



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
JUNE 14, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

• **Recruiting – Recruiting Calendars – Women's Basketball.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council introduce legislation into the 2021-22 legislative cycle to amend the women's basketball recruiting calendar, as specified. [Attachment]

[Note: This recommendation amends a previous request to consider the proposed recruiting calendar as noncontroversial legislation.]

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on recruiting, the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee recommends the adoption of a new recruiting calendar in women's basketball. The recommendations were developed by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division I Stewardship Working Group with five guiding principles in mind: (1) Well-being of prospective student-athletes and enrolled student-athletes; (2) Support work/life balance for coaches; (3) Provide more time on campus for coaches to focus on their current student-athletes; (4) Provide ample and equitable opportunities to evaluate; and (5) Changes must be enforceable. The elimination of in-person visits prioritizes the health and safety of prospective student-athletes, their families and coaches and virtual home visits have been successful. Due to the increasing number of Division I women's basketball student-athletes entering the transfer portal, it is more important than ever for coaches to develop strong relationships with their current student-athletes. The most effective means of building those relationships is ensuring that coaches are on campus more. This proposal also provides additional flexibility for international recruiting, while addressing the current legislative challenges presented by international recruiting not taking place in a scholastic environment. COVID-19 pandemic has challenged coaches to recruit more efficiently and, as a result, have made strides in work/life balance that should be continued. The WBOC believes this proposal should be adopted in January 2022 to continue the positive momentum gained by lessons learned from recruiting during the COVID-19 pandemic, instead of returning to the current calendar for a year before implementing any changes. In addition,

waivers and temporary legislation should be considered for the 2021-22 academic year in order to provide a seamless transition to a new calendar.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary based on institutional decisions.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Potential reduction in student-athlete time demands due to a reduction in official visits.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. **NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Substructure – Dissolution of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Advancement Committee.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Council dissolve the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Advancement Committee and the duties and responsibilities of the advancement committee be assumed by the WBOC.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. As the WBOC continues its work in response to the gender-equity review, the current responsibilities of the advancement committee (e.g., marketing, branding, ticket strategy) should fall under the direct authority of the WBOC. In addition, the advancement committee was originally established to oversee the women's basketball marketing grant program designed to assist with the promotion of women's basketball at the campus level. The grant program no longer exists and as women's basketball continues to evolve, the broader, strategic focus on the brand development and marketing of women's basketball is best situated with the WBOC. Lastly, this will align the substructure for both NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. **Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Composition – Nonvoting Ad Hoc Member for 2021-22.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee approve the addition of a nonvoting ad hoc member to the WBOC for the 2021-22 academic year.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. As the WBOC continues its work in response to the gender-equity review, appointing a nonvoting ad hoc member to the WBOC that allows a current member who has been highly active with leadership group discussions with Kaplan, Hecker and Fink LLP, a member of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee's Administrative Committee and serves on the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's Board of Directors will provide continuity to the WBOC's discussions over the course of the next year. The nonvoting ad hoc member, whose term is set to expire in June 2021, would serve until at least June 30, 2022. This request was supported by the individual's conference.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **NCAA vice president of women's basketball update.** The WBOC received an update from the vice president, including the status of the women's basketball internal budget requests for this cycle, review of branding strategy for both men's and women's basketball championships, inclusive of all three divisions and the potential for a future joint championship with men's basketball. It was noted that the WBCA no longer will pursue moving the Women's Final Four to an alternative weekend.
2. **Division I women's basketball championship update.** The WBOC received an update on the upcoming Division I Women's Basketball Committee June 21, 2020, videoconference. The agenda will include a review of the NET, tournament format including the Women's Final Four, future site selection and strategy, other postseason events and the branding strategy. The WBOC also received a recap of the 2021 championship and planning for the 2022 championship. The WBOC reiterated its desire to be involved in the branding strategy and negotiations for the next media contract involving women's basketball. Also, the WBOC received an update on state laws related to transgender student-athletes and participation in athletics. Finally, the WBOC and the Women's Basketball Committee will continue to meet jointly through the fall to collaborate on topics related to the gender-equity review.
3. **NCAA Women's Basketball Strategic Plan 2019-24.** The WBOC received the final report from the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Transfer Advisory Group. The group was established in February 2021 at the request of the WBOC and charged with conducting a comprehensive multifaceted and data-driven review of transfer activity in

Division I women's basketball in order to identify contributing factors and develop initiatives to positively address them.

The WBOC supported three of the recommendations: (1) Enhance education to head and assistant coaches on tampering; (2) Require credentialing for current student-athletes; and (3) Enhance educational offerings to women's basketball prospective student-athletes. The WBOC requested additional information on the fourth recommendation, which was to create a clearinghouse individuals must register with, in order to coach nonscholastic teams with prospective student-athletes at NCAA certified events before approval.

The WBOC also received an update on the annual review of the strategic plan, which is anticipated in August 2021. Once the gender equity report is released, the strategic plan will be reviewed for any necessary updates. The WBOC supported a women's basketball summit in both 2022 and 2023 in conjunction with the Women's Final Four, which would bring together stakeholders, including student-athletes, for a collaborative strategic session on the future and growth of women's basketball at all levels.

4. **NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Legislation Subcommittee report.** The WBOC received an update from the May 26, 2021, Legislation Subcommittee videoconference, including the status of the women's basketball fellow concept, review of a document outlining permissible women's basketball coaches' attendance at elite and junior level international events and national team events for summer and fall 2021 and a listing of the first permissible contest date in women's and men's basketball for future years, and a review of blanket waivers adopted for 2020-21 to determine applicability to the upcoming year. The WBOC received a status update on other regulatory issues including transfer activity in women's basketball, blanket waiver for additional activities for noncoaching staff members and summer access and delayed-enrollment relief. The WBOC agreed to not move forward with a virtual nonphysical activities blanket waiver for another year noting that basketball has summer access and will review any issues submitted by the membership on a case-by-case basis.
5. **NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group.** The WBOC received an update from the Student-Athlete Engagement Group, including highlights from the first year such as voting initiative efforts, well-being/COVID-19 discussions, engagement opportunities with NCAA leadership, participation in a student-athlete highlight series and liaison opportunities with other NCAA governance groups. The group is in the process of filling open vacancies due to transferring and graduation and will continue to focus on amplifying the student-athlete voice in the upcoming year on key initiatives such as Name, Image and Likeness.
6. **Women's basketball playing rules update.** The WBOC received an update on the June 3, 2021, NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel videoconference. All recommended rules changes in women's basketball were approved, including the use of the international three-

point line and the use of limited technology on the bench. Additionally, it was noted that the women's basketball secretary rules editor's second four-year term is coming to an end at the end of next year. The NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee previously expressed support for a third four-year term. The WBOC also confirmed support for a third four-year term for the current secretary rules editor. It was noted that he is very knowledgeable and thorough and provides quality customer service to coaches and member schools and conferences. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel will review that feedback and recommendation at the July videoconference.

7. **Officiating program update.** The WBOC received an update on officiating, including a reminder on the eligibility requirements for Division I officials to officiate the Division I Women's Basketball Championship, officials' evaluation timeline, and potentially moving officiating clinics to virtual in non-rule change years.
8. **Update from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.** The WBOC will receive an update from the WBCA on a future meeting.
9. **Future videoconferences.**
 - a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, June 28.*
 - b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, July 12.*
 - c. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, July 26.*
 - d. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, August 9.*

**Denotes meetings dedicated to the NCAA gender-equity review.*

Committee Chair: Lisa Campos, University of Texas, San Antonio
Staff Liaisons Meredith Cleaver, Championships and Alliances
Lynn Holzman, Championships and Alliances
Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Meeting June 14, 2021, Videoconference
Attendees:
Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Jamie Boggs, Grand Canyon University.
Lisa Campos, University of Texas, San Antonio.
Jackie Carson, Furman University.
Cori Close, University of California, Los Angeles.
Julie Cromer, Ohio University.
Danielle Donehew, Women's Basketball Coaches Association (nonvoting member).
Rich Ensor, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
Irma Garcia, St. Francis College Brooklyn.
Darrice Griffin, University of Georgia.
David Harris, University of Northern Iowa.
Kathy Meehan, St. John's University (New York).
Debbie Richardson, Atlantic-10 Conference (nonvoting member).
Jennifer Strawley, University of Miami (Florida).
Elizabeth Wood, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.
Absentees:
Alyson Hagy, University of Wyoming.
Maisha Kelly, Bucknell University.
Guest(s) in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Binh Nguyen.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Lynne Andrew, Lydia Bell, Zandria Conyers, Penny Davis, Meghan Durham, Jenn Fraser, Kelsey Gurganus, Cindi Merrill, Sherika Montgomery, Ta'Shia Phillips, Amy Reis, Alyssa Rice, Rachel Seewald, Carrie White, Amy Wilson and Karen Wolf.