KEY ITEM.

- Approval of conferences to receive automatic qualification for the 2018 Championship.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative item.
   - Automatic Qualification.
     a. Recommendation. That the following five conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2018 NCAA National Collegiate Men’s Volleyball Championship: Big West Conference; Conference Carolinas; Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association; and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. This would be the first year of automatic qualification for the Big West Conference.
     b. Effective date. Immediate.
     c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
     d. Estimated budget impact. None.
     e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Approval of annual meeting report. The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as submitted.

2. Review of actions from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (COC). The committee reviewed COC actions and noted the priorities that have been identified for the upcoming year. The committee also noted the potential for low sponsorship sports to collaborate with the COC as it relates to assistance with setting policy on bracketing and formatting.

   Committee members also noted the COC’s mandate of webstreaming all competitions not covered by NCAA broadcast partners or television syndicator.
3. **Review of sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sponsorship for the current year, noting a few changes that are anticipated. Further review will take place once 2017-18 information is available to make sure all schools are represented and assigned to the correct region. The committee also noted that conference affiliation must be observed closely as institutions in the West Region realign for this coming year.

4. **Review of 2017 championship.**

   a. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the schedule of events and agreed that the current schedule works well. Members will continue to review and make adjustments based on travel time and facility availability in the future.

   b. **Play-in matches.** The committee reviewed the play-in matches and appreciated Ohio State’s willingness to host both and conduct them smoothly. Members continue to stress their belief that having the play-in matches at the finals location provides for the best student-athlete experience and protects bracket integrity.

   The committee also noted that if the Big West Conference is approved for automatic qualification (see nonlegislative action item above), an additional play-in match would be created. As a result, the first of the three play-in matches would likely need to be conducted on the campus of a participating institution in an effort to reduce missed class time, travel costs and strain on the finals host.

   c. **Suppliers.**

      (1) **Molten.** The committee emphasized its appreciation for the level of support, customer service and commitment to the championship that Molten provides annually. Staff will continue to work with Molten to update equipment and support needs for future championships.

      (2) **Sport Court.** The committee appreciates Connor Sport Court as the championship playing surface provider; however, there were some concerns related to the level of support with installation of the court and any additional support/quality control needed during the championship. The NCAA staff and committee understand that Connor Sport Court has been a reliable partner in the past and will communicate any concerns or particular needs during the summer recap meetings to ensure service needs are met moving forward.

      (3) **Sports Imports.** The committee is satisfied with the outstanding level of service and product Sports Imports provides for the championship.

   d. **Attendance/financial summary.** The committee reviewed the attendance and financial summary from the championship and was pleased with the attendance. Championship atmosphere was tremendous given the host institution was participating in the finals.

   e. **Television.** The committee was pleased with the ESPN2 broadcast of the finals, as well as the ratings that were reported. NCAA broadcasting staff members noted that although ratings were down 20 percent, it’s only by .02 of a rating. Not only were the same two
teams in the championship, but the network is the same from last year as well. Additionally, the time was one hour earlier (last year was 8 p.m. ET) which may have lost a few West Coast viewers with that being 4 p.m. Pacific time. The broadcasting group reiterated that this is an insignificant drop and is not cause for concern.

f. **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the evaluations and noted areas of improvement, noting that the low amount of feedback provided makes this difficult.

g. **Banquet.** The committee agreed that the banquet went well this year and noted the exceptional venue. Any challenges or adjustments were reviewed and noted to address for the future banquet planning.

h. **USA Volleyball.** The committee appreciates USA Volleyball’s commitment to growing the game and emphasized the importance of the organization’s presence at the championship and the banquet.

i. **American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).** The committee appreciated the AVCA’s presence during the championship planning phase and noted that presenting the All-America awards at the banquet is a nice element for continued incorporation to celebrate student-athlete achievement. The committee and staff will continue to involve the organization in promoting the championship.

5. **Preview of 2018 championship.**

a. **Schedule of events.** In anticipation of an additional play-in match, the committee discussed modifications that will would include dates and schedule for that round to occur at a campus site. For the finals site schedule of events, the committee does not anticipate changes from last year and asked staff to make sure that the host (University of California, Los Angeles) is prepared throughout the year, as well as willing to host the second round of play-in matches the week of the semifinals and finals, in the event matches are not played on participating teams’ campuses.

b. **Ancillary events.** The committee discussed ideas for ancillary events that would add to the championship experience for participants and fans, including USA Volleyball and AVCA involvement in an interactive area during the championship.

c. **Selection of game officials.** The committee discussed the process for selecting officials and will continue to work with conference commissioners and assignors to select the officials. The committee did express its desire for conferences to recommend officials using one-year agreements in order to have the ability to evaluate on an annual basis. A timeline similar to that in 2017 will be followed for the upcoming year.

d. **Participant manual.** The committee reviewed the participant manual and made changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute. Staff will work with the championship host to solidify changes and site-specific information.
6. **Automatic qualification and conference tournaments.** The committee noted that the Big West Conference will be eligible for automatic qualification in the 2017-18 academic year, pending approval of the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (see nonlegislative action item above). This would give the championship its fifth automatic qualifier and two at-large teams, providing for a seven team field.

7. **Future championship sites.** Staff reviewed the championship sites that were recently approved this past spring. The committee discussed areas of focus to address on the site visit to UCLA, host of the 2018 championship.

8. **Selection criteria/RPI review.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria that is used in the selection process and took no action.

9. **Rules.** Ben Brownlee of the NCAA playing rules staff met with the committee to discuss potential rules changes/modifications.

   The committee discussed and recommended two rules modifications to the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR), the first of which is the use of electronic aids. This would allow for statistical data to be transmitted to the bench area from any location in the facility. However, electronic audio and video devices transmitting information pertaining to the competition from any location in the facility to the bench or court would be illegal. The second rules modification is the Challenge Review System (CRS), a process in which video review is used to confirm, reverse or replay a specific officiating decision. Additionally, any member institution or conference may use the CRS, but there is no requirement to do so. These rules modifications are currently out for comment until August 2, and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel will consider these proposals during its upcoming teleconference in September.

10. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and agreed that the timing used this year worked well. Staff will continue to provide conference commissioners with information on recommending officials as early as possible. The committee did express its desire for conferences to recommend officials using one-year agreements in order to have the ability to evaluate on an annual basis.

11. **Review of manuals.** The committee reviewed the host operations, pre-championships and tournament host manuals and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute. The committee agrees that with the potential of play-in matches being held on institutions’ campuses, the NCAA should add a site representative manual to the manuals distributed.

12. **Committee.** The committee reviewed the national committee roster. Members noted that Paula Smith will be rotating off the committee and that the nominating committee has provided a replacement for the West Region.

   The committee also reviewed the committee timeline and recommended changes as necessary for staff to incorporate and distribute for the upcoming year.
Committee Chair: Janine Oman, The Ohio State University, Big Ten Conference  
Staff Liaison: Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances

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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<td>Lenny Kaplan, New Jersey Institute of Technology, ASUN Conference.</td>
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<td>Janine Oman, The Ohio State University; Big Ten Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Smith, University of California, Irvine; Big West Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy DeBoer, American Volleyball Coaches Association.</td>
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<td>Wade Gerard, MOTOR MVB.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Greg Woods, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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