



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WRESTLING COMMITTEE
MARCH 24, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Establish qualifier allocations and number of regional sites.

- (1) Recommendation. Establish the number of qualifiers at 210; further, establish the number of regionals at seven.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate (to be established for the inaugural championship in 2026).
- (3) Rationale. The concept for the women's wrestling championship format was initially developed based on roughly 40 teams. Within the past few years, however, sponsorship has increased substantially to 76 (per 2023-24 sport sponsorship) and is anticipated to increase even more through this year (93 institutions indicated sponsorship in 2024-25, but this will not be confirmed until the end of the year). Stakeholders have noted that there may be even more growth for the 2025-26 year. To account for this growth in sponsorship, the committee is recommending establishing the qualifier allocations at 210 (the 2025 non-NCAA sponsored championship event had 320 qualifiers).

Due to the increase in teams sponsoring the sport along with establishing more qualifiers, it is important to establish an appropriate number of regions as well. Having seven regions will allow for smaller, more manageable sites with the ability to remain geographically closer to participating institutions, thus making travel more manageable. Currently, the NCAA does not reimburse travel to the regional qualifying tournaments, as that is the responsibility of the institutions. With women's wrestling being an all-comers regional (similar to Divisions II and III men's wrestling), all teams that meet sport sponsorship requirements are able to enter student-athletes into the regional tournament. Ideally, regions should have close to, if not the same number, of teams. With around 100 teams anticipated, the recommendation for seven regions would allow for roughly 14-15 teams per regional. The 2025 non-NCAA sponsored version of the championship that the women's wrestling community has been involved with (NCWWC) was at 320 qualifiers and eight regions. The sport of wrestling uses qualifiers as the life blood of the sport and one of the most important factors in the championship. This helps maintain opportunities for teams to be involved, as a school having just one qualifier can still help the sport be supported on campus. Establishing

210 qualifiers would be comparable to Division III men's wrestling with 124 teams (per 2023-24 sport sponsorship). Division II is currently at 73 teams (per 2023-24 sport sponsorship) and 180 qualifiers.

Although not as ideal, establishing the number of qualifiers at 180 qualifiers with six regions is another option the committee reviewed. This would create slightly more difficult regional sites, pushing up the number of teams per site.

The committee understands there are many enhancements and positives from going from a non-NCAA sponsored championship to an NCAA-sponsored championship but feels that keeping the qualifier numbers consistent with the growth in sponsorship will allow for the continued growth of the sport. This is why the committee supports establishing the number of qualifiers at 210.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. 210 qualifiers with seven regional tournaments could potentially be managed within the initial overall approved budget (based on 160 qualifiers and four regions) once the final estimate of the broadcast component is determined (anticipated later this summer) and other estimated operations costs are confirmed. If all estimated expenses within the initial budget hold true, the NCAA finance staff estimates an additional \$260,000 is required to fund 210 qualifiers and seven regions. An additional \$150,000 would be required for 180 qualifiers and six regions.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed format would allow for more opportunities for student-athletes and continued growth of the sport. As mentioned in the rationale, the 2025 non-NCAA sponsored championship had 320 qualifiers and eight regionals. Having fewer teams per regional will help create smaller geographic regions and reduce travel for the participating institutions along with lower travel costs.

b. Team entries.

- (1) Recommendation. Allow for 10 entries (one in each weight class) to enter into the regional tournaments.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate (to be established for the inaugural championship in 2026).
- (3) Rationale. Limiting the number of entries by team allows more teams to be able to have access to the championship. This would align more with how men's wrestling manages entries with only having one per weight class from a team.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. This would provide opportunities for more teams to be involved in the championship.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **Rules Interpreter and National Assigner hiring updates.** The committee was informed that Jackie Paquette has been contracted as Rules Interpreter and Samuel Julian as National Coordinator. Both positions start on April 1, 2025.

Committee Chair: Oscar Ramirez Hernandez, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Tressel, Championships & Alliances

NCAA Women's Wrestling Committee March 24, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Clarissa Chun, University of Iowa.	
Cody Griswold, Elmira College.	
Mark Hawald, John Carroll University.	
Jeff McGinness, Simpson College.	
Lisa Goddard McGuirk, Gannon University.	
Oscar Ramirez, Colorado Mesa University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Carla Laster, Championships and Alliances.	
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances.	