



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEE  
JUNE 19-21, 2017, ANNUAL MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences receive automatic bids for the 2017 Division I Women's Rowing Championships: American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; and West Coast Conference.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. All of the conferences listed have submitted paperwork signifying that they meet the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Additional credential allotment.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve an additional credential for each Division I institution at the championships.
- (2) Effective date. 2018 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The committee noted that last year the fourth paid coaching position was approved but there was no requisite adjustment in the credential allocation. Currently, the 31 members in the travel party, 25 of whom are student-athletes on the

National Collegiate Athletic Association

*Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life*

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

roster, receive credentials, allowing for six nonstudent-athlete credentials to be used for coaches, administrators, athletic trainers, etc. Because rowing teams typically sport large rosters, this additional credential allotment would help teams better manage their participation in the championships.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation allows for an extra credentialed non-athlete, which could help in the team boat area with safety and management of the entire team.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. 2016 annual meeting report.** The Division I Women's Rowing Committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as submitted.

**2. Review of 2017 championship.**

- a. General overview. Overall, the committee was extremely pleased with the conduct, layout and execution of the event. The committee thought the host did a good job of having not only the course/boat storage area prepared before the walkthrough, but also with providing an efficient check-in/registration process that eased the burden on teams.
- b. Community ergs. The committee was pleased that the host could secure more community ergs toward the end of the championships but would like to make sure the numbers are adequate from the beginning of the championship. The committee recommended 48 as the ideal number.
- c. Media information. The committee reiterated that the rowing championships should be better promoted on NCAA.com and asked staff to enhance relationships with rowing-specific media as well. The committee did note the increased interaction from fans and student-athletes prompted by the Twitter hashtag devoted to the event.
- d. Competition schedule. The committee reviewed the championships schedule in advance of the joint divisional meetings and discussed which schedule works better at the 2018 venue. Members agreed to analyze whether 12-minute centers or 10-minute centers are preferred depending on the host and venue setup. The committee acknowledged that this could be determined after the site visit.

- e. Contingency schedule action plan. The committee reaffirmed the following guidelines in priority order when considering schedule adjustments due to weather (i.e., high wind):
  - (1) Move all races up earlier or later in the day and keep race order and centers intact.
  - (2) Flip-flop the schedule and move the higher-priority races earlier or later in the day and keep centers intact.
  - (3) Compress centers of lower-priority races and maintain the existing centers for higher-priority races.
  - (4) Compress centers for all races.
- f. Credentialing. The committee continues to emphasize that people without proper credentials, particularly those with small children, should not be in the boat storage area due to safety concerns. Otherwise, the committee felt the bracelets worked well for the student-athletes and coaches. Members asked staff to consider using bracelets more or explore systems that would deter credential swapping. The committee noted its request to add a credential for each team (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b).
- g. Banquet. The committee will continue working with the host to evaluate and research potential speakers for the 2018 banquet. The committee emphasized the importance of identifying speakers who are inspirational, relatable to the student-athletes and experienced in public speaking. The committee thought that Mary Whipple did an amazing job and was pleased that she could stay throughout the event to assist in various areas. Members encouraged asking whether she would be interested in serving in this capacity at future championships. The committee also encouraged future hosts to require tickets to enter the banquet, as it seemed there were not enough tables for all the teams this year (or perhaps consider assigning tables, as there were comments that entire teams were not able to sit together).
- h. Hotels. The committee noted no significant issues with hotels, though members asked staff to explore the feasibility of adding one room to the room blocks for each team. Members heard few, if any, issues regarding teams staying at non-full-service hotels being unable to coordinate team meals.
- i. Officials/chief referee. The committee was very pleased with Tiffany Knapp as the chief referee this past year. She did a great job of coordinating all the officials and working with all the institutions to create a quality championship experience. The committee voted to recommend to the joint committee that Ms. Knapp continue as chief referee in 2018, and then be asked to help recommend a successor for the 2019

championships. The committee likes the consistency of this approach and believes having a more experienced chief referee will be an asset.

The committee asked staff to work with internal groups at the NCAA to explore the feasibility of an increase in officiating fees.

The committee also agreed to discuss during the joint meeting the idea of adding an official to the event. This was a primary safety concern from the chief of officials this past year (and previous year), since officials are not only involved with the competition but are mandatory at all practices at the venue.

- j. Fairness subcommittee. The committee affirmed that the objective of the fairness subcommittee is to monitor and evaluate current situations in order to make recommendations to the full committee. However, the full committee is still responsible for deciding matters of fairness (i.e., lane changes, schedule changes, etc.).
  - k. In-stadium production and announcers. The committee was extremely pleased with the multiple large video screens (one in the student-athlete area and one in the spectator area). Although there were a few technical issues, the overall ability to have both made for a great event. Members also commended the host's execution and plan for the awards presentation, noting that it was energetic, exciting and fun both for the fans and student-athletes.
  - l. Webcast. While the committee appreciated having video at the event, members noted the camera angle for the final portion was not ideal. The committee suggested having camera workers who are familiar with the sport if possible. The committee continued to stress the importance of the video streaming for the event and encouraged exploration of ways to improve. Final viewership numbers were not available at the time of the meeting, though staff agreed to inform the group once they are published.
  - m. Future improvements. The committee wants to explore ways to further promote the sport, from increasing the number of media interviews to educating fans on how the races are scored. The committee was very pleased with the adjustment this year to assign a committee member to each team for communication purposes and to help track practice times. The committee agreed to continue this approach and make adjustments as necessary to improve communications.
3. **Regional advisory committees (RACs) and regional alignment.** The committee reviewed the current RAC composition and noted vacancies that need to be filled for the 2017-18 academic year.
4. **Dates for rankings and automatic qualification deadline.** The committee agreed to continue having national committee ranking calls on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. as schedules

allow. The deadline to submit automatic qualifications for 2018 is Sunday, May 13, at midnight Eastern time.

5. **Results and line-up reporting.** The committee reviewed the significance of lineup posting and noted that the same requirements will be in place for 2018. Teams that do not post their lineups on their institutional athletics pages by midnight Eastern time each Monday following the regatta will be subject to a \$200 fine for failure to adhere to championship policies and procedures.
6. **Selection policies and procedures.** The committee was pleased with having another call on the Tuesday of selections to review the previous day's materials. The committee agreed to continue this process.
7. **Review of championship manuals.** The committee reviewed the pre-championship manual and made minor editorial adjustments. All updates will be made to the manual prior to it being posted by January 15, 2018.
8. **Committee chair.** Jeff Smith was appointed chair of the committee. Mr. Smith has been an asset to the committee and is committed to continuing to enhance the championship for the student-athletes.
9. **Championship format.** The committee discussed at length the format of the event and reviewed feedback from the coaches' association regarding the various options under consideration. The committee developed an additional option as well, which was is having the top boat advance while the other boats go to the repechage (second chance race). In the end, the committee noted there was not enough of a consensus on any of the options to recommend a change now. However, the group agreed to continue gathering feedback and additional information from the coaches and other stakeholders such as the timing company and those who administer other regattas.

*Committee Chair:* Ashley Armstrong, University of California, Los Angeles

*Staff Liaison(s):* Ryan Tressel, NCAA Championships and Alliances

<b>NCAA Division I Women's Rowing Committee</b>
<b>June 19-21, 2017, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Ashley Armstrong, University of California, Los Angeles; Pac-12 Conference.
Wendy Bordeau, Dartmouth College; The Ivy League.
Kyle Conder, Southern Methodist University; American Athletic Conference.

Chris Hoppe, Eastern Michigan University; Mid-American Conference.
Steve Pritzker, University of Virginia; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Glenn Putyrae, Gonzaga University; West Coast Conference.
Jeff Smith, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Atlantic 10 Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances. Alaina Keller, Championships and Alliances. Catherine Krawiec, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.