



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 5-7, 2018, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Method for selecting individual event specialists and all-around competitors.** The women's gymnastics committee approved a method to select individual event specialists and all-around competitors to coincide with the rollout of the new championship format in 2019. The committee will select the top 12 all-around competitors and top 16 specialists on each event based on a national ranking instead of a regional ranking (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a).
- **Video review at final site.** The committee supported a coaches association recommendation to allow video review at the final site of competition. However, due to the NCAA budgetary process and timeline, an action item will be delayed until funding for video review is secured. The committee noted the importance of review at the final site since review is already allowed in the regular season and during regionals (see Informational Item 6-h).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Method for selecting individual event specialists and all-around competitors.

- (1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a recommendation to select 12 all-around competitors and 16 specialists for each event based on national qualifying scores (NQS).
- (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2018.
- (3) **Rationale.** With the format change to four regional sites and four teams per session starting in 2019, the women's gymnastics committee, with support from the coaches association, decided to select individuals and all-around competitors based on a national qualifying score instead of a regional score. Selecting individuals

based on the national score ensures that the most outstanding student-athletes across the country are participating in the championship.

In the previous format, individuals were selected based on their regional affiliations, which sometimes meant that an individual with a lower qualifying score in one region may be selected to the postseason over an individual with a higher score in another region, purely due to the depth and level of competition in different regions.

An institution's regional affiliation has no bearing on regular-season scheduling or qualification to the national tournament, so the committee feels this is the most opportune time to adjust how individuals are selected.

The committee also agreed that 12 all-arounders and 16 event specialists should be selected. This method provides for a net increase of four individuals who will be able to participate in the postseason in the new format. (Previously, 24 all-arounders and 12 specialists for each event were selected, for a total of 72 individuals. In this format, 12 all-arounders and 16 specialists for each event provides opportunities for 76 individuals.)

The list of top 12 all-arounders and top 16 individual event specialists will include individual qualifying scores from the teams competing in the first round. Including any individuals from those teams who rank in the top 12 or 16 ensures that those individuals will compete, regardless of whether their teams advance past the first round.

Once the committee selects the list of individuals based on NQS, athletes will be placed geographically at one of the four regional sites. All all-arounders and event specialists from the same team will be placed at the same regional, although they may compete in different sessions.

In the new format, individuals will compete in the second round. Scores achieved in the second round will be used to determine advancing individuals once the regional final is finished (to account for individuals on teams that are eliminated in the regional final) and then the top all-arounder (not on an advancing team) and top specialist for each event (not on an advancing team) will advance to the national championship. This method ensures 4 all-arounders and 16 specialists advance to the championship. While this could be more athletes than in previous years, it ensures the best routines are part of the championship. Ties for the advancing all-arounder will be broken by evaluating the highest event score, then the next highest, and will continue until the tie is broken. If not broken, all four judges' scores will be counted for all four events. Ties for advancing event specialists will be broken by counting all four scores on the event. If not broken, the head judge score will be

the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists, the advancing individual will be the one with the higher NQS.

The committee discussed how all-arounders and individuals would be paired with teams at regionals. To ensure the top-seeded teams have the least number of individuals competing with them, the committee will pair the highest-ranked all-arounder at the site with the lowest-seeded team (or lowest NQS team at the site first, then proceed to the seeded teams), the next highest all-arounder with the next lowest-seeded team, etc. This process ensures that the top-seeded teams have the fewest number of individuals competing with them, which maintains integrity of the bracket and fairness for both teams and individuals. This method will not disadvantage an individual competing with a team since athletes who qualified as individuals rotated with teams in the old format as well. The committee will have some discretion with pairings since part of the process is dependent on how many individuals are selected from teams placed at each regional and on what events those individuals are competing. *(Note: The committee conducted a mock selection and pairing with 2018 data and determined that some level of discretion is vital given the various combinations of teams and individuals that could occur. All said, the committee will prioritize having the fewest number of additional routines paired with the top-seeded teams at each site.)*

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Selecting nationally instead of regionally may lead to travel increases for institutions with individual qualifiers since there are fewer sites, but that is an outcome for everyone in the new four-region bracket format.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will benefit from this adjustment because the best competitors not on qualifying teams will be included in the postseason, regardless of region affiliation.

b. Increase the roster size to 18 student-athletes in uniform.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve allowing 18 student-athletes to be listed on the roster for teams competing in the postseason.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, 15 student-athletes can be listed on the entry form for the championship. However, women's gymnastics roster sizes have increased over the past decade, from an average of 15 gymnasts in 2008 to 18 in 2018. Allowing 18 student-athletes at the championship provides opportunities for the full squad to participate. The travel party will remain the same, so it will not impact budgets. The three additional student-athletes were previously allowed on the competition floor

but could not be in uniform. This change would allow them to be in uniform and compete, if needed.

Allowing an increased roster size will provide teams more flexibility in the postseason in the case of injuries. With the new format, teams could be competing three times during the regional weekend (as opposed to one time in the previous format), so giving teams the ability to use more student-athletes could aid with injuries.

The committee does not view an increase in the roster size as a competitive advantage, since rosters vary across the nation all season.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. More student-athletes will have the opportunity to experience the championship with their teams.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of the 2018 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships selections process and timeline.** The committee agreed that the selection process and timeline went well for 2018. The committee discussed needed modifications to the timeline in future years to accommodate the new format.
- 2. Review of 2018 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships regionals.**
 - a. Competitor numbers. The committee discussed the value of having competitor numbers attached to uniforms in the postseason. The coaches association has expressed concern with the safety pins damaging expensive leotards. The committee acknowledged that competitor numbers are important to the competition for scoring purposes, but agreed to explore alternative ways to display competitor numbers (for fans, media and photographers) as opposed to having teams fasten numbers to their uniforms.
 - b. Award ceremonies. The committee approved the following procedure for award ceremonies at regionals: Teams from the second session will remain in the corrals. The top six scores (including ties) on each event from the second round (combination of afternoon and evening sessions) and the top six all-arounders will be recognized after the conclusion of the second session in the second round. Each individual should be presented with a flower. The host will also announce the teams and individuals advancing to nationals after the regional final the following day.

- c. Site representatives. The committee did not mention any issues related to site representatives. Members reiterated the importance of having strong site representatives, especially with the format change, to ensure all sites operate consistently.
 - d. Transition and touch warm-up timing. The committee asked staff to make sure regional hosts understand the timing procedures for touch warm-ups to ensure all participants have the appropriate amount of warm-up time. Members also asked staff to ensure all regionals use the two-minute transition between the open stretch and the first rotation.
 - e. Participant evaluations. The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from regionals and noted a few minor concerns. Participants seemed to enjoy the regionals overall. One item the committee hopes to address is making sure individuals know what is expected of them in the postseason. Many times, especially at the final site, there are different procedures for individuals and all-arounders than for teams as it relates to tickets, parking passes, number of hotel rooms, etc. The committee plans to create a “cheat sheet” to assist individuals with planning.
- 3. Confirmation of 2019 regional host sites.** The committee reviewed the selected regional host sites for 2019. Staff outlined communication and planning that has already occurred to help the 2019 hosts be ready for the format change.

The committee also discussed regional schedules, pre-meet warm-ups and other pertinent items related to the new format. More details are listed in Attachment A.

- 4. Review regional score verification coordinators and responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the score verification coordinator roster and will solicit replacements for those no longer able to serve. Since region affiliation no longer plays a role in where a team or individual will compete, the committee discussed whether the score verification coordinators were still needed. Members agreed that the verification coordinators should continue to verify scores as a fail-safe for the electronic system. The coordinators will verify scores from the same institutions they were assigned to in the old format.

The committee also removed the outdated reference to a minimum qualifying score of 9.4 for individual qualifiers from the regional results reporting form.

- 5. Review of Road to Nationals services.** The committee discussed the results reporting services that Road to Nationals (RTN) currently provides. The committee was happy with how the online score verification process worked for 2018. Coaches also seemed pleased with how the process worked since it was less time intensive. The committee agreed that in the future, teams ranked in the top 25 by the first verification deadline will not need to verify scores since they will qualify to the championship as a team. Teams 26-36 and any coaches of potential individual qualifiers should verify scores used for selections.

6. Review of the 2018 Women's Gymnastics National Championships.

- a. Internal working group feedback. The committee reviewed the feedback from the internal working group regarding improvements that can be made for future championships. Staff will share the feedback with the 2019 host.
- b. Award ceremonies. The committee discussed the timing and length of the individual awards ceremony after the first day of competition at the finals site. Staff will work with the host to determine ways to make the ceremony more efficient, since athletes need to rest for the next day of competition.
- c. Banquet. The committee commended the St. Louis Sports Commission staff for creating a great experience for banquet attendees.
- d. Credentials/wristbands and distribution process. The committee felt the credentialing and distribution process worked well overall for the championship and will continue the process in a similar manner in the future.

In future championships, the committee will allow institutional personnel and non-competing student-athletes not included in the travel party onto the floor during the team award ceremony. Teams will request floor access for additional individuals prior to the championship.

Teams eliminated on Friday but attend the final competition on Saturday will be provided with a paper wristband for seating access and will have the opportunity to observe warm-ups on Saturday.

- e. Equipment list. The committee reviewed the equipment lists for regionals and nationals and indicated adjustments for future years. A representative from the equipment supplier, AAI, joined the meeting to discuss needs at the championship and equipment trends in the sport.
- f. Entry form. The committee was pleased with the new entry and march-in forms that were used this year. The new forms led to greater clarity about who can be listed on the entry form and access the corral.
- g. Transitions and touch warm-up timing. The committee reiterated that a two-minute transition should occur between open stretch and the first rotation.
- h. Video review. The committee asked staff to explore options to allow video review at the national championship. The committee supports the coaches association recommendation to allow video review, but due to the NCAA budgetary process and timeline, the committee

will delay the submitting the request as an action item until funding can be secured. The committee noted a logistical challenge posed by competing on a podium.

- 7. Plans for the 2019 National Collegiate Women’s Gymnastics Championship.** The committee noted items for staff to address with the 2019 championship host. The 2019 championship is April 19-20 and will be hosted by Texas Woman’s University and Knight Eady in Fort Worth, Texas. Regionals will be hosted at four campus sites and will occur April 4-6. The deadline for scores used for selection purposes is Saturday, March 23.

The committee discussed necessary changes for regionals and finals due to the new format. Items to note include:

- No practice day at regionals. All teams and individuals will have the opportunity to complete a “look-through” at the venue prior to competition.
- As noted in Nonlegislative Item 2-a, individuals will compete with teams in the second round. Scores from the second round will be used to determine the advancing individuals and all-arounders to the championship.

8. 2019 National Collegiate Women’s Gymnastics Championships event order draws.

- a. Championship final draw. The double-blind random draw for the 2019 championship final is as follows:

2019 Championship Final	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Semi #1, Team 2
Bars	Semi #2, Team 1
Beam	Semi #1, Team 1
Floor	Semi #2, Team 2

- b. Draw for championship semifinals. The double-blind random draw for the 2019 semifinals is as follows. To protect the integrity of the bracket and the higher-seeded teams, the winners from the regions with seeds 1 and 4 will compete in the first semifinal (afternoon session). The first semifinal will also include the second-place teams from the regions with seeds 2 and 3.

The winners from the region with seeds 2 and 3 will compete in the second semifinal (evening session) with the second-place teams from the regions with seeds 1 and 4.

Once the committee seeded the teams into the semifinal sessions, members conducted a blind-draw for event rotation.

2019 Semifinal Rotation

EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Winners from the regions with seeds 1 and 2
Bars	Second-place teams from the regions with seeds 1 and 2
Beam	Winners from the regions with seeds 3 and 4
Floor	Second-place teams from the regions with seeds 3 and 4

- c. Draw for regionals. The double-blind random draw for 2019 regional competition is as follows:

There is no draw for the dual-meet competition—teams will compete in the regular-season dual-meet format and the team with the highest NQS will compete in Olympic order.

2019 First Round Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Team with higher NQS
Bars	Team with lower NQS

The committee conducted a blind draw to determine starting event for teams in the second round based on NQS. (NQS 1 refers to the highest NQS in that session, NQS 2 to the second-highest NQS in that session, etc.).

2019 Second Round Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	NQS 1
Bars	NQS 4
Beam	NQS 2
Floor	NQS 3

The committee conducted a blind draw to determine the starting event for the teams advancing from the second round to the regional final.

2019 Regional Final Rotation	
EVENT	TEAM
Vault	Session 2, Team 2
Bars	Session 1, Team 2
Beam	Session 2, Team 1
Floor	Session 1, Team 1

- 9. Electronic scoring.** The committee discussed future use of electronic scoring systems. Members acknowledged that the championship will always need hard copy backups in case an electronic system fails but is open to the idea of having judges use an electronic input mechanism to send scores to the chief judge's computer. The committee also supports the idea of using electronic score flashers instead of handheld paper flashers. The committee suggested that the coaches association develop a focus group to assess feasibility with current and future hosts.
- 10. Review of 2018 championship manuals.** The committee reviewed the manuals and made appropriate updates for 2019. The committee noted some frustration with the number of manuals needed for the championship and asked that staff clearly designate which manuals different stakeholders should use throughout the regular season and postseason.
- 11. Review of committee responsibilities at the championship.** The committee reviewed the committee responsibilities and made necessary adjustments for 2019.
- 12. Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) proposals.** The committee reviewed proposals that the WCGA and the Women's Collegiate Program Committee (WCPC) submitted and discussed appropriate actions. The outcomes of the committee's discussion are listed in Attachment A.
- 13. NCAA rules modification recommendations.** The committee spoke with the women's gymnastics rules interpreter regarding editorial changes to the rule-modification document. The rules interpreter also shared a breakdown on the types of questions and groups of individuals (coaches, judges, NCAA, etc.) she received in 2018.
- The committee referred recommended rules modifications to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for further review and action.
- 14. Review of AAI and equipment for the championship.** The committee met with Ken Cysewski from American Athletic Inc. to review equipment issues from the championship. The committee expressed frustration with some incorrect equipment being set up at the final site. The committee sees this as an ongoing issue. Mr. Cysewski outlined steps AAI is taking to ensure future issues are avoided. These include hiring an equipment manager with gymnastics experience to verify each piece of equipment sent to the championship and having proper staffing on-site to handle any issues that may arise. He also shared pre-meet checklists used in international competitions to ensure all equipment is ready for competition.
- 15. Judges review.**

- a. Selection process for championship judges. The committee reviewed the process for selecting judges to regionals and finals. The group reiterated its desire to keep adding some new judges at regionals so others will have experience when various judges retire.
- b. Review of judges' evaluation forms. The committee discussed the evaluation tool coaches use throughout the season to evaluate judges. The committee asked if questions could be added to help coaches explain why they assign a certain rating. Staff will work with the judges' assignor to add those questions to the evaluation. The committee feels these additional questions will help provide members with all available information when making assignments for regionals and nationals.

The committee started to explore ways that judges could be evaluated in the regular season and/or postseason to further provide information to the committee when making assignments. Members also suggested that coaches complete a judges evaluation after postseason meets to help the committee when assigning for the future.

- c. Selection of 2019 meet referees and judges. The committee reviewed judge recommendations and assigned meet referees and judges based on the guidelines outlined in the pre-championship manual.

16. Discussion regarding how to populate the national sport committee. The committee discussed potential regional realignment to place conferences into the same regions. Currently, conferences can be spread through as many as three different regions, which is difficult when trying to fill vacancies on the national committee. Since region alignment no longer has any impact on how teams or individuals are selected to the national championship, its only bearing is on populating the national committee. The committee reviewed a few different models of how conferences could be grouped together into regions but agreed that Division II and Division III schools, which are sometimes in multi-divisional conferences, should be placed into their own region for alignment purposes since one requirement of committee composition is to have one Division II or Division III representative. The committee will continue to explore options.

17. Selection of committee chair. The committee voted to appoint Jessica Chrabaszcz, associate athletics director at Yale University, as chair of the committee for the 2018-19 academic year. Ms. Chrabaszcz has served on the committee for one year and is well equipped to serve as chair. The committee also thanked outgoing chair Wendy Fallen for her time and dedication to the sport.

18. 2019 annual meeting date. The committee agreed to meet June 4-6 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Wendy Fallen, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee June 5-7, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jessica Chrabaszcz, Yale University.	
Jacqueline Fain, Centenary College (Louisiana).	
Wendy Fallen; Big Ten Conference.	
Jeff Graba, Auburn University.	
Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart, University of Denver.	
Vicki May, Towson University.	
Randy Solorio, California State University, Sacramento.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Evelyn Chandler, National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges President (<i>via teleconference</i>).	
Chrystal Chollet-Norton, NCAA Women's Gymnastics Rules Interpreter.	
Ken Cysewski, AAI.	
Kerrie McKinney Turner, Bowling Green State University.	
Donnalyn Trevethan, National Collegiate Judges Assigner (<i>via teleconference</i>).	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.	
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.	

2018 Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association Proposals—NCAA Committee Actions

The NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee reviewed all proposals submitted by the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA). While the committee reviewed all proposals, only those within the committee's purview are noted in this document. **No action items from the committee are final until approved by the Competition Oversight Committee in October.**

The women's gymnastics committee took the following actions:

- a. Matting changes for floor. Accepted, in concept, the recommendation to allow a sting mat to be placed under or on top of either a 4-inch throw mat or 8-inch skill cushion. The committee noted that if a sting mat is used with a throw mat or skill cushion then it will count as the two allowable mats on the floor. This recommendation needs final approval from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) in August.
- b. Video review in postseason. Accepted, in concept, the recommendation to allow video review at the final site of the national championship. The committee supports the use of video review but asked staff to work with the host and outside vendors to discuss logistics and financial feasibility for the 2019 championship. The committee acknowledged some challenges with video review, such as what type of deductions are reviewable, pace of the meet and the six-judge panels at finals.
- c. Time allotted for open stretch in the postseason. Accepted the recommendation to allow 20 minutes of general stretch time prior to the beginning of event warm-ups for all NCAA postseason competitions. The committee removed the word "conference" from the proposal since the group does not oversee conference championships.
- d. Squad size for the postseason. Accepted the recommendation to allow a maximum of 18 student-athletes per team to be included in the corral for NCAA postseason competitions. The committee noted that the corral size of 24 individuals and the NCAA-reimbursable travel party of 20 individuals would not change. The committee removed the word "conference" from the proposal since the group does not oversee conference championships.
- e. Elimination of competitor numbers. Accepted, in concept, the recommendation to eliminate the use of competitor numbers in the postseason. The committee acknowledged that competitor numbers are important to the competition for scoring purposes, but agreed to explore alternative ways to display competitor numbers (for fans and media/photographers) as opposed to having athletes fasten them to uniforms.
- f. Timing process on vault in the postseason. Denied the recommendation to implement a timing process on vault that excludes the time needed to set the equipment for individuals rotating with a team. The committee noted that the timing needed to set the vault can vary based on the individual. Members also noted that this issue should be very rare in the new format due to the way individuals will be paired with teams.

In addition to these action items, the committee noted the following important items:

- a. Method for selecting individual event specialists and all-around competitors in the new format. Committee members voted to select the top 12 all-around competitors and top 16

individual specialists on each event based on national qualifying score (NQS) for regional competition. The list of top 12 all-arounders and top 16 individual event specialists will include qualifying scores from individuals on the teams competing in the first round.

Individuals and all-arounders will compete in the second round at regionals. Scores achieved in the second round will be used to determine advancing individuals once the regional final is finished, to account for individuals on teams that are eliminated in the regional final, and then the top all-arounder (not on an advancing team) and top specialist for each event (not on an advancing team) will advance to the national championship. Ties for the advancing all-arounder will be broken by going to the highest event score, then the next highest and will continue until the tie is broken. Ties for advancing event specialists will be broken by counting all four scores on the event. If not broken, the head judge score will be the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists, the advancing individual will be the one with the higher national qualifying score.

To ensure the top-seeded teams have the least number of individuals competing with them, the committee will pair the highest-ranked all-arounder at the site with the lowest-seeded team (or lowest team based on the NQS before using seeded teams), the next highest all-arounder with the next lowest-seeded team, etc. This process ensures that the top-seeded teams have the fewest number of individuals competing with them, which maintains integrity of the bracket and fairness for both teams and individuals. The committee will have some discretion with pairings since part of the process is dependent on how many individuals are selected from teams placed at each regional and on what events those individuals are competing.

In the new format, alternates will not be named.

- b. Other considerations for new format. The committee considered many items related to the new format (refer to the full committee report), but noted the following for the coaches:
- There will be no practice day at regional sites. Time will be allotted for all teams and individuals to participate in a “look-through” at each site prior to competition.
 - In the first round, the team with the higher NQS will follow Olympic rotation.
 - Competition times will be as follows:
 - First round: 3 p.m.
 - Second round: 2 and 7 p.m.
 - Regional final: 7 p.m.
- This schedule allows the advancing team and individuals who are part of the top 12 all-arounders or top 16 individual event specialists from the nonadvancing team to have enough recovery prior to competing in the second round. Additionally, this schedule maintains the integrity of the bracket because the host will compete in whichever session assigned, dependent on seed.
- c. Conferences based on differences in Up to the Level (UTL). The committee took no action (outside of purview) but supported the recommendation to permit conferences to be called

based on a difference of UTL between judges. [If one judge flashes the UTL card and the other(s) do not, conferences should be permitted.]

- d. Flashing of the vault number. The committee took no action (outside of purview) but supported flashing the vault number instead of just the group number for each competitor prior to competing the vault.
- e. Equipment agreement with AAI. Ken Cysewski from AAI met with the committee and outlined steps AAI is taking to ensure future equipment issues are avoided at the championship. These include hiring an equipment manager with gymnastics experience to verify that each piece of equipment that is sent to the championship is correct based on the equipment list and having proper staffing onsite to handle any issues that may arise. He also outlined how they will source backup equipment, should anything fail while onsite.
- f. Score verification process. Teams ranked in the top 25 based on national qualifying score will no longer need to verify scores on Road to Nationals. All coaches with an individual in contention for selections must verify scores for those scores to be considered for selections. Any coach forgoing his or her opportunity to verify scores must indicate as such on Road to Nationals.
- g. The committee encourages coaches to review the full annual meeting report on NCAA.org under "Committee Information": <http://www.ncaa.org/championships/national-collegiate-womens-gymnastics>