



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RIFLE COMMITTEE  
APRIL 24-25, 2017, MEETING**

**KEY ITEM.**

- **Penalty for Failure to Follow the Standard Match Format.** The committee recommends assessing a penalty to the four institutions that did not follow the standard match format during their 2017 NCAA qualifier match (see Informational Item 10 below).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative Item.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Itinerary and Agenda.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and made no adjustments.
- 2. 2016 Annual Meeting Report.** The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as submitted.
- 3. Strategic Plan Review.** The committee reviewed the NCAA rifle committee strategic plan. Committee members will use the strategic plan to guide them in their future work to continue to strengthen the championships and the sport in general.

In addition to the strategic plan, the committee reviewed progress made on both the short- and long-term goals set during the 2016 annual meeting.

**4. Review of 2017 Championship.**

- a. **Schedule.** The committee reviewed the championships schedule of events from 2017 and adjusted the start times to create a more efficient flow to the day.

The committee discussed possibly adjusting the start time of the event each morning but took no action.

- b. **Championship Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from the coaches, student-athletes and officials who participated in the 2017 championships. The feedback from the participants, officials, host institution and the committee was extremely positive regarding the championship experience in Columbus.

Feedback regarding possible improvements for 2018 and beyond include better display of scoring at the range, widening the firing points for smallbore, adding a mini-trophy for the top team finishers in each discipline, better hotel signage, and adding a community engagement activity. NCAA staff and the committee will look to take action on these suggestions for the 2018 NCAA Rifle Championships.

- c. **Banquet.** The committee discussed the championship banquet and was pleased with the shortened format used in 2018. The committee would encourage future host sites to use a similar shortened format for the championship banquet.
- d. **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 process in 2017 and made no adjustments at this time.
- e. **Music.** For the first time at the 2017 championships, music was played in the background of the competition in an attempt to enhance the atmosphere. This was generally well received by the student-athletes, coaches and committee.

The committee supported continuing to play music at the 2018 championships and would like NCAA staff and the host institution, The Citadel, to develop a family-friendly playlist that can be shared with the rifle coaches before the start of the 2017-18 rifle season.

- f. **NCAA Staff and Committee Notes.** The committee reviewed notes from the 2017 championships and identified the following items for the host of the 2018 championships to address:
  - (1) Scoring Monitors On the Range. The committee charged The Citadel and NCAA staff to develop a better way to display scores and results for participants and spectators on the range.
  - (2) Dry Fire and Individual-Finals Prep Areas. The committee asked that two separate areas be designated for the purposes of (a) dry firing before competition, and (b) preparation area for those student-athletes who will be participating in the individual final for each discipline.
  - (3) Credential Access. The committee asked that an all-access credential be produced that would allow only critical personnel (e.g., student-athletes, coaches, committee members, NCAA staff, officials and select host institution staff) access to the firing line, equipment storage, student-athlete hospitality and team camp areas. All other credentialed individuals will have access to the venue and other common areas.

- 5. **2018 NCAA Rifle Championships – The Citadel.** The committee discussed initial thoughts on the 2018 championships at The Citadel.

As mentioned above in the 2017 Championships review, the committee noted several items to be considered in preparations with The Citadel (e.g., scoring monitors, dry fire/individual

final preparation area, credential access). The committee considered the following to further enhance the championships in 2018:

- a. **Community Engagement.** NCAA staff will explore the possibility of a community engagement activity with student-athletes on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, following the voluntary equipment checks.
  - b. **Hotel and Venue Signage.** Committee members would like to see increased signage at the team hotel and the outside the championship venue. NCAA staff will explore whether this signage can be added within the existing championships signage budget.
  - 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 can be provided to all participating coaches with the selection memorandum.
  - d. **Smallbore Boxes.** The committee agreed to provide new smallbore boxes or enhance the existing smallbore boxes to make them sturdy enough to hold the weight of the smallbore rifle and other items the student-athletes tend to place on them during the smallbore competition.
  - e. **Committee Work Area.** Committee members asked that the work area be located separately from the non-committee member area to allow them to discuss sensitive issues free from distractions or within earshot of others.
6. **Range Officers.** The committee reviewed the range officers' performance at the 2017 championships. Members will consider potential range officers and extend invitations to work the 2018 championships in early fall of 2017.
7. **Webcast.** The committee discussed the NCAA.com webcast of the 2017 championships and was very pleased with the addition of an announcer to call the action during the broadcast, as well as some additional camera angles. The committee would like to continue to see the broadcast elements enhanced for future championships.

The committee did strongly recommend that the announcer interview coaches and possibly student-athletes during the broadcast next year. Members feel that these individuals will provide some great insight on the competition as well as help break up the long broadcast.

The committee will also work to develop guidelines for the camera operators regarding what they can and cannot do on the firing line, which will reduce unintended distractions for the participating student-athletes.

8. **NCAA Qualifier and Selections.** The committee reviewed the team and individual selection policies, procedures and criteria for the NCAA Rifle Championships.

- a. **Team selection process.** The process and criteria for team selections was discussed and no action was taken.
- b. **Individual selection process.** The committee considered two proposals submitted from the membership regarding the selection process and criteria for individual qualifiers:

- (1) Individual selection formula proposal. The submitted proposal would have the individual qualifiers qualify for the championships using the same formula the teams use to qualify for the championships (i.e., selection score = average of three top scores from unique locations + NCAA qualifier score).

The current individual selection formula is based solely on the score from the NCAA qualifier match.

The committee reviewed the championships selection criteria for both teams and individuals but felt that no changes were necessary at this point.

The committee tabled this item until the 2018 annual meeting. In the meantime, NCAA staff will research the individual score data from the last two years to see how this policy would have impacted the individual selections had this proposal been in effect.

- (2) Qualifying Individual in One Discipline to Compete in Both Disciplines. The second proposal stated that if a student-athlete qualified for the NCAA Rifle Championships in one discipline, they would be allowed to compete in both disciplines. The committee discussed the proposal but was not interested in making such a change and took no action.

- c. **Selection Dates.** The committee prefers that the selection show announcing the team and individual participants for the NCAA Rifle Championships take place the Sunday following the NCAA qualifier matches. However, members are aware of the logistical and timing issues this would cause and ultimately took no action. The selection show for the 2018 NCAA Rifle Championships will be Wednesday, March 21, at 5 p.m. Eastern time.

The committee would like to continue to explore ways that the selection show can reasonably be moved closer to the completion of the NCAA qualifier matches.

- 9. **Awards and Awards Presentation.** The committee agreed to add a mini-trophy for each of the top three place finishers. Currently, six mini-trophies are provided, but this leaves the assistant coach as the only member of the official travel party not to receive a mini-trophy of a deserving team. By adding one mini-trophy, each member of the deserving team's travel party will receive an award. The total costs for the additional nine awards can be absorbed by the current awards/mementos budget for the championships.

Additionally, the committee recommends that the mini-team trophies not be provided during the awards ceremony and instead be provided after the awards ceremony has concluded. The deserving teams would still be provided their team trophies for the celebration on the podium

during the awards ceremony. This change will shorten the awards ceremony to a much more reasonable time.

- 10. Penalty for Failure to Follow the Standard Match Format.** The committee assessed a penalty to the four institutions that failed to follow the standard match format during their respective 2017 NCAA qualifier match. The committee determined that the team scores from the NCAA qualifier matches for the four schools that failed to follow the standard match format will retroactively be disallowed and counted as a zero.

The individual student-athletes that shot the NCAA qualifier match out of the standard-match format will also have their individual scores for that match retroactively disallowed and counted as a zero.

The committee acknowledged that none of the institutions or student-athletes in question intentionally failed to follow the standard match format. However, the standard match format is a part of the NCAA Rule Modifications and is required to be followed regardless of intent.

- 11. 2017-18 Rules Modifications.** The committee reviewed potential edits to the USA Shooting Rules and made some initial adjustments to the 2017-18 NCAA Rifle Rules Modifications.

The committee is waiting for USA Shooting to release the newest version of its rule book. NCAA Secretary-Rules Interpreter Newt Engle provided the committee with the expected changes to the USA Shooting Rule Book, and the committee drafted rule modification edits based on those expectations. Mr. Engle will inform the committee once the USA Shooting Rules have been officially released, and the committee will then review the draft edits to the NCAA Rifle Rule Modifications. Once finalized, the proposed rule modifications will be sent to the membership for comment and then forwarded to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for final approval.

Key items of discussion included the following:

- a. Standard Match Format.** The committee talked at length about the standard match format and the unintended impact on schools with smaller ranges. Mr. Engle will work with Alan Lollar of the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association to develop changes to the standard match format that better accommodate all NCAA rifle programs and their ranges. Mr. Engle will bring any proposed changes to the full rifle committee for consideration to include in the 2017-18 Rules Modifications.
- b. Camouflage.** The committee considered a rules modification proposal to allow camouflage during NCAA rifle matches. The committee took no action on the proposal but expressed a willingness to consider camouflage waiver requests in the future. The committee will continue to discuss on a future conference call.
- c. Decimal Scoring.** The committee briefly discussed the possibility of NCAA rifle moving to decimal scoring but took no action. Mr. Engle will inform head coaches in his rules mailing

at the beginning of the year that the committee will continue to discuss the concept and request feedback.

**12. Rules Conference Call.** The committee encouraged Mr. Engle to conduct a rules conference call with head rifle coaches before the start of the season to review the USA Shooting Rules and NCAA Rule Modifications for the 2017-18 NCAA rifle season.

**13. Championships Policy Review.** The committee briefly reviewed various championships policies and made no changes for 2018.

**14. Online Score Reporting System.** The committee was pleased with the NCAA online score reporting system and recommended no changes for 2017-18.

**15. Targets and Equipment for the Championships.** The equipment used for the backstop at the 2017 championships has been shipped to The Citadel. The Citadel will use it for a test match next fall and then for the 2018 NCAA Rifle Championships.

The Citadel (2018) and West Virginia University (2019) will secure 26 MegaLink electronic targets for use during the NCAA Rifle Championships. NCAA staff will continue to explore options for securing targets for the 2020 championships and beyond.

**16. Pre-Championships Manual.** The committee reviewed and updated the pre-championships manual as necessary.

**17. Future of NCAA Rifle Championships.**

**a. Playoff Format Discussion.** The committee discussed the possibility of structuring the championships in a playoff format. A subcommittee was formed of Eric Sabin, David Kooger and Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi to further explore the issue.

**b. Goals.** The committee updated both its short- and long-term goals based on what was accomplished in 2016-17 and new ideas for the future.

**c. Growing the Sport.** The committee expressed interest in creating a promotional document for institutions that may have interest in adding rifle as an NCAA sport that would illustrate the benefits and reasonable costs of adding the sport. Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, Ashley MacAllister and Eric Sabin will work with NCAA staff to develop this document.

**18. Championships Expenses.** Committee members noted that most of the expenses from the 2017 championships were not yet reflected in the budget. NCAA staff will share the final financial report from 2016-17 on a conference call after the close of the fiscal year.

**19. Committee Roster and Changes.** The committee was informed that the NCAA Division I Nominating Committee was meeting to discuss the replacement for Bill Kelley. Richard Fletcher, Morehead State University, will join the committee on September 1 as a replacement for James Greenwell, whose term expires August 31.

**20. Committee Chair.** Mellissa Mulloy-Mecozi, head rifle coach at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will remain as the chair of the committee for the 2017-18 academic year.

**21. Future Dates.** The committee reviewed and approved of the dates for the 2017-18 academic year.

**a. NCAA Qualifier.** Friday, February 16, 2018 – Sunday, February 18, 2018

**b. Team and Individual Selections.** Wednesday, February 21, 2018

**c. Rifle Championships.** Friday, March 9 - Saturday, March 10 – The Citadel

**d. Annual Meeting.** Monday, April 23 - Tuesday, April 24 – Indianapolis, Indiana

**22. Open Discussion.**

- **Paper Targets.** The committee discussed the issues being faced by schools that shoot on paper targets and how they can encourage others to shoot at their range. The committee took no action.

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

*Staff Liaison: Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee April 24-25, 2017, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Newt Engle, NCAA Secretary Rules Interpreter
David Kooger, University of Texas, El Paso; Conference USA
Alan Lollar, Murray State University, Ohio Valley Conference.
Ashley MacAllister, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Big Ten Conference
Melissa Mulloy-Mecozzi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
Eric Sabin, University of Memphis, American Athletic Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
James Greenwell, North Carolina State University, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Bill Kelley, United States Naval Academy, American Athletic Conference.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Alan Lollar, Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Matt Maginnis, NCAA; Chad Tolliver, NCAA.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Andy Supergan, NCAA.