ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   a. Selection Criteria.
      (1) **Recommendation.** That primary criteria language be changed from “Strength of schedule (determined by looking at a team’s results against top teams in the sponsoring conferences)” to “Strength of schedule (determined by Rating Percentage Index strength-of-schedule data).”
      
      (2) **Effective Date.** September 1, 2015.
      
      (3) **Rationale.** The RPI is a new ranking tool available to the committee, which provides objective evaluation of strength-of-schedule information.

      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

   b. Automatic Qualification.
      (1) **Recommendation.** That the following four conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2015 Men’s Water Polo Championship:

      Collegiate Water Polo Association, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the Western Water Polo Association.

      (2) **Effective Date.** September 1, 2015.

      (3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended.

      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2014 Committee Meeting Report.** The NCAA Men’s Water Polo Committee approved the 2014 annual meeting report as written.

2. **NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet Actions.** The committee reviewed the actions taken by the NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet.

3. **Review of 2014 Championship.** The committee reviewed the 2014 championship and made the following recommendations:

   a. **Play-in Games.** The committee reviewed the 2014 play-in games logistics, challenges and feedback from the participating hosts, teams and officials. All feedback strongly supports hosting the play-in games Thursday at the championship site. The committee identified the following rationale: (a) water polo is unique in that the two winners of the play-in games advance directly into the national championship bracket, comprising 50 percent of the bracket; (b) traveling over Thanksgiving weekend with short notice to make reservations is challenging for the teams; and (c) most pools are tightly scheduled and it is difficult to secure pool time once play-in sites are identified. In reference to travel, the committee noted that in 2014 the Collegiate Water Polo Association team was split between two flights on its travel from the East Coast to California. Had the team advanced to the championship, it would have had to make a second trans-continental flight or stay in California for the week.

   The committee also adopted a no-video tape policy at the play-in games for teams already in the bracket.

   b. **Review of Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from the participating teams, officials, the tournament director and committee. Overall, the feedback was positive.

   c. **Web Streaming.** The committee was pleased with the web streaming from the championship and noted that a game average of 2,958 unique viewers logged on to the web stream.

   d. **Merchandise.** The committee reviewed the merchandise sales recap and noted that weather directly affected the types of items sold.
e. **Championship Schedule.** To eliminate safety issues from sun glare, the committee voted to move the 2015 schedule back three hours for Saturday and Sunday. Game times will be 4 and 6:12 p.m. Pacific time. Additionally, the committee venue walk-through will be at 5 p.m. Thursday to allow adequate travel time.

f. **Postgame Safety.** The committee discussed the ongoing issue of fans accessing the pool deck and pool after the championship game. The committee made the following two recommendations for the 2015 championship: (a) that all fan seating be in the balcony, and (b) communicate at the administrative meeting, through public address announcements and police presence that any fans jumping in the pool may be prosecuted.

g. **Communication to Coaches.** The committee determined that committee member assignments should be communicated to coaches during the administrative teleconference. Additionally, before the start of the season, information regarding team selection procedures will be communicated to the coaches.

h. **National Anthem.** To enhance the experience of the student-athletes and spectators attending the second game, the committee recommended that the national anthem be played before each game at the championship.

i. **Deck Decorum.** The committee developed language regarding coaching attire, swimsuits, inappropriate language and team presentations for inclusion in the participant manual.

4. **Committee Responsibilities.** The committee was pleased with responsibilities as assigned and the committee members’ overall performance. The committee asked staff to prepare a checklist for committee review during the Thursday venue walk-through.

5. **Financial Summary.** The committee reviewed the championship financial summary for the past 13 years and took no formal action.

6. **National Coordinator of Officials Report.** The national coordinator of officials (NCO) reported on the following three primary initiatives: (a) the new Arbiter Advantage website; (b) the National Evaluator Group (NEG); and (c) a review of the report from the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Water Polo Rules Subcommittee.

a. **Arbiter Advantage Website.** The website concentrates on the following four areas.

(1) Registration and rules testing.
(2) Centralized reporting of red cards, fragrant misconduct and fighting.

(3) Official evaluations.

(4) Training, including video, rules interpretations and minutes.

b. The National Evaluator Group. A training weekend will be held for the 21 NEG members in order to continue building consistency in the evaluation process.

c. Rules Subcommittee. The rules subcommittee discussed several potential rule changes.

(1) The subcommittee voted to add Rule 1.3, “The field of play should be uniformly and adequately lighted. It is the responsibility of the host institution to ensure that this requirement is met. If at any time in the referee’s judgment the field of play is not uniformly and adequately lighted, the game may be stopped, per Rule 7-6.”

(2) Whether to define how picks will be called by officials.

(3) The subcommittee voted to remove the second paragraph of Rule 21-13, “The penalty of a 20-second exclusion for a minor act of misconduct can only be awarded if the minor act of misconduct occurs during play. If a player commits a minor act of misconduct during interval time, the player is excluded for the remainder of the game for misconduct.”

(4) Promotion of increased communication with officials at appropriate periods.

(5) Whether officials can call delayed five-meter calls.

(6) The subcommittee defined “inside the two-meter line” as the entire head being across the line.

7. Officials History. The committee reviewed the officials history since 1996 and took no action.

8. Officials Selection. The committee reviewed the selection and assignment process for officials and did not recommend any changes.
9. **RPI.** The committee reviewed 2014 RPI reports and took no formal action.

10. **Future Championship Sites.** The committee reviewed the three sites selected to host future national championships.

11. **Allocation of Automatic Qualification (AQ) Bids.** NCAA staff informed the committee that February 1 is the due date for AQ applications for the 2015-16 academic year.

   After the meeting, the committee made a recommendation via email vote to grant AQ access to the following conferences: Collegiate Water Polo Association, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Association and Western Water Polo Association. (See Action Item No. 2-b).

12. **Sport Sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship and noted that 44 institutions currently offer men’s water polo as a varsity sport. San Jose State University will add men’s water polo for the 2015-16 season.

13. **Manual Updates.** The committee asked staff to update the pre-championships, committee operations, participant and host manuals for committee review.

14. **Future Meetings.** The 2016 annual meeting will take place January 7-8 in Indianapolis, after the January 5-6 rules subcommittee meeting.

15. **Committee Chair Selection.** The committee approved Brian Kelly, head men’s water polo coach at Iona College, to chair the committee. He will replace the current chair Marc Hunt, head men’s water polo coach at the University of California, Irvine, when his term on the committee ends in September 2015.

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**Committee Chair:** Marc Hunt, University of California, Irvine, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

**Staff Liaison:** Connie Israel, Championships and Alliances
### Attendees

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<tr>
<td>Mike Dalgety, University of the Pacific</td>
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<td>Marc Hunt, University of California, Irvine</td>
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<td>Brian Kelly, Iona College</td>
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<td>Loretta Lamar, U.S. Naval Academy</td>
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<td>Srdjan Mihaljevic, St. Francis College Brooklyn</td>
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<td>Bob Corb, National Coordinator of Officials</td>
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<td>Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor</td>
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### Other Attendees:

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<tr>
<td>Sharon Cessna, NCAA</td>
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<td>Connie Israel, NCAA</td>
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