



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Division III Equestrian proposal.** The committee recommended the Division III Management Council support a proposal to add equestrian as an emerging sport for women and to establish legislation related to playing and practice seasons and membership. In its recommendation, the committee noted that equestrian offers more participation opportunities for female student-athletes and more sport-sponsorship options for member institutions in Division III. The committee also noted that if Division III adds equestrian as an emerging sport, the sport likely will be sponsored by at least 40 NCAA institutions, marking its eligibility to be added as an NCAA championship sport.

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair welcomed the following new committee members to their first in-person meeting: Renee Bostic, Mónica Lebrón, Miriam Merrill, Robert Nelson and Renie Shields. The committee also reviewed its mission statement.
2. **Review and approval of NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics April 24-25, 2019, meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its April 24-25, 2019, meeting report.
3. **Review NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee April 24-25, 2019, meeting report.** The committee reviewed the April 24-25, 2019, MOIC meeting report.
4. **2019 NCAA Woman of the Year selection.** The committee acknowledged the 584 record-number of nominees submitted by NCAA member schools, the 151 nominees selected by NCAA member conferences, the Top 30 (10 honorees from each division) and Top 9 (three from each division) selections made by the Woman of the Year Selection Committee. The committee also thanked the four CWA members who served on the Woman of the Year Selection Committee alongside three MOIC members.
 - a. **Review of preliminary rankings.** Prior to its September 11-12, 2019, meeting, CWA members reviewed, evaluated and scored the Top 9 finalists for Woman of the Year using criteria and guidelines established by the CWA. Using the scores submitted, staff developed a cumulative score out of 100 for each Top 9 honoree and informed the committee of the preliminary rankings.

- b. Selection of 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year.** The committee deliberated on the preliminary rankings and voted to select the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year.
- c. Woman of the Year award dinner.** The award dinner will be Sunday, October 20, 2019, in Indianapolis. Committee members who served on the Woman of the Year Selection Committee are invited to attend as guests of the NCAA office of inclusion.
- d. NCAA Woman of the Year program and academic performance.** A former member of CWA and of the Woman of the Year Selection Committee presented information noting an academic achievement gap amongst nominees of the 2018 Woman of the Year Award. The greatest academic achievement gaps were between white nominees and black/African American nominees, whose grade-point averages were 3.86 and 3.46, respectively. The achievement gap was found to exist across all three divisions. The committee discussed how academic achievement gaps may impact the racial and ethnic diversity of nominees. The committee suggested potential changes to the award criteria, and the nomination and selection processes to ensure more nominees of color are considered for the award.
- 5. NCAA Emerging Sports for Women updates.** The committee reviewed updates submitted by leaders from each of the current emerging sports for women: equestrian, rugby and triathlon.
- 6. NCAA Emerging Sports for Women application.** The committee discussed the purpose of the Emerging Sports for Women program and the program's application requirements. The committee also began the review process for an application from STUNT. The committee agreed to form a subcommittee to conduct an in-depth review of the STUNT application and report findings to the full committee during its February teleconference.
- 7. NCAA Emerging Sports for Women legislative proposals.** The committee reviewed proposals in the current legislative cycle to add acrobatics and tumbling, and women's wrestling as emerging sports in Divisions I, II and III, and to add equestrian as an emerging sport in Division III. In its review of the women's wrestling proposal in each division, the committee identified some concerns related to student-athlete health and safety to be shared with the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.
- 8. Committee on Women's Athletics member guide.** The committee reviewed the new CWA member guide, which details operations, programs and policies of the committee. The committee discussed including a section pertaining to student-athlete responsibilities as a CWA representative.
- 9. Sexual assault prevention update.** NCAA staff provided an update on efforts to combat sexual violence, including the publication in August 2019 of the second edition of the NCAA Sport Science Institute sexual violence prevention toolkit.

10. Transgender student-athlete participation policy. NCAA staff provided background information about the 2011 NCAA Board of Governors policy on transgender student-athlete participation, as well as updates on the evolution of language and ongoing discussions about trans-inclusion. Staff reminded the committee that the 2011 policy remains applicable.

11. Title IX 50th Anniversary. The committee discussed initiatives to celebrate and recognize the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, between April 2022 and April 2023.

12. Future meeting dates.

- a. February 2020 teleconference.
- b. April 15-16, 2020, in conjunction with the 2020 NCAA Inclusion Forum in Denver.
- c. September 14-15, 2020, Indianapolis.

13. Recognition of CWA members. The committee thanked Samantha Kastner and Lauren Yacks for their service on the committee, noting this was their last in-person meeting.

Committee Chair: Denise Udelhofen, Loras College
Staff Liaison(s): Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances
 Jean Merrill, Office of Inclusion
 Karen Metzger, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Shay Wallach, Office of Inclusion

NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics September 11-12, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Renee Bostic, Notre Dame of Maryland University.
Jason Doviak, Alfred State College.
David B. Kuhlmeier, Valdosta State University.
Valencia Jordan, Tennessee State University.
Samantha Kastner, Notre Dame of Maryland University.
John Kietzmann, Metropolitan State University of Denver.
Monica M. Lebron, Tulane University.
Grace McGuire, Utah State University.
Suzette McQueen, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Miriam G. Merrill, Hamilton College.
Robert Nelson, California State University, Sacramento.
Renie Shields, Saint Joseph's University.
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.
Lauren Yacks, University of Findlay.
Absentees:
Marjorie Hass, Rhodes College.
Marc Johnson, University of Nevada, Reno.
Donna Price Henry, University of Virginia's College at Wise.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Jan Gentry, Jean Merrill, Karen Metzger and Shay Wallach.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Meghan Durham, Jessi Faulk, Rachel Stark-Mason and Amy Wilson.