



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 17-19, 2017, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Pool B minimum win/loss requirement.

- (1) Recommendation. To implement a requirement that a Pool B candidate have a minimum Division III record of .500. If no Pool B institution meets this requirement, the Pool B allocation will be added to Pool C.
- (2) Effective date. 2017 championship.
- (3) Rationale. While the committee recognizes Pool B institutions should have an opportunity to be selected under Pool B when the calculations merit, it does not support awarding a slot to a team that has not proven to be successful during the regular season. As is policy, all the Pool B teams still would be considered for the Pool C slots, but they would have to earn the slot vying with other teams under consideration. As a point of reference, Division II has a similar policy for selection of at-large teams (however, they do not have Pools B and C).
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Championships Committee award the following 43 conferences automatic qualification privileges for the 2018 championship: Alleghany 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 State Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8 Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic

Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Massachusetts State Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; 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 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.

Tentative Pool Allocations:

Pool A – 43
Pool B – 1
Pool C – 20

- (2) Effective date. 2018 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. RAC nominations best practices.

- (1) Recommendation. That the championships committee develop and supply conferences with a best practices document for soliciting nominations.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The committee received feedback that there are coaches who are interested in RAC service but have never been asked by their conference to serve. The basketball committee discussed what they know/understand occurs in their own conferences, which differed. The committee thinks the process would benefit from some basic

guidelines or best practices provided to the conferences to standardize the process across conferences.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. RPI.

(1) Recommendation. That the championships committee explore using RPI as a selection criterion instead of strength of schedule.

(2) Effective date. 2018-19 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The women's basketball committee asserts the RPI calculation is widely used and accepted in Division I, and would like to explore its use for Division III. The committee RPI in place of strength of schedule as the RPI also factors in an institution's win/loss percentage. The committee feels this would be a better number to use because it reflects the win/loss percentages of the opponents, the opponents' opponents, and the institution, thus providing a better picture of an institution's performance, not just a picture of the institution's schedule.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

e. Team sheets.

(1) Recommendation. If RPI is not adopted as a criterion, the committee requests that the team sheets that are available to the committee be formatted to use the strength-of-schedule calculation.

(2) Effective date. 2018-19 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The committee finds the team sheets as useful information, but ineffective to use because the RPI number is not a Division III criterion. If the team sheets were to use the strength-of-schedule numbers, the RAC and national committee would save the hours of time each week they spend "drilling down" to review and assess the strength-of-schedule numbers and the wins/losses against teams of different win/loss percentages.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Potential budget impact of IT programming hours.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2016 annual meeting report.** The Division III Women's Basketball Committee reviewed and approved the 2016 meeting report as submitted.
2. **Division III Championships Committee reports.** The committee reviewed reports from the past year, noting items applicable to women's basketball.
3. **Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Division III meeting.** The committee discussed the bulletin provided to the coaches at the meeting.
4. **National and regional advisory (RAC) committees.** The committee reviewed the national committee and RAC rosters and noted the upcoming vacancies.
5. **Evaluation regions.** The committee reviewed the regional alignments by conference and noted the potential conference membership changes, including the formation of the American Collegiate Athletic Association. Staff was directed to confirm all changes once the membership reports are available in September.
6. **2017 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2017 championship.
 - a. Teleconferences. The committee discussed the various teleconferences that are conducted throughout the season.

Committee members noted various issues that some users are experiencing during the webinars. The committee suggested a practice run on the third ranking call to see if anyone has difficulties with the webinar platform.

The committee decided to discontinue the site representative wrap-up teleconference that was conducted the Sunday morning after first/second rounds. Instead, each committee member will have a call with the representatives from their region and present a summary to the committee.

- b. Selections and criteria. The committee discussed at length the strength-of-schedule criterion and the use of the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) and team sheets. The committee voted to ask the championships committee to consider using RPI in place of strength of schedule (see Nonlegislative Item 2-d).

- c. Site representatives. The committee reviewed the site representative list. Each committee member will reiterate with his or her regional advisory committee members to participate in the site representative training call.

- d. Review of first/second rounds and sectionals.
 - (1) Hosts. The committee directed staff to establish a participant information/manual template for hosts to use for sending information to the participating teams at their site.
 - (2) Pregame timing sheets. Timing sheets were reviewed. One change was made to match what is written in the rule book.
 - (3) Evaluations. The evaluations submitted by participants were reviewed.

- e. Review of championship semifinals/final. The committee reviewed the 2017 semifinals/final hosted by Calvin College.
 - (1) Game administration. The committee commended the game administration.
 - (2) Tickets. The ticket process went smoothly with only online and onsite sales. The team allotments were sold only online, which avoided the process of sending tickets and the return of unsold tickets, etc.
 - (3) Sports information. More direction needs to be given for the news conferences conducted on practice day. The host needs to submit a press conference plan and make an effort to attract media. If not enough media is present, hosts should train volunteers or students to be present and active during the press conference.
 - (4) Committee assignments. The committee assignments work well and will be continued.
 - (5) Instant replay. Instant replay guidelines were reviewed and no changes were made. Due to the difficulties experienced during the first semifinal, the committee wants the webcast producer to attend the officials meeting that is conducted two hours prior to the first game to discuss the review process (the lead official in game two also should be in attendance). In addition, an equipment check should occur with the lead official prior to each game, sometime after the captains meeting and prior to the 5-minute horn to clear the floor.
 - (6) Awards ceremony. The committee directed staff to be sure the announcer knows who is announced for the trophy presentation.

- (7) Schedule of events. The schedule of events was reviewed and no changes were needed.
- (8) Wednesday social event. The committee emphasized this event should be no longer than one or one and a half hours. Also, the food provided should be more substantial, as teams are often traveling in and may not have had dinner yet.
- (9) Banquet. The committee expressed the desire to have a female role model speaking at the banquet.
- (10) Live web stream – Turner. The web stream seemed to go well. The live streaming report for the winter championships was not available at the time of the meeting.
- (11) Pregame timing sheets. Timing sheets were reviewed. One change was made to match what is written in the rule book.
- (12) Agendas – advancing team. The committee reviewed and made minor changes to the agendas.
- (13) Credential form. The committee liked the new format of the credential form.
- (14) VIP hospitality. The committee requests future hosts communicate where it is located and who is invited to use it is key to the success of the VIP area.
- (15) Ticket prices. The committee directed staff to discuss with the host what they feel is an appropriate ticket price for the location.
- (16) Marketing. The committee wants to have a teleconference prior to the site visit with the host to discuss marketing strategies such as Special Olympics halftime games; local elementary schools adopting a section of the bracket and then applying some curriculum around the schools that advance to the semifinals and final; corporate support (buying tickets and donating to local groups); and securing a pep band for both days.
- (17) Senior all-star game. The committee also discussed the concept of a senior all-star game held Saturday prior to the championship final. A subcommittee was formed to explore this with the WBCA, with a desired implementation at the 2019 championship.

- 7. 2018 Championship.** The Rochester Amateur Sports Commission and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will host the 2018 championship semifinals/final. The committee looks forward to working with the host organizing committee to better promote and market the championship.
- 8. Officials.** The committee reviewed the procedures involving officials.
 - a. Evaluations. The committee reviewed the officials' evaluation forms.
 - b. Policies and procedures for selecting officials. The policy and procedures for selecting officials document will need to be updated to reflect the implementation of the national coordinator.
 - c. Officials' history. The officials' history chart was reviewed.
- 9. Rules cycle.** The proposed rules modifications were reviewed and the committee provided comments.
- 10. Manuals review.** The committee reviewed the various manuals and made updates as needed.
- 11. Other Business.**
 - a. Women's basketball presentation. Anucha Browne, NCAA vice president for women's basketball championships, spoke to the committee about the current issues in women's basketball. Members also discussed the joint championship with Divisions I and II, and how Division III travel policies affect bracketing.
 - b. Division III presentation. Louise McCleary, NCAA director of Division III, spoke to the committee about Division III items that emerged from the NCAA Convention and other initiatives pertinent to Division III.
- 12. Bracketing and conference matchups.** The committee discussed the ongoing issue of conference matchups in the first round. Multiple correspondence has been received from the Northwest Conference and its institutions in recent years. In some areas, conference matchups cannot be avoided in the first round due to the policy of maintaining geographic proximity and limiting flights. While it can happen in different areas of the country, for women's basketball it adversely affects the Northwest Conference more often than other areas.

Most recently, in 2014 and 2017, three Northwest Conference teams were placed at the same first/second-round site. This diminishes the student-athlete experience as two of the teams are matched in the first round, and the first-round game becomes the third or fourth time these two teams have met in that year. If both first-round games are won by the same-conference teams, then the second-round game will pair up same-conference teams playing the third or fourth

time in one year. Feedback received is that the NCAA preliminary round feels more like a second conference tournament to the participating teams. This is not the experience Division III intends to give, thus the provision of avoiding conference matchups is in place. Unfortunately, some conferences are subject to it while it is avoided for other conferences simply due to geographics

The women’s basketball committee requests that the championships committee revisit discussions of giving committees the latitude for an “additional flight” to preserve the bracketing and pairing process. The concept has been addressed in recent years, more focused on preserving a top team the right to host, but the essence of permitting a flight to preserve the bracketing process remains the same. Committees are required to go against the bracketing principles because of the geographic proximity caveat.

In 2008 and in 2013 the “additional flight” concept was approved, but neither launched due to the economic climate at the time. The women’s basketball committee asks that discussion/feedback begin on this now, as the committee plans to submit an action item during the next budget cycle.

13. Future meeting dates. The 2017 annual meeting will be April 16-18.

Committee Chair: Bobbi Morgan, Haverford College, Centennial Conference
Staff Liaison: Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

Division III Women’s Basketball Committee April 17-19, 2017, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Stephanie Dunn, Berry College; Southern Athletic Association.
Karin Harvey, Montclair State University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Kristin Huffman, DePauw University; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Lesley Irvine, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges; Southern California Intercollegiate Conference.
Bobbi Morgan, Haverford College; Centennial Conference.
David Petroff, Edgewood College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
James Scheible, University of Rochester; University Athletic Association.
Kelly Thompson, Roger Williams University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances

Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Anucha Browne, Championships and Alliances
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance