

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 11-13, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Approval of 2017 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the 2017 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 and discussed the two women's basketball budgetary items that were approved. Officials evaluators at regional rounds will travel to neutral regions beginning next year, and video replay will be implemented at the finals site.

The regionalization working group will reconvene in June during the Championships Committee meeting. The liaison to the Championships Committee asked the committee to provide potential championship format changes to improve the current bracketing procedures. The focus of this working group has been on avoiding conference matchups during preliminary-round competition, but all ideas are welcome.

3. **Women's Basketball Coaches Association recap.** Coaches were reminded of the new selection criteria effective next season. The coaches asked for consistency when applying selection criteria from year to year. NCAA staff and the committee will continue to seek ways to educate coaches and provide transparency to the selection process. The mock selection webinar was well received last fall.
4. **Regional and national ranking calls.** The committee reviewed the PowerPoint provided to regional advisory committee members and asked NCAA staff to highlight the importance of confidentiality during the process. Staff will add one slide for each selection criterion to provide additional education to committee members.
5. **Review of 2018 championship.**
 - a. **Selections.** The committee members are concerned with the late start times for a number of conference championships as they felt rushed to complete the selection process this year. The committee discussed announcing the bracket Monday instead of Sunday, but determined that Monday is too late given teams begin traveling to regional sites Wednesday.
 - b. **Review of regionals.** NCAA staff will create a PowerPoint for the administrative meeting to replace the agenda used at regional sites. All practices will be closed and

optional for teams effective with the 2019 championship. Teams may have up to 60 minutes of warm-up time and are guaranteed a minimum of 30 minutes. The committee discussed awarding a bid to a No. 1 seed even if bid requirements are not met (e.g., four locker rooms), and NCAA staff will continue to work with host sites to communicate expectations. The committee has awarded these bids in the past because teams have earned the top seed.

- c. **Review of Women's Elite Eight.** The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and the Sioux Falls Sports Authority provided participating teams a quality championship experience combined with the men's championship. The community engagement initiative to visit retirement centers and children's hospitals was very well received by participants. Beginning next year, the all-tournament team will only be announced and recipients will not be asked to come to center court.

A member of the championships and alliances staff joined the group and reported on a teleconference he and other NCAA championships administrators conducted with the winning teams from the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. The call included student-athletes, coaches and team administrators, and general feedback was positive. The student-athletes enjoyed the combined championship atmosphere, but there were concerns regarding the quality of the team hotel.

The Men's and Women's Basketball Committees met jointly to discuss several aspects from the 2018 combined championships at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Both committees felt it was a positive experience and noted the benefit of having a day off between the quarterfinals and semifinals.

6. Officials.

- a. **Evaluators.** The process for assigning evaluators will change beginning next year. 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. **Committee assignment.** NCAA staff will update the evaluator protocol to identify the site representative as the person who should communicate directly to officials regarding advancement through the regional championship.
- c. **Elite Eight experience.** The committee asked NCAA staff to provide hospitality for officials at the finals site.

7. 2019 championship.

- a. Selection criteria.** Division II results versus teams with .500 records or better and the regional Rating Percentage Index are two new selection criteria that will be implemented next year.
- b. Schedule of events.** The committee made no changes to the schedule of events for next year.

8. Legislation update. A representative from the Division II academic and membership affairs staff joined the meeting to update the committee on the new online coaches education program.

9. Governance update. The committee met with members of the Division II governance staff to discuss items related to Division II. Staff members noted that social media activity around the combined Men's and Women's Basketball Championships was up 12 percent from the previous year. The governance representatives said results from the census survey indicated national bracketing was generally preferred over regional bracketing in team sports, though support was less strong for national bracketing if it meant a reduction in bracket size or travel party size.

10. Automatic qualification forms. The committee reviewed and approved automatic qualifying conferences for the 2018-19 academic year.

11. Manuals. The committee asked staff to make changes to the host operations, pre-championship, participant and site representative manuals as necessary.

12. 2018-19 timeline. The dates for next year's annual meeting will be April 15-17.

13. Committee chair selection. The committee nominated Melanie Ford, assistant athletics director at Shepherd University, as chair for the 2018-19 year.

14. Other business. The recently appointed vice president of women's basketball joined the committee to communicate her next steps in developing a vision and roadmap for all three divisions of women's basketball. The members expressed interest and support for a joint championship based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 2016 joint championships in Indianapolis. The committee received an update on the anticipated release of the Commission on Collegiate Basketball report.

15. Adjournment.

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

NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee April 11-13, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Melanie Ford, Shepherd University.	
Eliane Kebbe, South Atlantic Conference.	
Jason Martens, St. Mary's University (Texas).	
Krista Montague, Montana State University Billings.	
James Rice, Benedict University.	
Karen Stromme, University of Minnesota Duluth.	
Absentees:	
Sandra Michael, Holy Family University.	
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.	
Lynn Holzman, Division I Women's Basketball.	
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.	
Roperta Page, Championships and Alliances.	
Nick Strah, Championships and Alliances.	
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs.	