class. This will require a modification in the broadcast break schedule with a break after the fifth-place matches. The committee supports of the concept of building the most compelling finals match order based on fan interest, team scores, storyline, etc.
 - e. **Team tickets.** The committee supports of modifying the team ticket allocation process and directed staff to develop a formula that would provide a set number of tickets for each eligible institution.
 - f. **Team hotel rooms.** The committee directed staff to review the hotel room allocation formula, with the objective of increasing the number of hotel rooms provided to each team.
4. **Review of survey results.** Based on a review of survey results, the committee would like to explore several ideas.

- a. **Team space.** Continue to allocate space per team based on the number of qualifiers, provide tables and chairs for teams. Given the allocation of team space the student-athlete lounge area at the competition venue can be eliminated.
 - b. **Warm-up mats.** Ensure that warm-up mats at the competition venue are in an area where the temperature can be managed more effectively. When warm-up space is limited at the competition venue, warm-up mats should be provided at the team hotels.
 - c. **Post-championship communication.** The committee would like to create a post- championship communication to include information on accessing championship videos, survey completion and participant gift orders.
5. **Officials report.** Based on a review of the officials report, the committee would like to explore several ideas.
 - a. **Video review.** The committee would like to explore setting a time limit for view review, not to exceed 90 – 120 seconds. The committee recommends that some training be established for video review technicians who work the championships.
 - b. **Officials’ recruitment.** There should be a more intentional effort to recruit and develop West Coast officials, including the allocation of financial resources for such development.
 - c. **Conference recommendations.** Conferences should be asked to recommend 2-3 officials to be included in the pool of candidates to officiate national championships competition.
6. **Bid specs review.** The committee reviewed the championship bid specs for the next championship bid cycle (2027 – 2030) and established the following guiding principles.
 - a. **Venue capacity.** The committee believes conducting the championship in venues that can accommodate more fans is important for the growth of the championship. Institutional ticket requests have been cut by 40-50% over the past several years because there were not enough seats to accommodate the requests. Thus, the venue should have at least 16,000 seats in an 8-mat set-up, exclusive of suites.
 - b. **Positive financial outcome.** The committee is committed to taking the championships to locations that provide the best possible opportunities for financial success. Given several years of sell-outs, demonstrated purchasing power of a loyal and avid fan base supports a host guarantee of at least \$3 million.
 - c. **Venue equipped to manage the championship.** The venue must provide adequate floor space for the various mat configurations, the expanded media coverage, and event personnel to perform their assigned functions. It also should include separate practice/warm-up area for participants, and space for team areas. In-venue amenities that allow for presentations that enhance the experience for

student-athletes and fans (e.g., video and ribbon boards, multiple entry points for fans and separate entry for participants, media, workers, up to date sound system, lights, projection, Wi-Fi, etc.). Broadcast needs including loading dock and storage space, and video replay capability.

- d. Geographic location.** It is important that the location of the championship allow for access to the traditional wrestling fan base and be in an area that will support the championship. Sites must have good transportation options into and around the area (e.g., major highways, airport with many flight options, rental car services, public transportation, etc.).
 - e. Student-athlete experience.** There should be quality hotels with large numbers of double/double rooms near the competition venue. Amenities should include meeting space to be used for student-athlete lounges. Wi-Fi, ample seating in the participating seating area, and multiple locker rooms.
7. **2023 meeting dates.** The National Wrestling Coaches Association convention will be held July 28-30. The 2024 Division I Wrestling Committee annual meeting will be conducted April 16-17, in conjunction with the rules committee. There will be no meeting in May or June, but there will be a meeting on the second Tuesday of July.

Committee Chair: Bob Burda, Big 12 Conference
Staff Liaison: Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee April 18-19, 2023, Meeting
Attendees:
Matt Azevedo, Drexel University, Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association.
Bob Burda, Big 12 Conference.
Ashley Offerman, California Polytechnical, Pac-12 Conference.
Kyle Ruschell, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Southern Conference.
Jennifer Tuscano, University of Pittsburgh, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania, IVY League/EIWA.
Guests in Attendance:
Tim Sheils, National Coordinator of Officials.
Jackie Paquette, National Wrestling Coaches Association.
Andy Hamilton, Flo Sports.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Sadie Foster, Championships and Alliances.