ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Automatic qualification.
      (1) Recommendation. That the following 10 conference be approved for automatic qualification to the 2018 NCAA Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship: City University of New York Athletic Conference; Continental Volleyball Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conferences; Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League; New England Collegiate Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Skyline Conference (year 1 grace period); United Volleyball Conference.

      (1) Effective date. September 1, 2017.

      (2) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.2 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. The Middle Atlantic Conferences and the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference are both multi-sport conferences with a new AQ for the 2018 championship.

      Anticipated Pool Allocations
      Pool A – 10
      Pool B – 0
      Pool C – 2

      (3) Estimated budget impact. None.

      (4) Student-athlete impact. None.

   b. Regional alignment.
      (1) Recommendation. That the United Volleyball Conference move from the West evaluation region to the East.

      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
(3) **Rationale.** Division III men’s volleyball has seen a rapid increase in sport sponsorship since its first championship in 2012. Much of that growth comes as multi-sport conferences begin to sponsor men’s volleyball; the Middle Atlantic Conferences and the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference are two new automatic berths in the 2018 NCAA Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship. Based on geographic location and NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.3 requiring conference members to be placed in the same evaluation region, the committee is placing the MAC and the NACC in the West evaluation region.

The addition of the MAC and the NACC to the West region causes an imbalance in the number of teams in each region. The current alignment, with the addition of the MAC and NACC, would place 34 teams in the East and 58 in the West. This imbalance will cause the number of ranked teams in each region to differ greatly (based on the NCAA Division III Championships Committee’s guidelines that a sport committee rank between 15 and 21 percent of teams the East region would rank a minimum of five and a maximum of seven, the West region would rank a minimum of nine and a maximum of 12). Moving the UVC to the East region would balance the regions and help better manage the number of ranked teams.

The committee feels that making this change effective for the 2018 championship will have minimal impact on teams even though scheduling has already started for most institutions. Since Division III men’s volleyball is split into only two regions, and a contest can be counted as in-region through five different criteria, the ability of institutions to meet the minimum 70 percent in-region scheduling requirement to be eligible for the championship should not be impacted. Also, with the 2018 bracket consisting of 10 automatic berths and only two at-large berths, the final two teams selected to the field will ultimately have had to schedule the best teams regardless of whether they are in-region, so having this region change implemented for the coming year should not impact the way a coach would schedule without a year advance notice of the regional change.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Better aligning the evaluation regions will allow for teams to be ranked with those most proximate to them. It will also set the stage for better alignment for teams as the sport continues to grow.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee chair welcomed the committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
2. **Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions taken by the Championships Committee in 2016-17 relevant to the work of the men’s volleyball committee. NCAA staff also gave an update on several governance-related items.

3. **2016 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report noting a few minor editorial reviews.

4. **2017 championship review.**

   a. **Championship surveys.** Committee members commended the host organizing committee on a successful championship. The committee specifically emphasized the outstanding work of Springfield College’s graduate assistants and the many tireless hours they worked to make the championship a success.

      The committee discussed the need for a more streamlined process regarding public address announcements, specifically relating to team introductions. There were several instances during the 2017 championship in which there was confusion in starting lineups due to the travel party roster being a bit confusing for the announcer to determine which student-athletes would be dressing for each round. The committee discussed possible solutions to implement for the 2018 championship.

   b. **Krossover film exchange.** The committee discussed the positives and negatives of using the Krossover platform for the first time during the 2017 championship. Feedback from championship participants indicated that Krossover was effective for the initial film exchange after selections, but was cumbersome for subsequent rounds due to the time it took for hosts to upload the film to the system before teams could then download the game film. The committee will continue to use Krossover for the 2018 championship but will also allow hosts to provide an alternative to the Krossover film for all championship matches (i.e., DVD or jump drive). NCAA staff will discuss Carthage College’s capabilities to provide faster access to game film using Krossover prior to the 2018 championship.

   c. **Preliminary-round officials’ assignments.** Securing officials for the preliminary-round sites during the 2017 championship posed issues due to the turnaround time from selections to the first matches, but more so due to the conflict with conference tournaments and several juniors tournaments conducted the same weekend. The committee assigns referees (two referees and one alternate), line judges (four per site), a scorekeeper and a libero tracker for the first-round sites through the help of the hosts and conference assignors. In order to get out ahead of this issue, the committee will discuss potential first-round sites during its early rankings calls and work with area assignors to secure potential crews for when the four first-round sites are determined.
5. **Playing rules and officiating.** NCAA playing rules staff met with the committee to provide updates on any potential rules changes as they relate to Division III men’s volleyball. The committee discussed the addition of a policy regarding the use of electronic aids and electronic communication similar to that of women’s volleyball and national collegiate men’s volleyball. The playing rules staff will survey the membership before any final policy additions are made.

6. **Sport sponsorship and conference alignment.** The committee discussed the current East and West regions and finalized its proposed recommendation for realignment (see Nonlegislative Action item 2-d). Should the proposed realignment be approved, the committee would rank 18 percent of teams in each region: eight in the East and nine in the West. If the realignment is not approved, the regional rankings will be six in the East and 10 in the West.

The committee also reviewed the projected sport sponsorship for the 2018 championship and anticipated growth in the coming years and anticipate requesting a bracket increase to 14 teams for the 2019 NCAA Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship.

7. **Preview of 2018 championship – Carthage College; Kenosha, Wisconsin.**

   a. **First-round sites.** In 2018, the first-round and quarterfinal matches will be hosted at four on-campus sites; three teams will compete at each site. First-round matches will be conducted Friday and quarterfinal matches Saturday following selections. Match times will be 6 p.m. local time for both rounds.

   b. **Final site.** The championship site format for the semifinals and championship match will remain unchanged except that semifinals will be contested on Friday and the championship match will be played Saturday the weekend following the first round and quarterfinals.

8. **Strength of victory.** The committee reviewed the strength-of-victory concept and provided feedback to the Division III Championships Committee for its June meeting as requested.

9. **Future dates and sites.**

   a. Kean University, April 26-27, 2019.


Committee Chair: Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology; United Volleyball Conference.
Staff Liaison: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

| Attendees: | Division III Men’s Volleyball Committee  
| June 12-13, 2017, Annual Meeting |
|---|---|
| John Garrett, Hunter College; City University of New York Athletic Conference. |
| Sheila Gisbrecht, Elms College; New England Collegiate Conference. |
| Dan Liberto, State University of New York Polytechnic Institute; North Eastern Athletic Conference. |
| Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology; United Volleyball Conference. |
| Absentees: | None. |
| Guests in Attendance: | None. |
| NCAA Staff Support in Attendance: | Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances. |
| Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance: | Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances; |