



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 14-15, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Big Ten Conference receive automatic qualification to the 2018 National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championships.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. The conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.4 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Additional judges.

- (1) Recommendation. That six additional judges be added to the championships qualifiers and final session to increase from a four-judge panel to a five-judge panel on each event (two D+E judges and three E judges; will average the middle three E scores and add to the agreed-upon D score).
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. The committee noted an increase in the number of ties in the last two years with the four-judge panel for the championships finals. Twenty-six student-athletes were tied during the 2017 championship, 28 during the 2016 championships and only 10 during the 2015 championships (before the format change when there was a six-judge panel). A five-judge panel will better differentiate the scoring of the routines and enhance the student-athlete experience.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The request can be managed within the current championship operations budget.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would be positively impacted because judging scores will differentiate the talent within the top eight places on each event.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2016 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as written.
2. **Championships format.** The committee discussed at length various championship format options. Based on feedback from championships participant surveys as well as feedback from the coaches association, the committee believes the current format used for the previous two championships has negatively impacted the student-athlete experience by removing focus on the individual event participants. Feedback from surveys and the coaches association emphasizes a desire for the individual event finals to return to the championship format as a separate session. While the committee agrees that is a priority and would support such a change, it will await the upcoming championship review process that the Competition Oversight Committee plans to undertake for sports with sponsorship under 50 institutions. The committee looks forward to collaborating with the COC to provide the best experience for the student-athletes at the championships.
3. **Rules.** The committee reviewed the NCAA rules modifications proposals submitted via the online portal from the coaches and voted to approve, deny or modify proposals. Proposals that received support will be shared with the coaches during a comment period before being forwarded to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel for approval.
4. **2017 championships review.** The committee reviewed the 2017 championships and noted the following:
 - a. **Selection process.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and selection process for the championships. The committee voted to clarify that there should also be two alternates named for the all-around competition and that the deadline for alternates to get into the meet due to a scratch is the beginning of timed warm-ups for the assigned championships qualifier session. In addition, the committee voted to clarify that if the host team only qualifies individuals, those individuals will compete in the second session of the championships qualifier.
 - b. **Schedule.** The committee reviewed the championship schedule of practice, competition and the banquet and was satisfied with the slate.
 - c. **Awards ceremony.** Overall, the awards ceremony during the championship was conducted efficiently. The committee noted that the small size of the awards stand posed a challenge in the instance of ties.

- d. **Results display.** The committee agreed that there should be manual score flashers at each event in addition to the electronic displays in the venue.
- e. **Facility/host.** The committee reviewed the facility and host operations, including the podium, layout, corrals, locker rooms and hospitality. Feedback will be shared with the host staff. The committee agreed that having the podium greatly enhanced the experience for the student-athletes and spectators. The committee applauded the staff at the U.S. Military Academy for providing a great championship experience for the student-athletes.
- f. **Banquet.** Feedback indicated that the banquet should focus on the student-athletes and should be shorter in length. The committee agreed that the emcee did a great job and the host staff provided an excellent banquet with the current format parameters. The committee will work on a new format for the banquet for 2018.
- g. **Credentials.** The committee reviewed all credential types and clarified access for the Guest and Administrator credentials to only have floor access pre- and post-competition. In addition, teams with only individuals can receive additional videographer credentials if they have more than one athlete competing at the same time. Alternates for individuals events and the all-around competition will be provided floor access only credentials to permit practice during open warm-up times.
- h. **Vendors.**
 - (1) **American Athletic, Inc.** Ken Cysewski from AAI joined the meeting to review equipment supplied at the championship. The committee requested new mats for certain events, manual score flashers at all events and some other items to be improved in the future. The group discussed the current timeline for new equipment for use at the NCAA championship and will maintain current protocol.
 - (2) **ProScore.** The committee reviewed ProScore's work during the championship and was pleased that there were no scoring malfunctions this year.
 - (3) **Road to Nationals.** NCAA staff shared that the new two-year contract with Road to Nationals is in effect with payments now coming directly from the NCAA for services. Jason Fredericks from Road to Nationals joined via teleconference to discuss the capability of providing live stats via their website for the championships.
- i. **Web streaming.** The committee reviewed the web stream viewership stats and noted a 10 percent increase in video starts and a 22 percent increase in average unique visitors from the previous year. The committee supported continuing to permit each qualified team to provide a web stream announcer during competition and agreed to expand the

- opportunity to the qualifier sessions in 2018. This enhances the experience for those watching at home.
- j. Survey review.** The committee reviewed survey results from the student-athletes, coaches, judges, host and committee regarding the 2017 championships.
 - k. Podium protocol.** The committee affirmed the podium protocol needs to be enforced from the start of competition and for the duration of all sessions.
 - l. Warm-up times.** The committee voted to change practice session warm-up times on Thursday to 45 minutes of open warm-up (instead of the current 30) followed by 15-minute rotations on each apparatus (instead of the current 20) with another 45 minutes of open warm-up at the end (instead of the current 30).
- 5. Recommendations for 2018.** The committee made recommendations for the 2018 championships.
- a.** The championships will begin at 6 p.m. Central time.
 - b.** The use of the podium is being discussed by the host but is not confirmed at this time.
 - c.** A site visit to the University of Illinois at Chicago will be scheduled in the fall.
 - d.** Instead of waiting for the inquiry process to conclude, rotation to the next event will follow this protocol: the last routine score flashes on the scoreboard; the inquiry process will begin; teams can rotate to their next event; the inquiry process concludes; the three-minute touch warm-up begins. Currently, teams must wait to rotate until the inquiry process concludes.
- 6. Regular-season issues.** The committee reviewed a legislative proposal from the coaches association to remove the restrictions on hosting a competition involving prospects in conjunction with an intercollegiate athletics event. The proposal was submitted by the coaches association and will begin the legislative process.
- 7. Financial summary.** Staff provided the financial summary for the past 10 years for committee review. The committee reviewed merchandise sales from the championship and noted an increase in sales from the previous year.
- 8. Manual updates.** The committee reviewed updates for the pre-championships, committee operations, participant and host manuals and directed staff to make the necessary edits.
- 9. Judges.** Mike Juszczuk and Dean Schott from the National Gymnastics Judges Association participated via teleconference.

- a. Technical director's report.** The technical director reported on the officials and technical conduct of the championships. There were nine official inquiries during qualification rounds and six during the championships.
 - b. Judge selection process.** The committee voted to adopt the NGJA proposal for selection of judges for the championships. The new selection process follows the previous process closely but removes all head coaches from having direct input in the selection of judges for the championships. The head coaches will be able to recommend judges to the regional technical directors who will take that into consideration as part of the selection process. The NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee retains final approval of the slate of judges. The coaches association supports this proposal as presented.
 - c. Assistant technical director.** The committee reviewed the assistant technical director job description and voted to approve it as presented. This job description formalizes the role and selection process (the position has existed for a few years but was not formalized in writing).
 - d. Other.** The NGJA president detailed new initiatives to enhance judge performance throughout the season and at the championships. The committee applauded the efforts of the NGJA president and supported these new initiatives.
- 10. USA Gymnastics.** USAG provided a document detailing their marketing support of the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Championships along with grants provided by the National Gymnastics Foundation to benefit NCAA men's gymnastics. John Bugner, NCAA staff liaison, will join the USAG Advisory Council as the representative for men's collegiate gymnastics programs.
- 11. Committee conference liaisons.** Mark Williams, who will join the committee on September 1, was approved to serve as the conference liaison for the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. Mike Burns will serve as the liaison for the Big Ten Conference and Mike Powell will continue serving as the liaison for the Eastern College Athletic Conference.
- 12. Committee composition.** The committee discussed its current composition, including number of committee members and regional alignment. The committee will participate in discussion with the COC during the championship review process on these items.
- 13. Committee chair selection.** The committee approved Mr. Burns, head coach at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, to chair the committee for a third and final year.
- 14. Future meetings.** The 2018 annual meeting will take place June 13-14 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Mike Burns, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Big Ten Conference

Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee June 14-15, 2017, Meeting
Attendees:
Mike Burns, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Big Ten Conference.
Ryan Cobb, University of California, Berkeley; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.
Thom Glielmi, Stanford University; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.
Kurt Golder, University of Michigan; Big Ten Conference.
Kiki Jacobs, Springfield College; Eastern College Athletic Conference.
Mike Powell, College of William & Mary; Eastern College Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Ken Cysewski, American Athletic, Inc.
Jason Fredericks, Road to Nationals (by teleconference).
Mike Juszczyk, National Gymnastics Judges Association (by teleconference).
Dean Schott, National Gymnastics Judges Association (by teleconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.