



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RIFLE COMMITTEE
JUNE 4-5, 2018, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Selection date.** The committee recommends moving the selection date up one day to position the announcement closer to the end of regular-season competition (see Action Item 2-a).
2. **Standard match format.** The committee recommends amending the standard match format rule to require that all teams submit squadding for the NCAA qualifier matches by February 1 to the secretary-rules interpreter and NCAA championship manager, along with adding a penalty of disqualification of team and all individual scores for failure to follow the standard match format (see Action Items 2-b).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Selection date.

- (1) Recommendation. That the selection show for the NCAA Rifle Championships be moved up one day from 5 p.m. Eastern time Wednesday to 5 p.m. Eastern time Tuesday. Also, that the deadline for scores to be entered into the online score reporting system be moved up one day from noon Eastern time Monday after the qualifier matches to 6 p.m. local time Sunday after the qualifier matches.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The committee prefers that the selection show announcing the team and individual participants for the rifle championships take place Sunday after the NCAA qualifier matches. Members are aware of the logistical and timing issues a move to Sunday would cause; however, the committee believes that there is adequate time to move selection up one day. This still allows time to verify scores and to make sure all qualifier matches take place before selections. The committee will continue to explore ways to move the selection show closer to the completion of the NCAA qualifier matches.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will positively impact the student-athlete experience by moving the announcement closer to the end of the last match of the regular season. With the scores now easily accessible for everyone on the online score reporting website, everyone knows the selected teams and individuals before the announcement. Confirming it sooner will allow the teams to move forward with travel arrangements.

- b. NCAA qualifier standard match format.** The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following change to the Rifle Rule Modifications:

(1) Recommendation. To change modifications 3.b.1 and 3.b.2 and to add modifications 3.b.3 and 3.b.4 as follows (~~strikethrough~~ indicates language deleted; **bold** indicates language added):

- (a) ~~3.b.1. The host institution retains the discretion to allocate more firing points to the visiting institution if the facility has additional firing points and a sufficient representation of "counter" student athletes are squadded on each relay.~~

The priority for squadding will be to "counter" student-athletes before "non-counter" student-athletes. "Counter" student-athletes will be squadded equally across the minimum number of relays possible.

- (b) ~~3.b.2. "Counter" student athletes will compete prior to "non-counter" student athletes. If more than one relay is required to complete the contest, each relay shall have "counter" student athletes from each institution competing shoulder-to-shoulder in each relay. Exception: If the match requires more than one relay for "counter" student athletes to compete shoulder to shoulder, "non-counter" student athletes may use firing points not being used in a relay.~~

If more than one relay is required to complete the team portion of the contest, each relay shall have an equal number of "counter" student-athletes from each institution competing shoulder-to-shoulder in each of those relays. If all "counter" student-athletes are squadded consistent with this rule, and space is available, "non-counter" athletes may be squadded in the available firing points. "Non-counter" student-athletes do not need to be squadded equally across the remaining relays. The host institution retains the discretion to allocate extra firing points to the visiting institution to meet travel and/or lodging concerns.

- (c) **3.b.3. All teams must submit the squadding plan and relay times to the rules interpreter and the NCAA championship manager by February 1 for NCAA qualifier weekend. Failure to submit by the deadline will result in a \$400 fine.**
- (d) **3.b.4. Failure to follow the standard match format for the NCAA qualifier match will result in disqualification of all team and individual scores for the match (all scores will be recorded as zero).**

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.

- (3) Rationale. Revising 3.b.1. and 3.b.2. clarify the intent of the standard match format. The current modification left room for misinterpretation, and this modification helps clarify the required format for qualifier matches.

The addition of 3.b.3 and 3.b.4 is intended to serve as a deterrent to misapplication of the standard match format. Currently, there is no requirement to submit the squadding plan and relay times. Requiring institutions to submit the squadding plan and relay times ahead of the NCAA qualifier weekend will help alleviate the misapplication of the standard match format. The \$400 fine is consistent with the fine in Division I men's and women's tennis for failure to submit the lineup by the deadline.

Currently, there is no penalty for the misapplication of the standard match format on NCAA qualifier weekend. After recent repeated misapplications of the standard match format on qualifier weekend, institutions will now be on notice that failure to follow the standard match format on qualifier weekend will result in the disqualification of all team and individual scores.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Failure to submit the squadding plan and relay times by the February 1 deadline will result in a \$400 fine..
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed modifications should have a positive student-athlete impact by clarifying the language of an often misinterpreted rule, adding an approval layer to avoid issues on match day and adding a clear penalty to serve as a deterrent. These changes should ensure a consistent competition environment at all qualifier matches.

c. Uniform modification. The committee requests approval from PROP for the following change to the Rifle Rule Modifications:

- (1) Recommendation. To permit all student-athletes and coaches to wear institutionally issued warm-up apparel, khaki pants, slides and blue jeans or service academy-issued military uniforms in the designated field of play.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Current USA Shooting/International Shooting Sport Federation rules do not allow this flexibility, which runs counter to NCAA apparel trends in rifle.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This modification will provide a better student-athlete experience by applying some flexibility and comfort in apparel at competitions.

d. Team selection clarification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the team selection process language be amended to the following (**bold** indicates language added):

“Using the three highest regular-season aggregate scores (with not more than one match at any given site **with a maximum of one home site**). **A home site is defined as competition at a (1) permanent home range, (2) university-owned facility or (3) a mobile range within 100 miles of campus.**”

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018

- (3) Rationale. The amended language clarifies that a mobile range used by an institution should not give them the advantage to count two home matches as part of their three highest scores for selection. The original intent of the policy was meant to encourage teams to travel to compete against each other. The committee decided it was important to maintain that policy. The added language maintains the even playing field for all institutions, whether they have a mobile range or not.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2017 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2017 annual meeting report as submitted.
- 2. Strategic plan review.** The committee reviewed the NCAA rifle committee strategic plan and made the following changes:
 - Removed short-term goal #5 – “widen the firing points particular for small bore.”
 - Modified short-term goal #6 from “review and improvement of banquet format” to “review and improvement of banquet and hospitality at the championships.”
 - Removed short-term goal #7 – “extend an invitation to the CRCA president to attend the annual meeting.”

The committee achieved the short-term goals removed from the strategic plan. In addition, the committee discussed ideas to achieve goals in the next year. Committee members use the strategic plan to guide their work to strengthen the championships and the sport in general.

- 3. Review of 2018 championships.** The committee appreciated the hard work and effort from the staff at The Citadel to host a memorable championship event.

- b. Schedule review.** The committee reviewed the championships schedule of events from 2018 and adjusted the start times 15 minutes earlier for the first relay in smallbore to provide additional time between relays to reset the range.
- c. Site evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from the coaches, student-athletes and officials who participated in the 2018 championships. The overall feedback was positive.

Suggestions regarding possible improvements for 2018 and beyond include better display of scoring at the range, more space in the team area and improved hospitality offerings. NCAA staff and the committee will look to take action on these suggestions for the 2019 championships.

- d. Awards.** The committee noted the awards ceremony confetti celebration and increase to seven mini-trophies for each team were well-received.
- e. Banquet.** The committee noted it prefers an interactive banquet and shortened time frame. The committee appreciated the banquet videos and photo opportunities for each team provided in Charleston, South Carolina.
- f. Meetings.** The committee reviewed the championships meeting schedule and made no changes.
- g. Equipment checks.** The committee reviewed policies and procedures used for both voluntary pre-event and post-competition equipment checks. The committee was pleased with the 2018 process and made no adjustments. The committee directed NCAA staff to include the random equipment check policy in the participant manual.
- h. Music.** The committee noted that the student-athletes and coaches are comfortable with music being played during competition. The committee received negative feedback on the playlist at the championships since student-athletes have been practicing with the playlist all year and have heard the same songs repeatedly. The championship host should ensure a clean playlist for the event but does not need to submit and post the playlist in advance.
- i. Credentials.** The committee reviewed the credentials and made no changes. The committee reaffirmed that only student-athletes, coaches, committee members, NCAA staff, officials and select host institution staff should have access to the firing line, equipment storage, student-athlete hospitality and team camp areas.
- j. Web stream.** The committee reviewed the web streaming metrics from the championships and noted that viewership was down from last year. The committee maintains support for the current championships announcer as a valuable enhancement. Members also noted positive feedback for the web stream feed displayed on the video board during competition. The committee recommended better promotion of the video streaming links via the NCAA twitter account and for NCAA staff to provide the direct links to sports information director contacts before the championships so institutions can also promote via their social media channels.

- k. Range officers.** The committee reviewed the range officers' performance at the championships and noted positive feedback. The committee will consider potential range officers and extend invitations to work the 2019 championships in early fall of 2018.
 - l. Score monitors.** The committee noted feedback of the score monitor white boxes blocking spectator views when not in use. The committee will instruct the range officers and coaches on the line to help ensure those do not block views. In addition, the committee will ask future hosts to provide scoreboards that are visible to those on the firing line, as well as those in the spectator area. This continues to be a challenge each year.
 - m. Hotels.** The committee reviewed the team hotel in Charleston and noted generally positive reviews. Areas of improvement included a location closer to the range and the breakfast being properly staffed.
 - n. Team areas.** The committee noted feedback that the team areas did not provide adequate space for the teams and individuals to unpack their cases and set up their guns. The members request future hosts to provide a bigger area for the teams and a larger dry fire space as well. The committee noted positive feedback on the coat-check style equipment storage.
- 4. 2019 NCAA Rifle Championships – West Virginia.** The committee discussed initial thoughts on the 2019 championships at West Virginia University. As mentioned in the 2018 championships review, the committee noted several items to be considered in preparations with West Virginia (e.g., scoreboards, dry fire area, team area, hospitality, hotel signage, banquet). The committee considered the following to further enhance the 2019 championships:
- a. Community engagement.** NCAA staff will explore the possibility of a community engagement activity with student-athletes during the banquet.
 - b. Facility items.** The committee noted a preference for darker plastic for the range to avoid glare from the lights. In addition, the committee noted a need for an improved sound system that can be heard on the firing line and in the team area. Also, a stronger Wi-Fi system would benefit the coaches looking at the online scoring website.
 - c. Student-athlete information form – individual finals.** The committee agreed to create a form for those student-athletes who qualify for the individual finals to complete for their introductions at the individual finals. This form will be provided to all participating coaches in the participant manual.
- 5. NCAA qualifier and selections.** The committee reviewed the team and individual selection policies, procedures and criteria for the championships.
- a. Team selection.** The committee discussed the process and criteria for team selections. The committee added language to clarify how competition on mobile ranges will be counted (see Action Item 2-d).

The committee also discussed adjustments to the team selection criteria that could include increasing the number of regular-season matches included for selection. The committee will seek feedback from the membership during the next year and discuss further at its next annual meeting.

- b. Individual selection.** The committee reviewed the championships selection criteria for individuals and made no changes. The committee did discuss an option for the individual selection criteria to mirror the team selection criteria but took no action.
- 6. 2018-19 Rules Modifications.** The secretary-rules interpreter shared that USA Shooting has not released a new version of its rule book because it awaits information from the International Shooting Sport Federation. The secretary-rules interpreter has all of the USA Shooting modifications to the ISSF rules and has compiled them into an abbreviated book. The committee noted that because USA Shooting and ISSF rules change often throughout the year, the rules as of September 1 will be the rules followed during the NCAA rifle season.

The committee reviewed rules proposals for the 2018-19 NCAA Rifle Rules Modifications. Once finalized, the proposed rule modifications will be sent to the membership for comment and then forwarded to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel for final approval.

Key items of discussion included the following:

- a. Standard match format.** Due to non-compliance with the standard match format during the NCAA qualifier matches in the past two years, the committee recommends the following changes (see Action Items 2-b):
- (1) An added requirement for all teams to submit the squadding plan and relay times to the secretary-rules interpreter and NCAA championship manager by February 1 of each year. Failure to submit by the deadline will result in a \$400 fine.
 - (2) An added penalty of failure to follow the standard match format for the NCAA qualifier will result in disqualification of all team and all individual scores for the match.
 - (3) Clarified language that the “counter” student-athletes will be squadded equally across the minimum number of relays possible. “Non-counter” student-athletes may be squadded in available firing points once “counter” student-athletes are squadded according to the rule.
- b. Uniform.** For NCAA rifle matches, all student-athletes must wear institution-approved apparel (See Action Item 2-c).
- 7. Dates of competition.** The committee discussed the dates of competition bylaws and took no action.

- 8. Championships policy review.** The committee briefly reviewed various championships policies and made no changes for 2019.
- 9. Online score reporting system.** The committee was pleased with the NCAA online score reporting system and recommended no changes for 2018-19.
- 10. Targets and equipment for the championships.** West Virginia will secure 26 MegaLink electronic targets for use during the 2019 championships. NCAA staff will discuss securing targets with future hosts.
- 11. Recruiting.** The committee discussed various recruiting rules for rifle but took no action.
- 12. USA Shooting.** The president of the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association, reviewed recent discussions with leadership at USA Shooting regarding competition scheduling and selection for competitions.
- 13. Competition Oversight Committee.** NCAA staff previewed the Division I Competition Oversight Committee's upcoming review of sports with sponsorship under 50 institutions, including information on timeline and goals.
- 14. Review of championships manuals.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make appropriate updates and additions to the committee operations, host operations, participant and pre-championships manuals.
- 15. Championships budget.** Committee members noted that most of the expenses from the 2018 championships were not yet reflected in the budget. NCAA staff will share the final financial report when it is completed.
- 16. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship information and expects no changes for the 2018-19 academic year.
- 17. Committee roster.** The committee reviewed the committee roster and noted there will be no changes in committee composition for the 2018-19 academic year. Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, head rifle coach at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will remain as the chair of the committee for the 2018-19 academic year.
- 18. Future dates.** The committee reviewed and approved of the dates for the 2018-19 academic year.
 - a. NCAA qualifier.** Friday, February 15 - Sunday, February 17.
 - b. Team and individual selections.** Tuesday, February 19.
 - c. Rifle championships.** Friday, March 8 - Saturday, March 9 – West Virginia.
 - d. Annual meeting.** Monday, June 3 - Tuesday, June 4 – Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee June 4-5, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Newt Engle, NCAA Secretary-Rules Interpreter.	
Richard Fletcher, Morehead State University.	
David Kooger, University of Texas, El Paso.	
Ashley MacAllister, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.	
Eric Sabin, University of Memphis.	
Webster Wright, U.S. Military Academy.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Alan Lollar, Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.	
Natasha Harris, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Andy Supergan, Championships and Alliances.	