ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Noncontroversial Legislation** – NCAA Bylaw 17.25.2.3 – Playing and Practice Seasons – Women’s Volleyball – First Date of Competition – Championship Segment – Exception – Division II National Championships Fall Festival.

  a. **Recommendation.** That noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 17.25.2.3 (first date of competition – championship segment – women) be adopted to specify that in years in which the Division II National Championships Festival occurs in the fall, a member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition in women’s volleyball before the Thursday preceding August 30.

  b. **Effective date.** Immediate.

  c. **Rationale.** Under current legislation, women’s volleyball loses a week of its competitive season during years in which the festival occurs in the fall due to the timing of the festival. The loss of a week results in less time for student-athletes to recover between matches. In addition, it increases missed class time due to the need to schedule more midweek games because of the condensed regular season. The shortened season also results in a competitive disadvantage for schools located in remote geographic areas as the opportunity to play midweek games is limited for those institutions due to travel considerations. The compacted season also reduces the opportunity for nonconference, in-region play, which is essential to the ranking and selection of teams for the postseason. This exception will provide student-athletes with the opportunity to participate in Division II’s marquee championship event without having to experience the negative impact of a shortened season.

  d. **Estimated budget impact.** Will vary.

  e. **Student-athlete impact.** Student-athletes will have more time to recover between matches and will miss fewer classes due to the scheduling of midweek games.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Require video streaming at regionals.**

  a. **Recommendation.** That live video streaming be required at the regional sites.
b. **Effective date.** 2017 championship.

c. **Rationale.** The committee believes this recommendation mitigates the potential competitive advantage regional sites may gain by not streaming live. The committee seeks to negate any perceived incentive not to live stream, since live streaming at the regional sites is a key element in marketing and promoting the sport. The committee also believes the recommendation helps ensure a consistent experience for participants at all regionals. Because most host institutions already live stream their matches, the committee believes they are well-prepared to meet the live-streaming requirements, which will include graphics or a picture-in-picture display of the score.

d. **Estimated budget impact.** Minimal cost, if any, as most regional hosts already provide live streaming. Most hosts, if not all, also would already have the technical capability, since live streaming has become a standard practice.

e. **Student-athlete impact.** The recommendation standardizes live streaming among the eight regional sites, thus ensuring more exposure for the sport and competitive fairness at the regional sites.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and added the use of the challenge review system for future championships to the agenda.

2. **Review/approval of 2016 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as submitted.

3. **NCAA updates.**

   a. **Regionalization review.** NCAA representatives informed the committee that a working group has been established to review Division II regionalization policies as they apply to conference matchups in preliminary-round competition. The women’s volleyball committee asked for a close review of the contiguous state principle, as it appears the implementation has been skewed by conference realignments. At present, an institution can play “in region” but avoid the other two conferences in its region, making rankings and championship selection very difficult. The committee recommends a return to the original application of the contiguous state principles.

   b. **Playing and practice season in festival years.** The committee asked staff to craft a proposal that would allow for adjusting the playing and practice season for women’s volleyball in festival years to avoid losing a week of competition. (See legislative items.) (Attachment A)
4. **Review of Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year.

5. **Review of American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention reports.** The committee reviewed the reports and addressed the items elsewhere in the agenda.

6. **Review of 2016 championship.**

   a. **Bracket.** The committee reviewed the final bracket and liked the new look, separating out the final eight teams and highlighting the seeding for the championship site.

   b. **Evaluations/reports.** The committee noted the need to reinforce host requirements related to securing qualified individuals to work as scorer, libero tracker and announcer, and providing lodging for officials in a property separate from the participants. The committee also emphasized that regional hosts must be reminded they are required, to the extent possible, to create a neutral site atmosphere. The committee noted that some coaches had difficulty with the current video exchange vendor and process.

   c. **Regional sites.**

      (1) **Seating capacity.** The committee noted that the new seating policy requiring hosts to allocate at least 100 tickets to each participating team worked well. The committee granted an exception to the policy, which was appropriate for the regional site. The committee will continue to accept exemption requests, with decisions made at the close of the bid process.

      (2) **Follow-up teleconference with hosts.** The committee directed staff to schedule teleconferences with the regional committee representatives and their regional host institutions to share feedback.

   d. **Finals.**

      (1) **Facility setup.** The committee noted the facility was outstanding.

         (a) **Meeting space.** The administrative meeting area was spacious without being too large and provided appropriate acoustics.

         (b) **Hospitality.** Hospitality was very well received. The committee particularly liked having the daily menu and meal times posted. The committee will review timing of the meal on the championship day.
(c) **Officials meeting area.** The officials meeting area was very good. Male and female officials were provided separate, secure lockers rooms.

(d) **Press conference room.** The committee noted the size of the press conference room was appropriate. The members suggested using a different route to escort participants from the floor to the press conferences.

(e) **Competition venue.** The committee indicated the venue was of a high caliber and the perfect size for this championship.

(2) **Administrative meeting.** The committee noted the current structure of the administrative meeting works well.

(3) **Practices.** The committee indicated that the current practice schedule works well and should be maintained.

(4) **Press conferences/interviews.** The committee liked the change for the pre-championship press conference and pre-practice, court-side interviews of the student-athletes. However, the members noted that in the future, instead of inviting all eight head coaches at the same time, each match’s coaches should be interviewed separately and include student-athletes.

The committee praised the press conference moderator for her knowledge of the sport and ability to incorporate match specifics within each press conference.

(5) **Web streaming of matches and press conferences.** The committee noted there were many glitches in this year’s stream, including video and sound outages and incorrect or incomplete graphics. Webstream talent apparently reached out to sports information directors and coaches for answers to basic questions that could have been answered had they reviewed each institution’s webpage. The producer needs to be determined well before the start of the championship to finalize camera and production placement and needs. The committee felt the in-house production was much better than the Webstream product.

The host provided a live stream of the press conferences that was well received.

(6) **Committee responsibilities.** The committee liked how the championship assignments were divided and revised the responsibilities document to include additional details.
(7) Award ceremonies. The committee was pleased with the order and flow of the championship award ceremonies. The committee discussed the presentation of AVCA awards at the championship banquet and noted it liked the flow of this year’s presentations. The committee directed staff to revise the materials to provide examples of what the student-athlete presentations should cover, and how long they should last. The committee noted interest in continuing to include the Make-A-Wish children and their families.

(8) Attendance. The committee appreciated the local community support of the championship, particularly as it took place at a neutral off-campus site.

(9) Follow-up teleconference with host. The committee chair and NCAA staff will conduct a teleconference with the host to share feedback and suggestions for future championships.

7. Officials.

a. Review of 2016 regional and national officials. The committee noted that hosts must secure well-qualified line judges and use the rotation chart, which prohibits line judges from working two consecutive matches each day. The committee indicated that since the referees are paid a flat fee, they must attend all competition, even if not assigned to a specific match.

b. Evaluation forms. The committee reviewed coaches’ and crew chief evaluations of the regional and national officials. The committee discussed establishing an annual regional officials’ rotation for nationals, but preferred the current practice of selecting the best officials, regardless of regional representation.

c. Selection of 2017 championship officials. The committee decided to maintain the current timeline and criteria for selecting officials. The committee also directed staff to revise the conference recommendation form to include signature lines for the conference assignor (if applicable) and the conference commissioner. The members also decided that conference assignors may still be considered to work postseason, and are permitted to recommend themselves with the approval of the conference commissioner.

8. Rankings/selections.

a. Review of 2016 selections and selection show. The committee felt selections went well. The committee acknowledged the statistics liaison’s continued diligence and timeliness made things much more efficient.
The committee noted the selection show announcer must properly pronounce participating institutions’ names. The members also noted this year’s show included more video and photos of the top-ranked teams, whereas previous years’ content seemed more balanced.

The committee indicated using social media to announce each region’s top seed worked very well and built momentum going into the selection show. Adopting social media to reveal the seeding of the final eight teams also was very well received. The committee also would like to add a press release to announce the seeding of the final eight teams.

b. **Time of selections teleconference.** The committee feels the timing of the selections teleconference is challenging because of the late finish of some conference championships and the time needed to conduct regional advisory committee teleconferences. In addition, multiple time zones and the need to review other regions’ data to prepare for the national call complicate finding a better time. The committee recommends conference championships start earlier but understands this cannot be mandated.

c. **Rankings.**

(1) **Regional advisory committees.**

   (a) **Rosters/replacements.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee rosters and will discuss committee service with potential regional representatives.

   (b) **Regional advisory committee training.** The committee was very happy with the training webinar that was created for all regional advisory committee members. The committee recommended some revisions for future years.

(2) **Number and dates of ranking calls.** The committee noted the number and dates of ranking calls are appropriate.

(3) **Score reporting system.** The committee indicated the score reporting system is a useful tool and asked whether the common opponents data could be alphabetized.

d. **Selection requirements/criteria.** The committee noted increased comfort and understanding of the new selection criteria. The members discussed potential changes to the criteria and will seek feedback from their region’s coaches. The committee firmly believes playing in-region, conference crossovers is necessary.

a. **2017-18 calendar/timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved the timeline for the next season.

b. **Video exchange.** The committee directed staff to determine if another vendor may better administer the championship video exchange process.

The committee also directed staff to revise the language detailing specifics of the mandatory video exchange before regionals, particularly regarding the placement and quality of the camera. Within 24 hours of the selections announcement, all participants must make available complete video of their final match before regionals to all other participants in their regional. Teams must meet similar taping requirements as championships hosts. If they do not meet the requirements, they must send the previous match in addition to the final match before regionals.

The regional hosts will be required to upload video from each regional match, available for all participating teams. The upload should be completed within two hours of the end of each match.

After regionals, all three regional matches and the final match previously uploaded by the teams will be made available to the eight finalists. Because of the differing dates and times of the regional championship matches, and to avoid giving teams a competitive advantage, the video will remain locked until all regional championship matches have been uploaded.

Failure to meet the requirements may subject the institution to committee review and sanction for failure to adhere to administrative policies and procedures.

c. **Match format.**

   (1) **Media timeouts.** The championship format will continue to default to use standard 90-second timeouts. If both teams return to the court before the end of the timeout period, officials may resume play unless a media format is used. Hosts must notify the NCAA championship administrator if they will use the media format for regional matches.
(2) **Intermission/interval between sets.** The committee decided to leave the intermission at three minutes between each set. The committee directed staff to seek a waiver from the secretary-rules editor to conduct promotional activities during intermissions at the championships site.

d. **Regional hosts.**

(1) **Bid timeline.** The committee will maintain the current regional bid timeline.

(2) **Regionals facility evaluation form.** The committee asked staff to add information regarding the host’s plans for web streaming and providing live statistics to the form.

(3) **Requiring regional hosts to web stream all competition.** Currently, the committee strongly recommends the web streaming of all regional competition. The members expressed an interest in changing this to a bid requirement. (See nonlegislative items.)

e. **Finals.**

(1) **First dates of practice and competition in festival years.** (See legislative items.)

(2) **Competing at Division I Women’s Volleyball Championship site.** The committee expressed continued interest in a joint championship with Division I. NCAA staff will discuss with governance staff how to achieve this goal.

10. **2018-2021 bid timeline and review.** The committee reviewed host bids and recommended three finalists for each year of the bid cycle.

11. **Review of agendas.** The committee directed staff to make changes to the championship agendas.

12. **Manual revisions.** The committee asked staff to revise areas in the committee operations, host operations, pre-championship, participant and site representative manuals.

13. **National committee.**

   a. **Committee openings and timeline.** The committee reviewed the roster and discussed potential new committee members.

   b. **New committee orientation.** The committee agreed to continue the new committee orientation teleconference.
c. Committee chair recommendation. The committee recommended Doug Walters, Cedarville University, as chair for the 2017-18 academic year, noting his years of Division II experience, contacts within the coaching community and previous years of service to the committee.

14. Rules update. The playing rules representative reviewed the past season and noted the upcoming comment period. The committee discussed using the Challenge Review System for the 2017 championship, but as very few institutions use the system, coaches are not familiar with it. The committee may recommend requiring earlier submission of lineups to give the scorekeeper, announcer, statisticians and production crew time to prepare.

15. Future dates and sites.

   a. Future championships. The committee reviewed the dates and site for 2017 championship.

   b. 2018 annual meeting. The committee agreed to hold the next annual meeting Jan. 24-25.

Committee Chair: Michelle Caddigan, Wingate University; South Atlantic Conference
Staff Liaison: Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances

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<tr>
<th>NCAA Division II Women’s Volleyball Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendees:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Bratkovich, Caldwell University; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Caddigan, Wingate University; South Atlantic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Collins, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Great American Conference.</td>
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<td>Dr. Karen Hjerpe, California University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Timothy McDiffett, University of Alaska Anchorage; Great Northwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Melanie Robotham, Lone Star Conference.</td>
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<td>Doug Walters, Cedarville University; Great Midwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Melissa Wolter, University of West Florida; Gulf South Conference.</td>
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| Absentees: |
| None. |

| Guests in Attendance: |
| Debbie Chin, Coaches Connection (by teleconference). |
| Kim Vinson, Cameron University (by teleconference). |
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Jennifer Rodgers, Championships and Alliances.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.