



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 12-14, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Approval of 2016 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the 2016 annual meeting.
- 2. NCAA Division II Championships Committee update.** The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year. Because of questions this year regarding the status of Puerto Rico schools, the committee asked NCAA staff to communicate to the membership how Puerto Rico institutions are currently counted in championship selection criteria and the score reporting system. Men's and women's basketball conducted a hotel pilot program this year and had Anthony Travel secure hotel arrangements at regional sites. The committee did not receive enough positive feedback from host institutions and does not recommend continuing with this program in the future. Challenges of the program included pre-existing relationships, the timing of site selections and potential increased costs. The committee discussed the work of the regionalization working group that has been established to review Division II regionalization related to conference matchups during preliminary-round competition. The women's basketball committee does not recommend making a change to the current policy in order keep the integrity of the bracket.
- 3. Women's Basketball Coaches Association recap.** NCAA staff and members of the committee will work with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association to conduct a mock selection webinar this summer. The goal is to continue to educate coaches and provide transparency to the selection process. Coaches were reminded that the selection criteria data is included with each public ranking and selections. The championships liaison to the Championships Committee provided a regionalization working group update to the coaches and asked them to provide feedback to the NCAA staff.
- 4. Regional and national ranking calls.** The number, timing and process for ranking teleconferences are all appropriate. Secondary regions will be assigned to committee members

next year to encourage additional communication throughout the rankings and selection process.

5. **Review of 2017 championship.**

- a. **Selections.** The committee received several requests for the selection show link and asked NCAA staff to consider a broader distribution. Members believe the committee chair interview continues to enhance the selection show.
- b. **Review of regionals.** The number of student-athlete responses to the survey increased in comparison to past years. Hotel issues were the most common complaints from participating teams. The committee brainstormed ways to enhance the student-athlete experience at regionals. Ideas include additional team specific signage and providing team photos. NCAA staff will add guidelines for administrating press conferences in instances when limited media are available. The committee suggested that media coordinators should not have other duties or responsibilities assigned to them during the championship.
- c. **Review of Women's Elite Eight.** The committee liked the process, criteria and result of seeding teams for the Women's Elite Eight. Seeding teams at the final site provides an opportunity for the best teams to advance to the championship game rather than possibly meeting in the quarterfinals or semifinals. Ohio Dominican University and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission invested many resources to provide participating teams a quality championship experience. The committee asked NCAA staff to consider ordering a national runner-up trophy to present during the awards ceremony. Committee members appreciated the interactive component resulting from the banquet being held at a local science museum. For the first time this year seniors were recognized at the banquet and presented with a Wilson autograph basketball. The community engagement schedule will be included in the participant manual next year. NCAA staff will work with the CBS Sports Network producer to shorten the media timeouts.

6. **Officials.**

- a. **Evaluators.** The process for assigning evaluators will change next year if the budget is approved this summer. Conferences commissioners will continue to identify the evaluator representing their respective region, but instead of this person evaluating at their region's site, they will travel to a different region.
- b. **Advancement.** Site representatives should notify officials whether they advance to the next round. This is no longer the evaluator's responsibility. NCAA staff will develop communication protocol to be included in the site representative manual.

7. 2018 championship.

a. Selection criteria. The committee completed an initial review of the current selection criteria and discussed potentially replacing the in-region strength of schedule and the late-season performance criteria. Division II results versus teams with .500 records or better and the regional Rating Percentage Index are two criteria the committee is considering adding to enhance the current selection process. The committee is seeking feedback from regional advisory committees before moving forward.

b. Format/game times. See item 11-a below.

8. Legislation update. A representative from the Division II academic and membership affairs staff joined the meeting to review recently adopted legislation impacting women's basketball.

9. Governance update. The committee met with members of the Division II governance staff to discuss items related to Division II, including the upcoming membership census, the Coaches Connection programming and the regular-season television contracts.

10. Statistics review. A member from the media coordination and statistics staff joined the meeting to provide an overview of the RPI, as the committee is considering adding it as a selection criterion.

11. 2018 women's and men's combined championship discussion. The men's and women's basketball committees met jointly to discuss several aspects of the 2018 combined championships at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

a. Schedule of events. The committees brainstormed several game and practice schedule options and agreed to continue with the current date formula for semifinals and finals. The women's committee is proposing a change to quarterfinal competition to schedule the women's quarterfinals Monday and the men's quarterfinals Tuesday. The women's semifinals would be played Wednesday with the national championship Friday. The men's semifinals would be played Thursday with the national championship Saturday.

b. Banquet. A combined banquet is planned at a ballroom for Sunday night.

c. Practice. NCAA staff will develop a practice schedule for both committees to approve.

d. Locker rooms. Locker room assignments will not change because the men and women will not play on the same day.

e. Game times. Quarterfinal game times will not change. NCAA staff will work with CBS to finalize semifinal and final game times, but major changes are not expected.

- f. **Hotels.** NCAA staff will work with Anthony Travel to assign hotels and create contract addenda to allow the women's teams to arrive one day earlier.
- 12. **Automatic qualification forms.** The committee reviewed and approved automatic qualifiers for the 2017-18 academic year.
- 13. **Manuals.** The committee asked staff to make changes to the host operations, pre-championship, participant and site representative manuals as necessary.
- 14. **Other business.** None.
- 15. **Adjournment.**

Committee Chair: Eliane Kebbe, South Atlantic Conference.
Staff Liaison: Kelsey Cermak, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee April 12-14, 2017, Meeting
Attendees:
Darlene Bailey, William Jewell College; Great Lakes Valley Conference.
Melanie Ford, Shepherd University; Mountain East Conference.
Eliane Kebbe, South Atlantic Conference.
Jason Martens, St. Mary's University (Texas); Heartland Conference.
Sandra Michael, Holy Family University; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
James Rice, Benedict University; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Karen Stromme, University of Minnesota Duluth; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
Absentees:
Krista Montague, Montana State University Billings; Great Northwest Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Kelsey Cermak, Championships and Alliances.
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.
Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.
Jeff Williams, Media Coordination and Statistics.
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs.