



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1, 2017 MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Regional rankings – number of teams ranked.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Women's Volleyball Committee rank 15-21 percent of the number of teams per sport region, with a maximum of 10 teams per region.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. The current option to rank 15-21 percent of the number of teams per sport region does not allow a sport committee to identify a minimum or maximum number of teams to rank. A primary purpose of regional rankings is to help sport committees identify teams that merit consideration for selection. The committee believes ranking 15-21 percent of the number of teams per region, with a maximum of 10, will more effectively identify the teams truly under discussion during selections and also make the best use of the regional advisory committee and Women's Volleyball Committee members' time each week throughout the season.

For women's volleyball, ranking 15-21 percent results in five regions ranking eight teams, two regions ranking 11 teams and one region ranking 12 teams. Ultimately, no team ranked lower than 6th in the three larger regions was selected for an at-large berth in 2014, 2015 or 2016. Therefore, the additional time spent each week for those respective regional advisory committees (and also the Women's Volleyball Committee, in reviewing the regional rankings) to rank the 11th and 12th teams was not helpful to the selection process. In addition, the teams ranked 11th and 12th in these regions were not as strong as the lower-ranked teams (e.g., the 7th and 8th ranked teams) in the other regions, which resulted in teams in the larger regions benefitting from higher percentages in the results versus ranked opponents column because they have an opportunity to play both more and weaker ranked opponents. Limiting the number of ranked teams per region to 10 would help to minimize this issue.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Seeding for finals.

- (1) Recommendation. That the final eight teams be seeded after the conclusion of regional competition to better balance bracket play at the finals site.
- (2) Effective date. 2017 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The committee believes that seeding the final eight teams after the conclusion of regional competition will help to avoid stronger teams meeting in early round matches at the finals site. The committee will use the selection criteria in the NCAA online score reporting system with results updated through regional competition to compare and rank teams, and then pair teams according to traditional bracketing principles (#1 vs. #8, #2 vs. #7, etc.). (Seeds will not be published.)
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Appointment of committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Matthew Schoultz, head women's volleyball coach at Lawrence University, serve as chair of the committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Schoultz will replace Ellen Dempsey, whose term on the committee ends in August. Mr. Schoultz has served on the committee for one year and will be an excellent leader and spokesperson for the committee.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. Squad size.

- (1) Recommendation. That the squad size be increased from 17 to 19 if the size of the travel party is approved to increase from 23 to 25 in 2017-18.
- (2) Effective date. 2017 championship.
- (3) Rationale. With enrollment a key issue at many Division III institutions, coaches are

being asked to increase the number of student-athletes they carry on their teams. A significant number of teams participating in the championship exceeded the current squad size of 17. Throughout the season, these student-athletes have the opportunity to be in uniform with their teammates and feel that they are a part of the group, but in postseason, they are relegated to a different, lesser status that diminishes their championship experience. With an increased squad size, the head coach would have the flexibility of including up to two additional student-athletes in uniform for postseason contests within the existing travel party size and bench size. This would not change the permissible number of substitutions during a match.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. The committee is proposing increasing the squad size to 19, but continuing to provide 17 participant medallions to each team that does not advance to the finals site. The coaching body has encouraged the committee to think outside the box to identify ways to enhance the experience for all student-athletes without a budget impact. All teams would continue to have the opportunity to purchase additional awards after the championship. [Note: The cost to provide two additional participant medallions to each non-advancing team would be \$1,232 (56 x 2 x \$11)].
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The additional student-athletes permitted to dress in uniform would feel that they are valued members of the team during the championship, as they have been throughout the season.

e. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Athletic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference;

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Anticipated pool allocations

Pool A - 43

Pool B - 1

Pool C - 20

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** The committee chair welcomed the committee members.
- 2. Meeting schedule and agenda.** The committee chair reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
- 3. 2016 annual committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2016 annual committee meeting report as submitted.
- 4. 2016-17 NCAA Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the NCAA Division III Championships Committee took in 2016-17 relevant to the work of the women's volleyball committee. The committee noted that effective 2017-18, non-conference strength of schedule will be added to the secondary criteria, and results versus ranked opponents will include teams ranked in both the final ranking and the preceding ranking. The committee also reviewed the budget priorities that the Championships Committee will review for the 2017-19 budget process.
- 5. 2016 American Volleyball Coaches Association report.** The committee reviewed the report that staff presented to the Division III coaches during the American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention in December 2016.
- 6. Division III governance update.** NCAA governance staff provided updates on several topics, including: (1) the Division III budget planning process; (2) the playing and practice seasons

review; (3) championship webcasting enhancements; (4) the sportsmanship and game environment working group; (5) diversity and inclusion initiatives; (6) the Sport Science Institute; (7) free registration of Division III prospective student-athletes with the NCAA Eligibility Center; and (8) the Division III identity initiative, including plans for Division III week April 3-9.

7. **Division III academic and membership affairs update.** NCAA academic and membership affairs staff provided an update regarding legislative proposals discussed at the 2017 NCAA Convention.
8. **Review of 2016 championship.** The committee reviewed participant survey results from the eight regional sites and the finals site. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is an experienced championship host and did an outstanding job of hosting the finals. Numerous facility enhancements were completed just before the championship, including the installation of a large new video board above the volleyball/basketball court, which greatly enhanced the championship atmosphere. The video company that has produced the championship highlight video for the student-athlete banquet for the Division III Baseball Championship for many years produced the Women's Volleyball Championship highlight video and did an excellent job. Special Olympic athletes helped to present awards to the teams.

The committee reviewed the responsibilities of site representatives and assistant site representatives at regional sites and forwarded a budget request to the Championships Committee to provide assistant site representatives reimbursement for their lodging or mileage expenses, whichever are less.

9. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the process and timeline to select officials for the championship. Anne Pufahl, the NCAA women's volleyball secretary-rules editor and also the interim national coordinator of the NCAA women's volleyball officiating program, worked with the regional advisors of the officiating program and Division III conference assignors to identify top officials to recommend to the Women's Volleyball Committee. The national coordinator's assistance was invaluable, particularly with two regional sites in the New York region, which required the national coordinator to contact assignors of all three divisions to request that they release the additional officials needed in the region from existing contracts so that they could work the Division III championship. The level of officiating at regionals and at the championship was very good. The committee emphasized the importance of confirming the referees for the finals in February in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. The committee also supported continuing to identify referees for regionals early and asking the officials to hold the dates.

The committee forwarded budget recommendations to the Championships Committee for a stipend for the incoming national coordinator of officials to coordinate the evaluation, identification and confirmation of officials specifically for the Division III championship, and also for a stipend for the head of officials at the championship site. In addition, the committee

is aware that the Championships Committee is reviewing a potential increase to fees for officials. The committee supports an increase as officials fees for women's volleyball have not been increased in several years.

10. Ranking and selection process. The committee discussed the number of teams ranked in each region and recommended ranking 15-21 percent of the number of teams per sport region, with a maximum of 10 teams per region, effective September 1, 2017 (Action Item No. 2-a). (Note: The committee believes ranking eight teams per region, regardless of sport sponsorship, would be the most effective and efficient ranking protocol for women's volleyball, but the committee is forwarding the included recommendation to be more consistent with the currently approved 15-21 percent ranking protocol.) The committee also recommended that the final eight teams be seeded after the conclusion of regional competition to better balance bracket play at the finals site (Action Item No. 2-b). The committee recommended conducting the regional advisory committee orientation webinar in multiple sessions, given the large number of participants. The committee further suggested creating a pronunciation guide for Division III conferences, institutions and mascots for the online selection show announcers.

11. National committee and regional advisory committee rosters. The committee reviewed the committee rosters and noted vacancies for 2017-18.

12. Committee chair and vice chair. The committee elected Matthew Schoultz, head women's volleyball coach at Lawrence University, as the chair of the committee (Action Item No. 2-c). The committee also elected Moira Long, head women's volleyball coach at Springfield College, as the vice chair.

13. Plan for 2017 championship.

a. Championship date formula. The committee discussed the concept of adding a day off between the semifinals and the championship match. The committee noted that the Championships Committee had approved a request from the Women's Volleyball Committee a few years earlier to change the championship date formula for the finals from a Friday-Sunday format to a Thursday-Saturday format to avoid schedule adjustments when teams with a policy prohibiting Sunday competition advanced to the finals. The committee did not feel that conducting the championship match Monday would maximize the championship experience for the student-athletes or fans, so they did not consider a Friday-Saturday-Monday format. The committee expressed concern that a Thursday-Friday-Sunday format would re-introduce the Sunday competition issue, and a Wednesday-Thursday-Saturday format would result in teams that travel Monday for the Tuesday practice day missing an entire week of class. Due to these concerns, the committee did not recommend a change to the championship date formula to add a day off between the semifinals and the championship match.

The committee also discussed whether the Friday-Sunday format for regionals should be changed to a Thursday-Saturday format to mirror the Thursday-Saturday format for the

finals site. Currently a regional site is conducted in a Thursday-Saturday format only if a team with a no-Sunday competition policy is assigned to the site. Some coaches have expressed concern that the team advancing from the Thursday-Saturday site has one additional day of rest before the quarterfinals at the finals site. Also, that coach has an opportunity to watch the webcasts of the other regional sites to scout advancing teams. The committee determined that the benefits of the Friday-Sunday format, including the additional day of preparation for regional hosts and minimizing missed class time for teams competing in that format, outweigh any competitive advantage of one advancing team completing regional play on Saturday. The committee also expressed concern that fewer institutions would bid to host regionals in the Thursday-Saturday format. As a result, the committee did not recommend a change to the championship date formula for regionals.

- b. Krossover film exchange. The committee noted that 2016-17 was the first year of the NCAA's three-year agreement with Krossover for film exchange. Overall, the committee felt that the process worked well. The committee requested that Krossover schedule additional help desk staff during the time period when coaches upload film to assist if there are any issues. In 2017, regional hosts will be required to upload each regional match (seven matches total, instead of just the regional championship match) within three hours of the conclusion of each match. The videos provided by Krossover will include raw footage without any film breakdown.
- c. Presentation of awards at regional sites. The committee reviewed the awards protocol followed at the 2016 regionals (i.e., placing participant medallions in the nonadvancing team's locker room instead of presenting them to student-athletes after the matches) and also reviewed the feedback regarding awards on the participant evaluations. The committee determined that at the 2017 regional sites, the site representatives will return to presenting the medallions to the student-athletes in an awards ceremony immediately after each match.
- d. Challenge review system. The committee will monitor the use of the challenge review system and discuss at the annual committee meeting next year whether to forward a budget request to add video cameras and a video replay technician to use the challenge review system at the finals site for future championships.

14. Sport sponsorship and pool allocations. The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship for 2016-17 and the 2016 pool document.

15. Automatic qualification. The committee reviewed the automatic qualification applications for 2017-18 and recommended that 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 championship (Action Item No. 2-e).

16. NCAA volleyball rules survey. The committee reviewed results for the 2016 NCAA women's volleyball rules survey and data relating to the challenge review system.

17. Site selection. The committee reviewed bids to host the finals for the 2018-19 through 2021-22 women's volleyball championships and forwarded site recommendations to the Championships Committee for approval.

18. Manuals. The committee reviewed the following manuals and made revisions as appropriate: committee operations manual, pre-championship manual, host operations manual, site representative manual, participant manual for the finals and template for the participant manual for regionals.

19. Annual committee meeting. The committee identified Sunday, January 21-Tuesday, January 23 as the dates for the 2018 annual committee meeting. These dates will allow committee members who are in Indianapolis for the 2018 NCAA Convention to remain in Indianapolis and not have to make an additional trip.

Committee Chair: Ellen Dempsey, Hiram College, North Coast Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison: Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances

Division III Women's Volleyball Committee January 30-February 1, 2017, Meeting
Attendees:
Ellen Dempsey, Hiram College; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Ed Garza, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Becky Hall, Oglethorpe University; Southern Athletic Association.
Moira Long, Springfield College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
Don Perkins, Kean University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Matt Schoultz, Lawrence University; Midwest Conference.
Marie Stroman, Middle Atlantic Conferences.
Beth Wilmeth, University of Northwestern-St. Paul; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Anne Pufahl*, NCAA Women's Volleyball Secretary-Rules Editor (via teleconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Jay Jones, Division III Governance.