ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Implementation of automatic qualifiers.

      (1) Recommendation. That automatic qualifiers be implemented for the 2018 championship using a play-in format. The committee will select 10 teams during its normal selection time, six of which will be automatic qualifiers and the remaining four at large. [Note: Six conferences currently sponsor women’s bowling.] The bottom four teams, based on the committee’s ranking, will participate in a play-in for two spots in the eight-team bracket at the finals site. Regardless of the ranking of the bottom four teams, the play-in matches will be based strictly on geographic location (i.e., the two institutions closest to each other will compete against one another). The two teams that win the play-in matches will advance to the championship finals with the other six teams.

      (2) Effective date. 2018 championship.

      (3) Rationale. The number of institutions sponsoring women’s bowling has increased over recent years. In 2003-04, 42 institutions sponsored women’s bowling and by 2015-16, that number increased to 71. Further, approximately four to six institutions have indicated that they will sponsor the sport for the 2016-17 year. The committee believes that implementing automatic qualification for the women’s bowling championship will encourage and support the growth of the sport. Automatic qualification will give more student-athletes, teams and institutions access to the championship and the opportunity to compete for a national title.

      (4) Estimated budget impact. None on institutions, but there will be an impact on the NCAA with the addition of two play-in games at locations outside of the championship site. After reviewing historical information and budgets, it is estimated that the proposed play-in round would cost at maximum $30,000 total (approximately $15,000 per site).
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** This will enhance the student-athlete experience by allowing more institutions, student-athletes and coaches to have access to the women’s bowling championship.

**b. Change in championship format.**

(1) **Recommendation.** Alter the format of the championship by removing the qualifying rounds from competition and implementing a new format for bracket play requiring that all teams compete in a best-of-three match using the three permitted team formats (five-person team matches, baker total pinfall, baker match play). The only exception to this format at the championship will be the championship final, which will remain a best-of-seven, baker match play format.

(2) **Effective date.** 2018 championship.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee wants to remove the qualifying rounds from the championship format for several reasons. First, this portion of the format is currently responsible for a day and a half of competition at the finals site before the bracket play begins, and teams are reseeded based on their performance in the qualifying rounds. The committee strongly believes that teams should be placed into the bracket based on their regular-season performance and their seeding during selection, and not due to their performance in just over a day at the championship. The committee also wants to implement all three formats that are used during the regular season into the championship, which helps the championship align with the competitions and tournaments throughout the year. Tiebreakers would be determined per current playing rules. Removing the qualifying rounds spreads the schedule and bracket play over the three days at the championship site. Two teams will be sent home the first day of competition (Thursday) and up to four teams the second day (Friday), depending on whether there are if-necessary matches. The only match on the final day of competition (Saturday), pending the if-necessaries, is the championship final in the evening. The current championship format is scheduled in a way that Saturday, the day of the final match, is the longest day of competition for the student-athletes. The committee feels strongly that this schedule should be spread out, and that the day of the final should be the least demanding for the student-athletes.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** This change would save the NCAA money on hotels and per diem due to teams being eliminated earlier in the championship. After reviewing historical information, budgets and the new per diem costs, it is anticipated that this change in format would save the NCAA between $8,000 and $12,000, dependent on whether if-necessary games are played.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The proposed format would enhance the student-athlete experience by allowing all of their hard work during the regular season to directly
impact their seeding in the bracket. This proposal also includes all three formats that are used during the regular season, which allows student-athletes to experience competition at the championship that they have competed in all season. Lastly, this proposal alleviates the pressure and strain on the student-athletes during the final day of competition.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review national and regional advisory committee rosters.** The committee reviewed rosters and noted upcoming vacancies that need to be filled.

2. **Review recent reports.** The committee approved the 2015 annual meeting report and the February 3 and March 16 teleconference reports as written.

3. **Divisional championships committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Competition Oversight Committee took in 2015-16 relevant to the work of the women’s bowling committee and took no action.

4. **Review sport sponsorship and conference alignments.** The committee reviewed the 2015-16 sport sponsorship list and was pleased to note the addition of several institutions that sponsor women’s bowling. The committee continued to discuss bracket expansion for the future based on the continued growth of the sport. The committee also discussed conference and regional alignments. The committee recognized that the automatic qualifier proposal, if implemented, will add to the importance of conference and regional alignment in this sport.

5. **Regular season forms and processes.** The committee reviewed the online score reporting system and continued to express interest in exploring other options that would allow for electronically submitted score sheets to populate automatically into the online score reporting system. The committee discussed implementing the scoring spreadsheet and system that many teams already use but was concerned whether this would be the most efficient and effective manner of score reporting for the entire membership. Until a more permanent resolution is identified, the committee will continue to emphasize the importance of score reporting in a timely fashion and will issue warning letters, followed by fines, if repeat offenses occur. The committee reviewed all of the forms that are used during the regular season and noted several updates and changes that must be made. The committee also agreed to create an event management/host handbook for the upcoming season.

6. **Selections.** The committee reviewed selection criteria and discussed making the baker criteria the primary criteria, because that is the format used for bracket play at the championship. However, members ultimately decided to leave the overall criteria as the primary criteria because it encompasses the baker. The committee also discussed removing the regular team criteria from the secondary criteria. However, the committee decided to leave the criteria as is, for it did not want to take away the tools and information currently in place for selecting teams.
The committee continued discussing how to encourage teams to submit images and video for the selection show. Members also suggested possibly having a live feed showing teams’ reactions during the selection show.

7. **Review 2016 championship.** The committee reviewed championship evaluations from student-athletes, coaches and officials. Although there was some data provided in the survey results, the committee stressed the importance of student-athletes’ and coaches’ participation in the championship surveys and that it will do a better job reminding the coaches at the championship to provide their feedback. The committee noted that the host was fantastic and did a great job of meeting the needs of the championship both leading up to and during the event. The committee was satisfied with the performance, layout and overall look of the facility. The committee agreed that the banquet has grown to be too long and that student-athlete reflections and performances must be limited in the future. The committee also decided to once again permit audio and visual for the student-athlete reflections. The committee recognized the need to solicit a strong announcer for both the banquet and competition for the week. The committee discussed ways to promote media involvement during the week, as well as other ways to promote and market the championship. Members noted that the process for reporting scores and tracking results went smoothly at the championship and continues to improve each year. Lastly, the committee reviewed and was satisfied with the web stream and ESPN ratings for the championship. The committee discussed the change in game and commercial breaks that occurred this year and agreed that the new format, which creates a long break after each game, is better for the championship final and student-athlete experience. The committee suggested adding more in-venue enhancements to make this break not seem so long for the spectators.

8. **Championship officials.** The committee was fully satisfied with the officials assigned to the championship. The committee discussed the need to increase the number of qualified officials for the championship and other regular-season events, and plans to do that by creating educational resources and opportunities for officials.

9. **Championship format.** The committee discussed the concept of automatic qualifiers for the women’s bowling championship and agreed to propose a play-in system (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a). The committee addressed concerns over the fact that a quick turnaround would be needed to find a host site if the automatic qualifier proposal is approved, and that bowling proprietors likely would be booked at that point. The committee decided to identify locations in each region that would be able to host, while also allowing for institutions to submit bids to host the play-ins. The committee also proposed changing the championship format by eliminating the qualifying rounds and requiring teams to compete in best-of-three matches using all three permissible match formats. The only format that would differ is the championship final, which the committee is proposing to remain a best-of-seven baker match (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b). The committee also recognized the desire to expand the championship bracket based on the overall growth in sport sponsorship.
10. **Upcoming bid cycle, future championships and growth of the sport.** The committee discussed the upcoming bid cycle and the timeline for reviewing and awarding the bids. The committee expressed its confidence in and excitement for the upcoming 2017 championship due to the partnership with the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). There was follow-up discussion stemming from last year regarding the 2018 championship and the changes that the committee requested from Tropicana Lanes. NCAA staff will follow up with Tropicana and the St. Louis Sports Commission to provide an update on the facility. The committee discussed ideas to continue promoting and growing the sport.

11. **Playing rules.** The committee reviewed playing rule surveys from head coaches, conference commissioners, SWAs and event managers regarding potential rules changes. The committee also reviewed rules proposals from the coaches association and membership. The committee proposed several changes related to oil patterns, matches per day, competition format, and penalties and officiating, among other things. The committee also proposed implementing the experimental rule as a permanent rule in the book. A more detailed playing rules report and the list of proposals will be available through the NCAA’s playing rules webpage.

12. **ArbiterSports Central Hub.** NCAA staff informed the committee that 10 officials registered through the ArbiterSports Central Hub for the 2015-16 year. The committee is extremely interested in continuing to grow the pool of qualified officials for regular-season and postseason competition. The committee has agreed to add national coordinator duties to the secretary-rules editor’s job description to help educate officials and provide materials and resources for officials in the women’s bowling community via the ArbiterSports Central Hub.

13. **Championship manuals.** Committee members reviewed the pre-championship manual, host operations manual, participant manual and committee operations annual and will submit revisions as necessary.

14. **Appointment of committee chair.** Ms. Karen Grygiel, committee chair for 2015-16, was re-appointed as the chair for the 2016-17 year. A waiver to allow Ms. Grygiel, a current head coach, to serve as chair was requested and approved for the 2015-16 year and the committee would like to continue to have her serve as the chair.

15. **2017 annual meeting.** The committee will meet Thursday-Friday, June 15-16, in Indianapolis.

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**Committee Chair:** Karen Grygiel, Monmouth University, Southland Bowling League  
**Staff Liaison(s):** Emily Parkins, Championships and Alliances

| Women’s Bowling Committee  
| June 13-15, 2016, Annual Meeting |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendees:** |  
Stephanie Dragan, Franklin Pierce University; East Coast Conference. |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University and Conference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Fine</td>
<td>Secretary-Rules Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Grygiel</td>
<td>Monmouth University; Southland Bowling League.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brad Hagen</td>
<td>Sam Houston State University; Southland Bowling League.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony O’Neal</td>
<td>Bethune-Cookman University; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>James Washington</td>
<td>Virginia Union University; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.</td>
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<td>Glenn White</td>
<td>Prairie View A&amp;M University; Southwestern Athletic Conference.</td>
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**Absentees:**

None.

**Guests in Attendance:**

Rick Barbera, active official.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**

Emily Parkins, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**

Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.

Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances.

Jay Fitzwater, Championships and Alliances.

Greg Johnson, Communications.