



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE  
MAY 14, 2018, MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

- a. Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship: Big West Conference, Collegiate Water Polo Association, Golden Coast Conference, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Western Water Polo Association.
- b. Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. 2017 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2017 annual meeting report as written.
- 2. Review of 2018 championship.** The committee reviewed the 2018 championship and made the following recommendations:
  - a. Selection process and criteria. The committee reviewed the women's water polo selection criteria and made no changes.
  - b. Opening-round games. The committee noted the incredibly positive feedback received from teams about having the opening-round games take place at the site of the

championship. The committee strongly supports conducting the opening-round game at future championship sites should the selection policies allow it.

The committee also noted that since this was the first time the opening-round games had been conducted at the championship site, some logistical issues with the host institution emerged that need to be addressed in the future. NCAA staff will work with the University of Southern California and the opening-round site representative to identify those issues and address them in future manuals and planning conference calls.

c. Practices.

1) **Championship.** The committee reviewed the practice schedule and agreed on the following practice times for the 2019 championship.

a) Wednesday – 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. – one hour open practice

- Due to travel schedules each participating team should contact the host tournament manager to schedule practice time for Wednesday.

b) Thursday – one hour closed practice.

1. #8/9 seed – 8-9 a.m.
2. #1 seed – 9:05-10:05 a.m.
3. #5 seed – 10:10-11:10 a.m.
4. #4 seed – 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
5. #7/10 seed – 12:20-1:20 p.m.
6. #2 seed – 1:25-2:25 p.m.
7. #6 seed – 2:30-3:30 p.m.
8. #3 seed – 3:35-4:35 p.m.

c) Friday – 30 minute shared open practice

1. #4 and #8/9 – 8-8:30 a.m.
2. #1 and #5 – 8:35-9:05 a.m.

3. #3 and #7/10 – 9:10-9:40 a.m.

4. #2 and #6 – 9:45-10:15 a.m.

d) Saturday – 30 minute open practice

1. Winner of Game 1 – 9-9:30 a.m.

2. Winner of Game 2 – 9:35-10:05 a.m.

3. Winner of Game 3 – 10:10-10:40 a.m.

4. Winner of Game 4 – 10:45-11:15 a.m.

\*\* If the team hotels are in close proximity to the competition venue the committee may push these practice times one hour later.

e) Sunday – 30 minute open practice

1. Winner of Game 5 – 9-9:30 a.m.

2. Winner of Game 6 – 9:35-10:05 a.m.

\*\* If the team hotels are in close proximity to the competition venue the committee may push these practice times one hour later.

f) All practice times (Thursday-Sunday) are set and will not be changed. If a team chooses not to use their allotted practice time they must contact their committee liaison or the NCAA administrator.

2) Opening rounds. Participating team(s) shall have the opportunity for a 90-minute closed practice at the competition venue. Participating teams should schedule their practice time directly with the opening-round tournament manager.

If the opening round takes place at the site of the national championship, the host institutions should be permitted to practice on Wednesday for longer than an hour, if they so choose.

d. Ceremonies. The committee discussed the presentation of the semifinalist awards on the pool deck and determined that this presentation was awkward and not a good experience

for the student-athletes and should be discontinued. Moving forward, semifinalist trophies and awards will be provided to the athletics administrator following the game.

The runner-up team trophy, as well as the national champion trophy and mini-trophies, should continue to be presented in the postgame awards ceremony.

- e. Facility/host. The committee applauded the staff at the University of Southern California (USC) for a memorable championship experience. The committee noted a few suggested areas of improvement which NCAA staff should share with USC staff.
  - f. Banquet. The committee noted that the championship banquet was well done. The committee supports keeping the existing format. The committee will reinforce that the banquet is for student-athletes and team personnel only.
  - g. Participant conduct. The committee noted overall good behavior by coaches and student-athletes during the championship.
  - h. Goal judges. The committee will continue to use goal judges at the championship finals site.
  - i. Score reporting. NCAA staff provided the committee with a report regarding the few isolated score reporting issues from the 2017-18 season.
3. **2019 championship update**. The committee reviewed the schedule, hotels and facility for the 2018 championship at Avery Aquatic Center on the campus of Stanford University in Stanford, California. A site visit will be conducted in late summer or early fall.
  4. **Rules subcommittee overview**. Brian Streeter, secretary-rules editor, updated the committee on the work of the rules subcommittee. The committee emphasized the need for better collaboration with USA Water Polo on rules issues. The committee also requested a more thorough on-boarding process for new rules committee members.
  5. **National coordinator of officials (NCO) report**. The national coordinator of officials reported on accomplishments during the year, as well as goals for the future, including the following:
    - a. The committee and NCO reviewed officiating during the championship.
    - b. The NCO shared information on the "Next Generation Initiative."
    - c. The NCO and committee discussed the potential for the use of three referees.

- d. The NCO shared information on the National Evaluators Group and its role.
  - e. The NCO discussed the need to emphasize that the rules should be applied the way they are written.
6. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship and noted that 62 institutions currently offer women's water polo as a varsity sport. The committee expects Wittenberg University and Austin College to add the sport for the 2018-19 season. Committee members also noted that Hartwick College would no longer be sponsoring the sport. Those changes should provide for a total of 63 schools sponsoring women's water polo in 2018-19.
  7. **Committee conference call.** The committee will have a follow-up conference call on Tuesday, July 31, at 2-4 p.m. Eastern time, to further review the 2018 championship.
  8. **Future meetings.** The committee would like to keep the annual meeting at the championship site going forward, given the cost savings associated with this practice. The committee will continue to have a follow-up call in July to review survey results and other metrics from the championship. The 2019 annual meeting will take place May 12-13 at Stanford following the national championship.

*Committee Chair: Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara, Big West Conference*  
*Staff Liaison: Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee May 14, 2018 Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno.
Maggie Martini, St. Francis College Brooklyn.
Adam Pack, Utica College.
Julie Snodgrass, Azuza Pacific University.
Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Bob Corb, National Coordinator of Officials.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.