

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
JULY 31, 2018, TELECONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Committee chair.** The committee is requesting a waiver to allow Natalie Benson, head women's water polo coach at the California State University, Fresno, to serve as chair of the committee for the 2018-19 academic year (see Action Item 2).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Committee chair, head coach.**
 - a. Recommendation. . That Natalie Benson, head women's water polo coach at the California State University, Fresno, be appointed chair for 2018-19. The committee is seeking a waiver from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to allow a head coach to serve as the chair of the National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Committee.
 - b. Effective date. September 1, 2018.
 - c. Rationale. Mrs. Benson is well respected in the coaching community and has been a strong contributor to the women's water polo committee the last two years. Mrs. Benson has the unanimous support of the committee in assuming this enhanced leadership position. Additionally, there are two continuing member of the committee that are administrators, but due to their campus responsibilities, they are unable to take on this leadership role for the coming year. The current committee chair, Kelly Barsky deputy athletics director and senior woman administrator at University of California, Santa Barbara, has stepped down from the committee as of August 8.
 - a. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - b. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2018 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as written.

2. **2018 championship recap and evaluations.** The committee reviewed the 2018 championship and the survey feedback from the participating teams, noting the following areas of concern:

- The distance of the participant hotel lodging from the competition venue, particularly the drive time in high traffic areas.
- The host institution should ensure that the banquet is a first-class event and appropriately staffed.
- Concerns regarding the logistical issues created by the host institution having commencement on campus during the championship event.

The committee agreed to emphasize these key items for future championships and be more diligent in identifying them in the next bid cycle.

3. **2018 championship merchandise update.** The committee received a report on the merchandise sales at both the opening round and championships for the 2018 championship. Sales at the championship were the lowest on record for this event. The committee noted the need to be more strategic with the placement of merchandise sales locations at future championships.
4. **2018 championships streaming results.** The committee received a report on viewership from the live stream of the 2018 championship. The total number of video starts as well as the total time spent watching the championship both showed significant increases over the prior year.
5. **Financial update.** The committee reviewed the financial report from the University of Southern California, which hosted this year's championship.
6. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the committee responsibilities document and asked staff to make necessary edits for the 2019 championship and present the document to the committee for review and discussion during an early spring teleconference.
7. **Postgame celebration.** The committee reviewed the postgame celebration for the 2018 championship and felt that the use of the "postgame access deck credentials" for the championship game worked well and should continue for the 2019 championship.

The committee also reaffirmed its earlier decision to eliminate the presentation of the semifinalist awards postgame on the pool deck.

- 8. Manual update.** NCAA staff will send committee members an electronic version of each manual for the championship and ask them to review and submit edits for 2019 by Wednesday, August 22.

Committee Chair: Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara, Big West Conference
Staff Liaison: Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee July 31, 2018 Teleconference	
Attendees:	
Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno.	
Maggie Martini, St. Francis College Brooklyn.	
Adam Pack, Utica College.	
Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Bob Corb, National Coordinator of Officials.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
Absent:	
Julie Snodgrass, Azusa Pacific University.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.	
Aaron King, Championships and Alliances.	