REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN’S AND WOMEN’S FENCING COMMITTEE
JUNE 12-14, 2016, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. The committee recommends regional hosts for approval (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a).

2. The committee has proposed an update to the power rating scale used to calculate a Fencer’s Strength Factor (FSF) (see Nonlegislative item 2-b).

3. The committee selected a new committee chair the 2016-17 academic year (see Informational Item 9).

4. The committee is seeking feedback from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) on an experimental rule that is being implemented by USA Fencing through December (see Informational Item 4). (NOTE: PROP voted, and passed, this item during its June 20 teleconference).

5. A new venue will be used for the 2017 championships due to the originally proposed venue not being complete prior to March (see Informational Item 8).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Site selection – regional competition.

      (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the following sites for hosting regional competition in 2017:

      (a) Midwest – Wayne State University; Detroit, Michigan.

      (b) Mid-Atlantic/South region – Lafayette College; Easton, Pennsylvania.

      (c) Northeast region – Yale University; New Haven, Connecticut.

      (d) West region – Stanford University; Stanford, California.

      (2) Effective date. 2017 championships.
(3) **Rationale.** Each region works with its respective regional advisory committee to determine a rotation for hosting among the institutions within the region. The above institutions have confirmed that they will host a regional for the upcoming championships.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** There will be no additional budgetary impact. [Note: Each regional host will receive a $7,000 stipend. In total, regional competition will have a planned budget impact of $28,000. Currently, the NCAA does not reimburse travel or per diem expenses for participants.]

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

b. **Power Rating scale.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve adjustments to the power rating scale as indicated in the attached document.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee believes that clarifying the language, as well as adding an additional value of 70, will better represent and more evenly distribute student-athletes across the scale based on their skill level, specifically at the lower end of the scale. Better representation of the fencers in this way will correlate to more accurate Fencer’s Strength Factor (FSF) for each student-athlete, and his/her opponents, which will make for a more accurate selection process.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2015 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual meeting report from the previous year, noting that the increased winning percentage to qualify for regional competition (25 percent) will go in to effect starting with the 2017 championships.

2. **Manuals review.** The committee reviewed the various manuals and asked staff to make appropriate updates.

3. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship and took no action. Members will continue to monitor as information for the upcoming year becomes available.
4. **Rules.** Emily Parkins from the NCAA rules and officiating staff joined the meeting to discuss updates to the USA Fencing rules. USA Fencing changed two rules for the upcoming year, both of which the committee agreed were in the best interests of NCAA fencing and thus require no modification.

USA Fencing will implement an experimental rule starting after the Olympics and running through December. The USA Fencing Board of Directors will vote on full implementation before the end of the year. If the rule change is accepted, it will be fully implemented effective January 2017. The committee wants to also implement this experimental rule through December in order to remain consistent with USA Fencing rules. Staff will seek membership input and allow the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel to review.

5. **Regionals.** The committee reviewed the regional competition from this year and agreed that they ran smoothly. The committee also discussed regional formats, confirming that regionals do have flexibility based on the number of institutions in each region to determine the number of rounds of competition that are used to determine regional placement. The committee also established hosts for the 2017 championship (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a for more detail).

6. **Championships review.** The committee was pleased with the overall administration of the championships, and commended Brandeis University for a job well done. The committee specifically reviewed the following items:

   a. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the schedule, and agreed that in order to make days consistent, the schedule for next year will have all days start at the same time. Moving forward, all days of competition will begin at 9 a.m. Other portions of the schedules for the week will remain the same.

   b. **Institutional identification.** The committee noted that this was the first year for fully implementing the policy of not allowing country affiliation on uniforms. There were no issues with compliance at the championships.

   c. **ESPN.** The committee agreed that the coverage from ESPN provided welcome exposure for the championships and the sport, and the highlight show was very well done. The committee asked staff to continue working with ESPN on future enhancements, including how to make the footage more readily available for the fencing community and potential new audiences.

   d. **Officials.** The committee reviewed feedback from the head referee and from coaches on the group of referees that were at the championships. Overall, the committee agreed that the group of referees did a good job. The committee will continue to encourage coaches to provide feedback, as the response rate has been low in the past.
The committee also discussed the need to name a new head referee and assistant head referee to replace Sharon Everson and Jerry Benson, respectively. The committee asked staff to follow up with Ms. Everson and Mr. Benson to acquire recommendations for these positions. The committee also identified potential qualified individuals for both positions.

e. **Participant feedback/survey results.** The committee reviewed survey feedback and noted the low response rate. Even though the response rate was low, the committee was able to identify areas that can be improved, including increased engagement with the host community.

7. **Qualification procedures.**

a. **Selection formula/criteria.** The committee reviewed the current selection formula and asked staff to make the minor language clarifications.

b. **Power rating scale.** The committee reviewed the power rating scale and voted to update the scale language to better represent the skill level of first-year and novice fencers. (See Nonlegislative Item 2-b).

8. **2017 championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming championships in Indianapolis and noted that a change in venue was necessary due to the original host facility not being completed prior to the championships. The co-hosts, the University of Notre Dame and Indiana Sports Corporation, worked to secure a secondary facility at the Indiana State Fairgrounds – The Farmers Insurance Coliseum. The committee was able to tour the facility while in Indianapolis for its meeting, and members were satisfied with the venue that will now be used.

9. **Committee administration.** The committee noted vacancies and asked staff to keep them updated on when replacements are identified. The committee also unanimously selected Maureen McNamara as the new chair of the committee (see Nonlegislative Item 2-c).

10. **Future championships.** Committee members discussed the upcoming bid cycle and agreed to notify coaches in their region about the opportunity to host the championships in the future.

11. **Future annual meeting.** The committee will meet June 18-20, 2017.

*Committee Chair: Gerald J. Harrison, Duke University, Atlantic Coast Conference*  
*Staff Liaison: Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances*
### Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla Corbit</td>
<td>California Institute of Technology; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Gillman</td>
<td>Vassar College; Liberty League.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Harrison</td>
<td>Duke University; Atlantic Coast Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Lichten</td>
<td>Northwestern University; Big Ten Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen McNamara</td>
<td>University of Notre Dame; Atlantic Coast Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Posthumus</td>
<td>Stanford University; Pac-12 Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Shipman</td>
<td>Brandeis University; University Athletic Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Spencer</td>
<td>Haverford College; Centennial Conference.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Absentees:

None.

### Guests in Attendance:

None.

### NCAA Liaison in Attendance:

Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.

### Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Carla Laster, Championships and Alliances.

Emily Parkins, Championships and Alliances.