



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 6-8, 2017, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Format change.** The women's gymnastics committee approved a bracket that moves to a four-site regional and super-regional model beginning in 2019 to reduce the length of each meet in the championship by more than an hour, which places a priority on student-athlete health and well-being (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Format change to maintain four teams in each meet in the postseason.

- (1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a recommendation to adopt a regional/super-regional bracket model for the women's gymnastics championship.
- (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2018.
- (3) **Rationale.** The current postseason format requires teams to compete in sessions of six for regionals, semifinals and finals. The proposed format includes four teams in each session throughout the championship, which reduces each meet by more than 90 minutes, compared to meets in the regular season. This move would enhance the student-athlete focus because all teams would be competing throughout the entire meet, which also makes fans more engaged because scoring is reflective of each team in the session. Eliminating the byes also assists gymnasts with the mental and physical readiness to move to a new event without having downtime between multiple rotations, which is unique only to the postseason. The move to the attached bracket model (Attachment A) enhances the student-athlete experience, places a priority on physical well-being, and also helps the general fans understand the meet more clearly since teams are not on byes.

In this model, regional/super-regional competition would be conducted over three days at four sites around the country. Two teams at each site would compete in a play-in on the first day. On the second day, eight teams would compete in two sessions of four, and the top two in each of those session would advance to the next day. On the final day, four teams would compete in one session and the top two teams would advance to the finals site. This model reduces the number of teams at the championship site from 12 to eight which creates an access ratio that is more in line with the sport's current sponsorship. The model maintains current seeding principles and will assign unseeded teams by geographic proximity, as is the current practice.

The committee acknowledges that six host sites have been announced for the 2019-22 championships, but members asked staff to work internally to discuss the move to four sites. Gymnastics coaches have indicated that athletics department staffs understand the need to move to this bracket model for the betterment of the sport and will be open to discussing the changes.

The women's gymnastics coaches association approved the idea of moving from six teams to four in each session with unanimous support at its May 2017 convention. This model also maintains the number of teams in the bracket and includes the same opportunities for event specialists and all-arounders, so it does not reduce opportunities to advance to the postseason.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The reduction of teams at the finals site will result in cost savings for the NCAA championship budget. This savings is expected to be around \$100,000, some of which will be reallocated to cover any increases in cost for the regional hosts due to having competition over three days instead of one. Since this is an individual/team sport, institutions will continue to pay for travel to regional sites.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will benefit from this adjustment because they will have shorter days of competition in the postseason. This change helps with mental and physical readiness during the meets. They will also benefit from the fan engagement since scoring is much easier to follow when there are no byes in a meet. Teams do not compete in six-team sessions at any point in the regular season, so this will keep the format they are accustomed to for the postseason as well.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of the 2017 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships selections process and timeline.** The committee agreed that the selection process and timeline went well and made no changes for the 2018 season.

2. Review of 2017 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships regionals.

- a. Bracketing and seeding principles. The committee felt the seeding process for 2017 went smoothly. Members agreed to continue working with the coaches association to clarify and educate coaches and athletics administrators regarding the difference between a team's seed and its rank. A ranking corresponds to a team's regional qualifying score (RQS), while the seed is the number associated with its placement in the bracket. Seeding and bracketing principles are outlined in the pre-championship manual and take various items into consideration such as host teams, seeded teams, etc. Therefore, a team's rank may be different than its seed. This practice is also common in other sports and bracketing principles.

The committee asked staff to compile talking points outlining these differences and also to explain how teams are placed geographically at the regionals.

- b. Award ceremonies. The committee approved the following procedure for awards ceremonies at regionals: Teams will proceed to the floor and the top three scores (including ties) on each event and the top six all-arounders will be recognized. Each individual should be presented with a flower. Finally, the host will announce the teams advancing to nationals.
- c. Site representatives. The committee did not mention any issues related to site representatives. Members did ask staff to add a few specific items to the site representative prep calls to ensure all sites operate consistently.
- d. Practices. The committee confirmed that practices should mimic competition day so teams and individuals are accustomed to how the meet will operate during competition. Therefore, individuals should rotate with their assigned teams on practice day. Members also noted that teams starting on a bye should have the option to complete an open stretch on the floor during warm-ups.

The committee also reaffirmed that only 15 competitors, with competitor numbers, are allowed to practice. The three additional non-competing student-athletes who may accompany a team are not allowed to practice unless they have a number. Lineups are due at 10 p.m. on Friday before regionals but can be changed if an athlete is injured during practice.

- e. Transition and touch warm-up timing. The committee agreed to add a two-minute transition between the open stretch and the first practice rotation. The committee also asked staff to make sure regional hosts understand the timing procedures for touch warm-ups to ensure all participants have the appropriate amount of warm-up time.

- f. Participant evaluations. The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from regionals and noted a few minor concerns. Participants seemed to enjoy the regionals overall. One item the committee addressed is the host responsibility as it relates to the coaches association sounding board meetings. The hosts are responsible only for reserving space for the meeting. The coaches association should handle all other details such as timing and agenda formation.
- 3. Confirmation of 2018 regional host sites.** The committee reviewed the selected regional host sites for 2018. Since not every region submitted a bid, staff will note which site corresponds to which region in the 2018 pre-championship manual. This notation will ensure the membership knows where individuals and all-arounders will compete.
- 4. Review regional score verification coordinators and responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the score verification coordinator roster and will solicit replacements for those no longer able to serve.
- 5. Review of Road to Nationals services.** The committee discussed the results reporting services that Road to Nationals (RTN) currently provides. The committee asked staff to conduct a call with RTN to explore additional ways results and score verification can be streamlined, specifically regarding the Regional Qualification Score worksheets. Further streamlining will reduce the time-demand burdens on coaches and regional score verification coordinators.
- 6. Review of the 2017 Women’s Gymnastics National Championships.**
 - a. Internal working group feedback. The committee reviewed the feedback from the internal working group regarding improvements that can be made for future championships. Staff will share the feedback with the 2018 host.
 - b. Award ceremonies. The committee discussed the timing and length of the individual awards ceremony after the first day of competition at the finals site. Staff will work with the host to determine ways to make the ceremony more efficient, since athletes need to rest for the next day of competition.

The committee agreed that the coaches association All-America award winners should be announced by the coaches association after the championship has concluded to avoid confusion regarding those awards, since they are not affiliated with the NCAA championship and are calculated differently than the NCAA top-eight awards.

- c. Banquet. The committee commended the St. Louis Sports Commission staff for creating a great experience for banquet attendees. Specifically, the committee thought the “paparazzi” welcome, photo booths, a cappella group and highlight video were well-received.

- d. Corrals. The committee agreed that placing the corrals closer to the podiums was beneficial since it allowed more excitement and interaction with the student-athletes in the corral and those competing on the event.
- e. Credentials/wristbands and distribution process. The committee felt the credentialing and distribution process worked well overall for the championship and will continue the process in a similar manner in the future.

In future championships, the committee will allow credentialed team physicians to stand in the vomitory entrances to the floor provided room is available. This will allow quick access to the floor.

Teams that are eliminated on Friday but attend the final competition on Saturday will be provided with a paper wristband for seating access.

- f. Competitive rotation. The committee agreed that the process for determining the rotations (via blind draw) is still best for the championship, as opposed to other models.
- g. Equipment list. The committee reviewed the equipment lists for regionals and nationals and indicated adjustments for future years. A representative from the equipment supplier, AAI, joined the meeting to discuss needs at the championship and equipment trends in the sport.
- h. Entry form. The committee acknowledged confusion surrounding how the entry form is used and who is noted on the form. Members agreed to separate the form and have one entry form for institutions to list each person (up to 24 individuals with no more than 15 competing student-athletes) in the corral and another form to submit the march-in order.
- i. March-in and line leaders. The committee was very pleased with the line leaders and score runners and flashers. Members want to continue the practice of using local gymnasts as volunteers when available since those individuals are familiar with the flow of a competition.
- j. Marketing and promotion plans. NCAA staff updated the committee on ticket sales and attendance at the championship. The committee encouraged staff to build off the success of the 2017 championship since the host site is the same for 2018.
- k. Misconduct. The committee reviewed championship misconduct issues and decided appropriate action.
- l. Practice day. The committee clarified the location for teams to warm up on practice day. For the practice session with the teams that start on a bye, all four teams may warm up on the floor or they can warm up on the event they will start on for practice day.

- m. Scoring. The committee was pleased with the scoring system and overall meet management from a scoring standpoint.
 - n. Stretching area. The committee clarified where teams should stretch during competition. If the venue has space for panel mats on the floor, then they should be placed on the floor and teams should use the mats provided. If there isn't enough space, then they may use the mats by the equipment. This policy applies to regionals and nationals.
 - o. Transitions and touch warm-up timing. The committee reiterated the variance in transition times at the national championship due to television. Transitions will be no fewer than two minutes.
 - p. Venue layout. The committee agreed to invite coaches to the first 15 minutes of the equipment check on Wednesday so they can see everything and ensure there are no issues prior to the first day of practice. After the walk-through, all equipment will be set and no participants will be allowed to change anything prior to the start of practice and competition.
 - q. Video review. The committee asked staff to explore options to allow video review at the national championship. Staff will bring information to the committee for the July teleconference.
 - r. ESPN coverage. ESPN staffers joined via teleconference to share ideas about ways to expand coverage for the championship. The committee was very pleased with the ESPN coverage for 2017 and is excited for ESPN to generate and discuss new ideas to further enhance the viewer experience.
- 7. Plans for the 2018 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships.** The committee noted items for staff to address with the 2018 championships host. The committee asked staff to explore possibly having teams eliminated on Friday participate in community engagement events on Saturday. The committee is looking forward to having the championship back in St. Louis for another year.
- 8. 2018 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships event order draws.**
- a. Super Six Draw. The double-blind, random draw for the 2018 Super Six is as follows:

| 2018 Super Six Rotation | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| EVENT | TEAM |
| Vault | Semi #2, Team 2 |
| Bye/Bars | Semi #1, Team 2 |

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Bars | Semi #1, Team 3 |
| Beam | Semi #2, Team 1 |
| Bye/Floor | Semi #1, Team 1 |
| Floor | Semi #2, Team 3 |

- b. Draw for championship semifinals. The double-blind, random draw for the 2018 semifinals is as follows. “Bracket” indicates which regional the team advances from and goes in order from top-to-bottom on the bracket. As decided by blind draw, the right side of the bracket will compete in the first semifinal (afternoon session). The left side of the bracket will compete in the second semifinal (evening session).

| 2018 Semifinal Rotation | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| EVENT | TEAM |
| Vault | Bracket 3, Team 1 |
| Bye/Bars | Bracket 1, Team 2 |
| Bars | Bracket 2, Team 1 |
| Beam | Bracket 1, Team 1 |
| Bye/Floor | Bracket 3, Team 2 |
| Floor | Bracket 2, Team 2 |

- c. Draw for regionals. The double blind, random draw for 2018 regional competition is as follows:

| 2018 Regional Rotation | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| EVENT | TEAM |
| Vault | Team 6 |
| Bye/Bars | Team 4 |
| Bars | Team 5 |
| Beam | Team 2 |
| Bye/Floor | Team 3 |
| Floor | Team 1 |

9. Electronic scoring. The committee discussed future use of electronic scoring systems. Members acknowledged that the championship will always need hard copy paper backups in case an electronic system fails but is open to the idea of having judges use an electronic input mechanism to send scores to the chief judge’s computer. Staff will conduct further research on the electronic scoring options.

10. Review of 2017 championship manuals. The committee reviewed the manuals and made appropriate updates for 2018.

11. Review of committee responsibilities at the championship. The committee reviewed various versions of the committee responsibilities and made necessary adjustments for 2018.

12. National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women (NACGC/W) proposals. The committee reviewed proposals that the NACGC/W and the Women's Collegiate Program Committee (WCPC) submitted and discussed appropriate actions. The outcomes of the committee's discussion are listed in Attachment B.

Most of the conversation focused on the proposed bracket model referenced in Nonlegislative Item 2-a above.

13. NCAA rules modification recommendations. The committee spoke with the women's gymnastics rules interpreter regarding editorial changes to the rule-modification document. The rules interpreter also shared a breakdown on the types of questions and groups of individuals (coaches, judges, NCAA, etc.) she received in 2017.

The committee referred recommended rules modifications to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for further review. These requests are compiled on a two-year basis and forwarded to PROP. The committee made one note regarding the timeline for submitting new vaults. Institutions must submit new vaults and have approval from the NACGC/W Board of Directors by November 1 so PROP can give final approval prior to the start of the season.

14. Judges review.

- a. Selection process for championship judges. The committee reviewed the process for selecting judges to regionals and finals. The group noted a desire to start adding some new judges at regionals so others will have experience when various judges retire. One member recommended that the committee encourage regional meet referees to assign new chief judges so those people can start gaining more experience. The committee asked staff to ensure that all available judges are submitted in the pool from the national assignor, even if the rating the assignor gives is low due to a judge being unavailable.
- b. Review of judges' evaluation forms. The committee discussed the evaluation tool coaches use throughout the season to evaluate judges. The committee asked if questions could be added to help coaches explain why they assign a certain rating. Staff will work with the judges' assignor to add those questions to the evaluation. The committee feels these additional questions will help provide members with all available information when making assignments for regionals and nationals.

The committee started to explore ways that judges could be evaluated in the regular and/or postseason to further provide information to the committee when making assignments.

- c. Selection of 2018 meet referees and judges. The committee reviewed judge recommendations and assigned meet referees and judges based on the guidelines outlined in the pre-championship manual.

15. Selection of committee chair. The committee voted to appoint Wendy Fallen, associate commissioner for sports administration at the Big Ten Conference, as chair of the committee for the 2017-18 academic year. Ms. Fallen has served on the committee for three years and is well equipped to serve as chair. The committee also thanked Adina Stock, outgoing chair, for her time and dedication to the sport.

16. 2018 annual meeting date. The committee agreed to meet June 5-7 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Adina Stock, North Carolina State University, Atlantic Coast Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances

| NCAA Women’s Gymnastics Committee June 6-8, 2017, Meeting |
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| Attendees: |
| Jacqueline Fain, Centenary College (Louisiana); Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. |
| Wendy Fallen; Big Ten Conference. |
| Jeff Graba, Auburn University; Southeastern Conference. |
| Carolynn Kimball, University of New Hampshire; America East Conference. |
| Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart, University of Denver; Big 12 Conference. |
| Adina Stock, North Carolina State University; Atlantic Coast Conference. |
| Marianne Vydra, Oregon State University; Pac-12 Conference. |
| Absentees: |
| None. |
| Guests in Attendance: |
| Meg Aronowitz, ESPN (<i>via teleconference</i>). |
| Bobbie Cesarek, National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women’s. |
| Evelyn Chandler, National Association of Women’s Gymnastics Judges President (<i>via teleconference</i>). |
| Chrystal Chollet-Norton, NCAA Women’s Gymnastics Rules Interpreter. |
| Ken Cysewski, AAI. |
| Kerrie McKinney Turner, Bowling Green State University. |
| Donnalyne Trevethan, National Collegiate Judges Assigner (<i>via teleconference</i>). |
| NCAA Staff Support in Attendance: |
| John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances. |
| Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances. |
| Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance: |
| Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances. |

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| Natalie Steger, Championships and Alliances. |
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2019 NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

| REGIONALS | | SUPER REGIONALS | | NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP | | | SUPER REGIONALS | | REGIONALS | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---------------|--|---|-----------|--|
| April 5, 2019 | April 6, 2019 | April 7, 2019 | APRIL 19-20, 2019 | | | April 7, 2019 | April 6, 2019 | April 5, 2019 | | |
| REGIONAL PLAY-IN | REGIONAL 1 - Session 1 | | NCAA SEMIFINAL 1 | FINAL CHAMPIONSHIPS "Four on the Floor" | NCAA SEMIFINAL 2 | | REGIONAL 2 - Session 1 | REGIONAL PLAY-IN | | |
| Individual Regional Qualifiers: Top 16 Individual AA Competitors Top 16 Event Specialists <i>*Not part of an advancing team (Based on national RQS)</i> | #8 + AA Qualifier #9 + AA Qualifier vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | SUPER REGIONAL 1 Session 1 Team WINNER Session 1 AA High Score Session 2 Team WINNER Session 2 Ind AA High Score | *SUPER REGIONAL 1 WINNER SR1 Ind AA High Score SUPER REGIONAL 3 WINNER SR3 Ind AA High Score SUPER REGIONAL 2 2ND PLACE SR2 Ind VT, UB, BB, FX SUPER REGIONAL 4 2ND PLACE SR4 Ind VT, UB, BB, FX | NCAA SEMIFINAL 1 WINNER NCAA SEMIFINAL 2 WINNER NCAA SEMIFINAL 1 2ND PLACE NCAA SEMIFINAL 2 2ND PLACE | *SUPER REGIONAL 2 WINNER SR2 Ind AA High Score SUPER REGIONAL 4 WINNER SR4 Ind AA High Score SUPER REGIONAL 1 2ND PLACE SR1 Ind VT, UB, BB, FX SUPER REGIONAL 3 2ND PLACE SR3 Ind VT, UB, BB, FX | | SUPER REGIONAL 2 Session 1 Team WINNER Session 1 AA High Score Session 2 Team WINNER Session 2 Ind AA High Score Session 1 Team 2ND PLACE Session 1 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX Session 2 Team 2ND PLACE Session 2 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX | #7 + AA Qualifier #10 + AA Qualifier vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | | |
| | REGIONAL 1 - Session 2 #1 + AA Qualifier #16 + AA Qualifier vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | Session 1 Team 2ND PLACE Session 1 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX Session 2 Team 2ND PLACE Session 2 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX | | | | | REGIONAL 2 - Session 2 #2 + AA Qualifier #15 + AA Qualifier vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | | | |
| | REGIONAL 3 - Session 1 #6 + AA #11 + AA vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | SUPER REGIONAL 3 Session 1 Team WINNER Session 1 AA High Score Session 2 Team WINNER Session 2 Ind AA High Score Session 1 Team 2ND PLACE Session 1 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX Session 2 Team 2ND PLACE Session 2 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX | Individuals National Qualifiers: Highest AA Score <i>*Not advancing with team *Top Scoring Gymnast on each event *Not advancing with team or AA</i> | | | | SUPER REGIONAL 4 Session 1 Team WINNER Session 1 AA High Score Session 2 Team WINNER Session 2 Ind AA High Score Session 1 Team 2ND PLACE Session 1 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX Session 2 Team 2ND PLACE Session 2 Ind VT,UB,BB,FX | REGIONAL 4 - Session 1 #5 + AA #12 + AA vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | | |
| | REGIONAL 3 - Session 2 #3 + AA Qualifier #14 + AA Qualifier vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | Individuals Super Regional Qualifiers: Highest AA Score <i>*Not advancing with team *Top Scoring Gymnast on each event *Not advancing with team or AA</i> | | | | | REGIONAL 4 - Session 2 #4 + AA Qualifier #13 + AA Qualifier vt, ub, bb, fx specialist vt, ub, bb, fx specialist | | | |

2017 NACGC/W AND WCPC PROPOSALS—Committee Actions

The NCAA women's gymnastics committee reviewed all proposals submitted by the NACGC/W and the Women's Collegiate Program Committee (WCPC). While the committee reviewed all proposals, only those within the committee's purview are noted in this document. No action items from the committee are final until approved by the Competition Oversight Committee. The women's gymnastics committee took the following actions:

- a. Postseason format. Accepted, in concept, the recommendation to move to a bracket model that has four teams per session throughout the postseason, starting in 2019. This change would reduce the number of regional sites from six to four.
- b. RQS sheet process. Accepted the recommendation to create an end-of-season RQS sheet to be electronically verified by the head coach and the regional score verification coordinator. The NCAA will work with Road To Nationals discuss ways to implement this change.
- c. Video review in postseason. Tabled the recommendation to allow video review during postseason. The committee discussed some challenges with video review such as what type of deductions are reviewable, pace of the meet and the six-judge panels at finals. The committee asked staff to conduct research on the feasibility of video review in the postseason from a logistical and financial perspective. The committee will discuss this proposal on its July teleconference.
- d. Pay increase for national judging assigner. Accepted, in concept, the recommendation to increase the fees for the national assigner. NCAA staff will work with the NCAA playing rules group to determine if funds for an increase are available.