



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEE
JUNE 20-22, 2016, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2017 Division I Rowing Championship: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; and West Coast Conference.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. All of the conferences listed have submitted paperwork signifying that they meet the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division I Rowing Championship.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Championship selection criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve adjusting the definition of late-season performance from "taking place within the four weekends prior to the selection date" to "taking place within five weekends prior to the selection date."
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. The committee noted that there are so few race results currently within the four-week window that opening it up to five weekends prior will provide more race results and better assist in selections.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2015 annual meeting report.** The Division I Women's Rowing Committee approved the 2015 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **Review of 2016 championship.**
 - a. General overview. Overall, the committee was extremely pleased with the conduct, layout and execution of the event. The committee noted that the adjustments made based on feedback from last year enhanced the championship atmosphere. The committee wants to ensure that hosts set up the boat storage areas earlier, preferably before the walk-through.
 - b. Community ergs. The committee was pleased that the host was able to secure ample community ergs for the championships. The committee noted, however, that because many teams bring their own ergs, that 32 community ergs would be sufficient for future hosts to provide as many community ergs are needed as teams tend to bring their own. The committee recommended that 32 would be ideal.
 - c. Media information. The committee reiterated that the rowing championships should be better publicized and promoted on NCAA.com. The committee did note the increased interaction from fans and student-athletes prompted by the Twitter hashtag devoted to the event.
 - d. Competition schedule. The committee reviewed the championships schedule in advance of the joint divisional meetings and voted to recommend to all divisional committees to keep the 12-minute centers between every race. Additionally, the committee recommended keeping the same time gap between sessions one and two on Friday and also maintaining the traditional race order throughout the three days of competition.

- e. Contingency schedule action plan. The committee reaffirmed the following guidelines in priority order when considering schedule adjustments due to weather (i.e., high wind).
 - (1) Move all races up earlier in the day and keep race order and centers intact.
 - (2) Flip-flop the schedule and move the higher-priority races earlier in the day and keep centers intact.
 - (3) Compress centers of lower-priority races and maintain the existing centers for higher-priority races.
 - (4) Compress centers for all races.
- f. Warm-up area. The committee realized the warm-up area was short but felt the chief referee managed this with the teams without any issues.
- g. Credentialing. The committee continues to emphasize that people without proper credentials, particularly those with small children, should not be in the boat storage area due to safety concerns. Otherwise, the committee felt the bracelets worked well for the student-athletes and coaches.
- h. Banquet. The committee will continue to evaluate and research potential speakers for the 2017 banquet. The committee emphasized the importance of identifying speakers who are inspirational, relatable to the student-athletes and experienced in public speaking. The committee also noted that future hosts should ensure a more adequate supply of beverages and healthier table favors.
- i. Hotels. The committee noted one hotel-related issue that was resolved quickly. Members heard few, if any, issues regarding teams staying at non-full-service hotels being unable to coordinate team meals
- j. T's and racks. The committee noted that T's and racks are not needed in the boat storage area unless a school specifically requests them.
- k. Chief referee. The committee was very pleased with Sheila Tolle as the chief referee this past year. She did a great job of coordinating all the officials and working with all the institutions to create a smooth championship experience. The committee voted to recommend to the joint committee that Tiffany Knapp be appointed as chief referee in 2017 with an option for the following year if the committee approves. The committee likes the consistency of this approach and believes having a more experienced chief referee will be an asset when the championship moves to a new venue in 2018
- l. Fairness subcommittee. The committee noted that the objective of the fairness subcommittee is to monitor and evaluate current situations in order to make

recommendations to the full committee. However, the full committee is still responsible for deciding matters of fairness (i.e., lane changes, schedule changes, etc.).

- m. In-stadium production and announcers. The committee was extremely pleased with the number of television monitors, the large video wall and the large-screen video board provided for the student-athletes, coaches and fans. Members also commended the Pac-12's execution and plan for the awards presentation, noting that it was energetic, exciting and fun both for the fans and student-athletes.

The committee voted to recommend in the joint session that the same three in-stadium announcers be invited back in 2017 and be positioned according to their areas of expertise.

- n. Webcast. While the committee appreciated having video at the event, members noted for the second straight year the quality of the camera feed was lacking at times, especially in the first 1,000 meters. The committee recommends that the concerns be shared once again with WebStream to explore solutions prior to the 2017 championships. This is a high priority with the committee.
- o. Future improvements. The committee wants to explore ways to further promote the sport, from increasing the number of media interviews to educating fans on how the races are scored. The committee also will assign a committee member to each team for communication purposes and to help track practice times.

3. Regional advisory committees (RACs) and regional alignment. The committee reviewed the current RAC composition and noted vacancies that need to be filled for the 2016-17 academic year.

4. Regional advisory committee ranking procedures. The committee last year at the request of the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) began publishing the final RAC ranking since the CRCA uses that criterion in its year-end awards. The committee noted that it will continue this process moving forward.

5. Dates for rankings and automatic qualification deadline. The committee agreed to continue having national committee ranking calls on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. as schedules allow. The deadline to submit automatic qualifications for 2017 is Sunday, May 14, at midnight Eastern time.

- 6. Results and line-up reporting.** The committee reviewed the significance of lineup posting and noted that the same requirements will be in place for 2017. Teams that do not post their lineups on their institutional athletics pages by midnight Eastern time each Monday following the regatta will be subject to a \$200 fine for failure to adhere to championship policies and procedures.

Additionally, Row2k will continue to serve as the official results reporting site for competitions that are eligible for championship qualification consideration.

- 7. Selection policies and procedures.** In addition to the recommendation in Nonlegislative Item No. 2-b, the committee agreed to clarify the “results versus teams already selected” by inserting “(At-large)” at the end to ensure that the criterion does not apply to teams selected via automatic qualification. The committee reasoned that a team should not get credit for results against teams that may not have been selected but for automatic qualification.
- 8. Review of championship manuals.** The committee reviewed the pre-championship manual and made minor editorial adjustments. All updates will be made to the manual prior to it being posted by January 15, 2017.
- 9. Committee chair.** Scottie Rodgers was appointed chair of the committee. Due to a professional opportunity he has since taken a position at an institution that does not sponsor Rowing. Therefore, Ashley Armstrong will remain the chair of the committee.

Committee Chair: Ashley Armstrong, University of California, Los Angeles
Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Tressel, NCAA Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Committee June 20-22, 2016, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ashley Armstrong, University of California, Los Angeles; Pac-12 Conference.	
Jimmy King, West Virginia University; Big 12 Conference.	
Glenn Putyrae, Gonzaga University; West Coast Conference.	
Scottie Rodgers, The Ivy League.	
Chris Hoppe, Eastern Michigan University; Mid-American Conference.	
Jeff Smith, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Atlantic 10 Conference.	
Andy Teitelbaum, The Ohio State University; Big Ten Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	

Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.