



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 16-18, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Championships Committee award the following 43 conferences automatic qualification privileges for the 2019 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. 2019 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.

b. Committee chair appointment.

- (1) Recommendation. That Karin Harvey, head women's basketball coach at Montclair State University, be named chair of the committee. Ms. Harvey will replace Bobbi Morgan, whose two-year term as chair is expiring.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Ms. Harvey has served three years on the committee. She has unique experience as head coach of a team that has competed in the semifinals, as well as served as a tournament director for an NCAA national championship. She is a valuable member of the committee, is well respected within Division III women's basketball, and will provide great leadership.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Ms. Harvey has a strong knowledge of basketball and NCAA events, and will keep the best interests of the student-athletes as a top priority.

c. Team sheets.

- (1) Recommendation. That the team sheets available to the committee be formatted to use the strength-of-schedule calculation instead of the RPI 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. **2017 annual meeting report.** The NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee reviewed and approved the 2017 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. Leading topics were the development of a senior all-star game and exploring options for another joint championship with Divisions II and III.
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 Atlantic East Conference (AEC). Staff was directed to confirm all changes once the membership reports are available in September.
6. **2018 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2018 championship.
 - a. **Teleconferences.** The committee discussed the various teleconferences that are conducted throughout the season.

The committee asked staff to develop a one-page instruction sheet for new national committee members outlining how to facilitate the RAC calls.

- b. **Selections and criteria.** The committee again discussed the strength-of-schedule criterion and the use of the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) and team sheets. The committee understands that Division I is exploring other options in addition to, or in place of, the current RPI calculation. Once more is known in that process, the women's basketball committee will discuss the options.

The committee discussed the new nonconference strength-of-schedule calculation and agreed the information was useful for rankings. Members agreed that secondary criteria is the right place for it to be considered.

- 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.

The committee expressed concern about the lack of available site reps. Members suggested staff to urge RAC members to be available to serve. The committee suggested that specific language be added to what is sent to the commissioners when nominees are requested. In addition, the committee asked staff to identify a date and include “identify/confirm potential site representatives” on the committee timeline.

d. Review of first/second rounds and sectionals.

(1) **Bids and facilities.** The committee discussed preliminary-round bids and facilities requirements.

(2) **Pregame timing sheets.** Timing sheets were reviewed. No changes were made.

(3) **Evaluations.** The evaluations submitted by participants were reviewed.

- e. Review of championship semifinals/final.** The committee reviewed the 2018 semifinals/final hosted by Saint Mary’s University (Minnesota) and Rochester Sports.

(1) **Game administration.** The committee praised the hosts for remarkable game operations and administration. It was one of the most well-run championships in many years.

(2) **Tickets.** The ticket process went smoothly with only online and onsite sales. Team presale tickets were delivered to the teams by the Thursday practice, which worked well.

(3) **Sports information.** The committee directed staff to make it mandatory for an in-house live stats monitor to be placed for the broadcasting talent, in lieu of the Turner broadcast feed. An in-house feed is more reliable and is instantaneous, whereas the Turner stats are delayed.

(4) **Committee assignments.** The committee assignments work well and will be continued.

(5) **Instant replay.** The committee reviewed instant replay guidelines and made no changes. The pregame equipment checks with the lead official prior to each game worked well. These are conducted sometime after the captains meeting and prior to the 5-minute horn to clear the floor.

- (6) **Awards ceremony.** The committee reviewed the awards ceremony and made no changes.
 - (7) **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the schedule of events and made no changes.
 - (8) **Wednesday social event.** The committee agreed that the change to a heavier menu and reducing the time of the social portion was a good change.
 - (9) **Banquet.** The committee wants to continue offering programming for the student-athletes during the coaches meeting.
 - (10) **Live web stream – Turner.** The committee expressed the need for an analyst who is familiar with Division III and the teams/participants/coaches. Members suggested that a coach or former coach might be good in this role. Staff was directed to work with Turner to discuss options.
 - (11) **Pregame timing sheets.** The committee reviewed timing sheets and made no changes.
 - (12) **Agendas – advancing team.** The committee reviewed and made minor changes to the agenda.
 - (13) **Credential form.** The committee liked the new format for the credential form.
 - (14) **VIP hospitality.** The committee noted more use of the VIP hospitality as it was well publicized and directional signage was well placed.
 - (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 directed staff to continue discussions with future hosts regarding marketing to the local community. Community support has been lacking in recent years.
7. **Postgame press conference.** The committee agreed that the advancing team will go first in the post-game press conferences in championship competition, except for the sectional final game and the championship final game. This will allow the non-advancing team more time to gain their composure and be prepared to participate in the press conference. In the sectional final and the national championship game, the non-advancing team will go first due to the net-cutting ceremony on the court. This change aligns Division III women's basketball with Division II men and women and Division III men.

- 8. 2019 Championship.** The City of Salem and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference will host the 2019 championship semifinals/final. Representatives from Salem attended the meeting as guests of the committee.

The committee reviewed ideas for the social, the banquet and for some ancillary events around the championship, such as a fan-fest or kids zone. Marketing strategies were discussed as well. The hosts suggested some things to implement for the women's championship that they have done for the men's championship, as well as expressed interest in new initiatives for the women's championship. In addition, the hosts indicated their support operationally as well as financial assistance, in implementing a senior all-star game.

- 9. Officials.** The committee reviewed the procedures involving officials.

a. Evaluations. The committee reviewed the officials' evaluation forms.

b. Policies and procedures for selecting officials. Mary Toberman, NCAA Division III women's basketball national coordinator of officials, joined the meeting via teleconference to present her report. The committee approved the two recommendations she submitted:

- (1) **Discontinue the use of regional coordinators in the officials' selection process.** Effective with the 2019 championship, Ms. Toberman will work with each conference coordinator to develop a conference watch list (in rank order). From these conference lists, Ms. Toberman will develop the pool of officials who are under consideration for postseason assignment. Once host sites are determined, she will work with the conference coordinator in that area to assign crews to each game.

Before the hiring of the national coordinator, the regional coordinator position was needed to assign crews from each region to the host sites. The national coordinator is in place to manage this process now, rendering the old process obsolete.

- (2) **Change the way officials are signed to the semifinal/final site.** Instead of a crew coming from the three regions (which rotate from year to year), each region will have one official selected to work the finals, and the three regions for the year will have a second official selected to work the finals to fulfill the remaining positions (regions will continue to rotate from year to year). The national coordinator will work with the conference coordinators in each region to designate the top three to five officials for consideration for finals site assignment. Ongoing discussions and evaluations will occur leading up to the selection of the one (or two) from each region. This will be effective with the 2020 championship.

The intent of the national assignor is to assign the *best* officials to work the semifinals and championship games.

In the past, crews were identified ahead of time so that they were committed to working the event and were able plan travel. The prevailing thought at the time was to send crews to the finals site (as opposed to individuals) so they could work together in conference tournaments and/or preliminary rounds.

It still is necessary to identify the officials in advance for them to accept the assignment (and agree not to work another game/event) and to minimize travel expenses by allowing them to book flights well in advance. However, the idea of sending crews has become less compelling over time. One reason is that some regions are not able to send crews that have worked together due to geographical constraints. Another is the fact there is a training system in place that every official has available to them. Regional clinics are conducted; the coordinator of officials informs coordinators during their meeting in September with the points of emphasis and rules changes they need to teach to their officials; and training videos, tests and quizzes are available to every official as part of their Arbiter account. Any good official is using the system in place and should easily be placed within a crew and be prepared to call the game.

Discontinuing crews will allow to better place the best officials in the country on the championship games. Keeping a regional component will allow each region to have representation every year, instead of every three years.

c. Officials' history. The committee reviewed the officials' history chart.

10. Manuals review. The committee reviewed the various manuals and made updates as needed.

11. Other business.

a. Women's basketball presentation. Lynn Holzman, the recently appointed NCAA vice president for women's basketball, spoke to the committee about the current issues in women's basketball and her next steps in developing a vision and roadmap for all three divisions.

Ms. Holzman addressed the joint championship concept with Divisions I and II and the ongoing discussion with Division II and III governance staffs. She discussed the current bid process, which included asking potential hosts if they could accommodate hosting all three divisions. She noted that a joint championship in women's basketball would not occur every year, but that there is a commitment to conduct future joint championships.

Lastly, Ms. Holzman discussed her intention to initiate a working group with current stakeholders within women's basketball to meet this summer to provide more vision and strategic planning for the sport.

b. Division III presentation. Jay Jones, associate 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.

The committee is looking forward to the report from the working group that is studying the first-round conference matchups.

13. 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.

14. Future joint championship with Divisions I and II. (Attachments) Committee members expressed interest and support for a joint championship based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 2016 joint championships in Indianapolis. A formal recommendation will be presented to the Divisions II and III Championships Committees at their September meetings, with the understanding that budget implications will be addressed in the budget process.

One difference from the 2016 format and future formats is that the day of competition for the Divisions II and III championship games will change. Division I now conducts its semifinal games on Friday and the championship game on Sunday, rather than on Sunday and Tuesday as was done in 2016. This means that Divisions II and III will conduct their championship games on Saturday, rather than on Monday as was done in 2016.

The committee supports the stated commitment of all three divisions for conducting a joint championship two times within the next 10 years, with the two years to be determined later this year. Identifying these years will assist with planning (including logistics, financial, television impact) as well as overall promotion of the joint championship.

15. Future meeting dates. The 2019 annual meeting will be April 22-24.

Committee Chair: Bobbi Morgan, Haverford College, Centennial Conference

Staff Liaison: Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

Division III Women's Basketball Committee April 16-18, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Karin Harvey, Montclair State University.	
Kristin Huffman, DePauw University.	
Lesley Irvine, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.	
Bobbi Morgan, Haverford College.	
David Petroff, Edgewood College.	
James Scheible, University of Rochester.	
Kelly Thompson, Roger Williams University.	
Polly Thomason, University of Texas at Dallas.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Carey Harveycutter, City of Salem.	
John Shaner, City of Salem.	
Mary Toberman, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances	
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lynn Holzman, Championships and Alliances.	
Jay Jones, Division III Governance.	