REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WRESTLING COMMITTEE
JUNE 6-8, 2016 MEETING

KEY ITEM.

- Continue enhancing standardization at super regional sites. The wrestling committee was extremely pleased with the pre-seeding procedures put forward this past year along with other standardizations. The committee will continue to look for ways to enhance these super-regional sites through consistency.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Regional adjustments.
      (1) Recommendation. With Drury University adding wrestling as a varsity sport, the committee recommends the institution be placed in the Central Super Region (Super Region III), and that Ouachita Baptist University move from the Central Super Region to the West Super Region.
      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.
      (3) Rationale. This is the most logical placement for Drury University, which is located near a number of other institutions in the Central Super Region (see Attachment A). Also, with the addition of Drury to the Central Super Region, Ouachita Baptist would move into the West Super Region. This regional adjustment would give both the Central and West Super Regions fifteen institutions, which is comparable to the two remaining super regions that have either 14 or 15 institutions.
      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
b. Require video streaming at super regionals.

(1) **Recommendation.** To require live video streaming at the four super-regional sites.

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee believes this recommendation mitigates the potential competitive advantage super-regional sites may gain by not live streaming. The committee wants to negate any perceived incentive not to live stream, since live streaming at the super-regional sites is a key element in marketing and promoting the sport. The committee also believes the recommendation helps ensure a consistent experience for participants at all super regionals. Because super-regional sites are predetermined, the committee believes there is ample time for hosts to adequately plan for the live-streaming requirement.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** Minimal cost, if any, as most super-regional sites already provide live streaming. Most, if not all, hosts selected also would already have the technical capability, since live streaming has become a standard practice. Since these sites are predetermined, this also allows for ample planning.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The recommendation standardizes live streaming among the four super-regional sites, thus ensuring more exposure for the sport and competitive fairness at the super-regional sites.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2016 championships review.** The wrestling committee reviewed the 2016 championships and addressed the following issues.

   a. **Schedule of events.** The committee discussed the timing of the coaches meeting, which is currently overlaps the community-service activity. However, committee members acknowledged that Thursday is a very busy day, and teams interested in participating in the community service would use their assistant coaches and support staff. The committee was pleased with adjusting the start time of the Grand March to 5:15 p.m. on Friday in order to create more warm-up time for the first matches later that evening.

   b. **Selections, seeding and bracketing.** The committee was pleased with the pairings formula used for the 2016 championships, and with the new standardization of pre-seeding at the super-regional sites. The voting procedures also worked well and received positive
feedback, though the committee suggested some minor adjustments to clarify the language in the procedures. The committee adjusted the replacement deadline up to until the bracket is drawn. The committee asked whether the system could be available earlier so that coaches could access the system and become acclimated with the statistics in order to be more prepared.

c. Medical checks/weigh-ins. The 8:45 a.m. start time worked well for Friday, and the committee agreed to maintain the Saturday start time at 8:50 a.m. since fewer participants remain in the championship at that time.

d. Trackwrestling operations (scoring and video). The committee appreciated Trackwrestling helping with championship operations, including video feeds and score clock synchronization. The committee would like to see better camera work (potentially hand-held and not robotic) at the finals to improve the quality of the feed.

e. Resilite/Tanita/All-Star Custom Awards agreements. The committee was pleased with each of these agreements. The All-Star Custom Awards agreement has expired, which means that staff will send an RFP for this service. Staff will review all of these agreements and make necessary enhancements.

f. Opening ceremonies/Grand March/awards ceremony/awards presenters. The committee liked having the winning coach be among the awards presenters and was pleased with the new start time. The committee also believes the parade of All-Americans is important, and members agreed to continue exploring ways to enhance this part of the opening ceremony.

g. Selection of officials/evaluation process. The committee continues to stress that officials should be confirmed and appointed earlier in the year before they are asked to work other wrestling events. The committee also wants to collaborate with Division III, since both divisions conduct their super regionals at the same time and have similar officiating needs. The committee members also noted they would like to continue to have final approval on officials selection for both super-regional and finals sites. The committee would prefer to see an increase in the number of officials versus any increase in officials fees.

h. Mementos. The committee believes the mementos for student-athletes are appropriate.

i. Head table (announcer). The committee is pleased with Dorothy Mayabb’s performance as the announcer during the past number of championships and wants to retain her for the 2017 championships. The committee was also impressed by the secondary announcer.

j. Lodging. The committee noted the quality of the hotels and the increased number of rooms that teams were allowed to reserve. The committee also thought the new online reservation system worked well and should be continued.
k. Video. The committee appreciates the agreement with Trackwrestling, and members believe the video review has improved each year. The committee also submitted an action item recommending that live video streaming be required at all super-regional sites (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b).

l. Web streaming. The committee was pleased with how Trackwrestling provided streaming for the 2016 championships. The committee recommended some enhancements for the finals matches, including using a hand-held camera and making sure announcers are not overly exuberant for certain teams.

m. Session format. While the current format is adequate, discussion continues on ways to provide more rest time and reduce the chances of wrestlers having to compete in consecutive matches.

2. **2016 championships financial summary.** The committee reviewed and was pleased with the budget-to-actuals at the finals site. The committee felt that the Sioux Falls Sports Authority did a good job of selling tickets. The committee was very pleased with the large amount of suites sold. The committee also reviewed the financial summaries from the super regionals and noted how expenses varied greatly from site to site. The committee will continue to monitor these issues and explore options to manage costs.

3. **Regional structure and qualification structure.** The committee reviewed the super-regional structure and map and recommended moving Drury University into the Central Super Region and Ouachita Baptist University into the West Super Region (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a).

4. **Future sites and bid specifications.** The 2017 championships will be held in Birmingham, Ala., as part of the Division II Winter Sports Festival. The super regionals will be at Mercyhurst (East) Indianapolis (Midwest), Minnesota State Moorhead (Central) and Colorado School of Mines (West). Staff also discussed the upcoming bid cycle and the timeline, which can be found at [www.ncaa.org/bids](http://www.ncaa.org/bids).

5. **Festival.** The committee discussed ideas to better accommodate wrestling at the festival, including establishing a designated warm-up area (potentially a tent). Staff will follow up on this and other suggestions.

6. **Pre-championships manual/host operations manual/participant manual.** Staff asked the committee to submit revisions for the manuals as necessary.

7. **Championship misconduct.** There were no misconducts at this year’s championship.
8. **Committee roster.** The committee reaffirmed Lauren Packer Webster as chair.

9. **Communication with member institutions.** The committee discussed the importance of updating institutions about the state of Division II wrestling. Staff noted the monthly newsletter as a valuable resource and encouraged committee members to spread the word about its availability.

10. **Annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the 2015 annual meeting.

11. **Legislative items.** The committee met with representatives from the academic and membership affairs staff to discuss whether there should be a minimum number of contests for the selection of individuals from teams that do not meet sport-sponsorship requirements for selection purposes. The committee agreed not to require a minimum at this time. The committee also reviewed legislation adopted at the 2016 NCAA Convention regarding unattached athletes.

12. **Other business.** The committee asked staff to explore whether drug testing at the finals site can be administered in a manner that does not negatively affect the awards presentation.

   The committee also discussed the option of choosing which finals match to close with on Saturday evening (a practice Division I has employed at its championship the last several years) but agreed to continue with the traditional order at this time.

   Finally, the committee discussed the potential of a combined championship with Division I and Division III. The Division II committee was very supportive of any joint venture that could enhance the exposure for Division II wrestling.

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*Wrestling Committee Chair: Lauren Packer Webster, Mercyhurst University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference*

*Staff Liaison: Ryan Tressel, NCAA Championships and Alliances*
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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Costanzo, St. Cloud State University; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Packer Webster, Mercyhurst University; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Jackie Paquette, University of Indianapolis; Great Lakes Valley Conference.</td>
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<td>David Pearson, California Baptist University; Pacific West Conference.</td>
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<td>Absentees:</td>
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<td>Guests in Attendance:</td>
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<td>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</td>
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<td>Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</td>
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<td>Chris Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<td>Chelsea Crawford, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<td>Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.</td>
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<td>Melissa Peining, Administrative Services.</td>
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<td>John Pfeffenberger, Administrative Services.</td>
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<td>Ali Teopas, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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