KEY ITEMS.

- None.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Automatic qualification.
      (1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2018 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.
      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
      (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. 2016 committee meeting report. The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as written.

2. Review of 2017 championship. The committee reviewed the 2017 championship and made the following recommendations:
a. **Selection process and criteria.** The committee reviewed the women’s water polo selection criteria and was pleased with the additional flexibility the updated criteria provided. The committee asked staff to explore additional criteria options for the future.

b. **Opening-round games.** Prior to the play-in games, NCAA staff was asked to refer to the play-in games as opening-round games and to include the opening-round games on the tournament bracket. These changes satisfy a request from the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches during the season.

  The committee felt that the overall student-athlete experience in the opening-round games continues to improve. For the first time, Event1 sold merchandise at each site. The merchandise includes all 10 selected teams. Overall, the site reps reported that each game went well at Pacific and UC San Diego, respectively.

c. **Practices.** The committee reviewed the practice schedule and recommended changing the practice times on competition days based on feedback from the coaches.

d. **Ceremonies.** The committee discussed opening ceremonies and award ceremonies and agreed to maintain current protocols.

e. **Facility/host.** The committee applauded the staff at the Indiana Sports Corp, Indiana University and the IU Natatorium, the championship hosts, for a memorable championship experience. The committee felt that the hosts raised the bar with their service-minded staff focused on a positive student-athlete experience. The committee reviewed hospitality, venue layout, staffing, press conferences, locker rooms, warm-up pool and equipment.

f. **Banquet.** The committee noted that the championship banquet was exceptional and provided a unique, Indiana experience with the interactive areas prior to dinner. The committee will reinforce that the banquet is for student-athletes and team personnel only.

g. **Decorum.** 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. **Post-championship game celebration.** The committee agreed that the postgame celebration went well, assisted by the facility layout, and will continue to issue postgame deck passes to control access for additional people on deck for the celebration.
j. Committee responsibilities. The committee was pleased with responsibilities as assigned and the committee members’ overall performance.

k. Apparel. The committee reviewed apparel for referees, host staff, table crew and committee.

l. Score reporting. The committee will continue the current penalty structure for missing the score reporting deadline each week. The committee asked NCAA staff to explore whether the NCAA can keep stats for the sport.

3. Review of evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the participating teams, officials, the tournament director and the committee. Overall, the championship and opening-round games received positive feedback. The committee noted items for improvement in the future.

4. Financial summary. The committee reviewed the championship financial summary for the past 10 years as information only. However, the committee noted that holding the championship in the East carries additional travel expenses not typically incurred when the event is on the West Coast, as well as lower attendance. The committee believes it is important to have the championship in the East every few years. In addition, the committee noted the recent format change may hurt overall ticket sales since all eight teams are no longer on site for the duration of the championship.

5. Merchandise. The committee reviewed a recap of merchandise sales and noted a decrease in sales over the previous year. All 10 teams selected to the tournament were included on merchandise. For the first time, Event1 sent merchandise to the two opening-round sites. The committee noted that those sales combined with the championship-site sales were just short of previous overall sales at the finals site.

6. 2018 championship update. The committee reviewed the schedule, hotels and facility for the 2018 championship at Uytengsu Aquatics Center on the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. A site visit will be conducted in the summer. The committee reviewed the schedule for the 2018 championship and recommended adjusting the practice times on competition days. The committee agreed to continue using six officials for the finals site, with the officials also serving as goal judges and receiving a flat fee for the weekend.

7. Rules subcommittee overview. Kelly Barsky will replace Craig Rond on the rules subcommittee. The committee will appoint Julie Snodgrass, a new committee member replacing Lisa Cooper, to the rules subcommittee. The secretary-rules editor shared that there will be a call for rules proposals in September, and that the rules subcommittee will meet at
the men’s water polo championship in December. The committee emphasized that referees should apply the rules as they are written.

8. **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 details on the outcomes and lessons learned from the new referee school held in August. The committee applauded the efforts of the NCO to continuously improve officiating in the sport.
   
c. The NCO and committee discussed the Advantage website and how to encourage coach engagement on the website.
   
d. The NCO shared information on the National Evaluators Group and its role.

9. **2017 web stream report.** The committee reviewed the live video streaming report from the championship and noted that the shot clock should be displayed on the web stream broadcast.

10. **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 June to review survey results and other metrics from the championship. The 2018 annual meeting will take place May 13-14 in Los Angeles following the national championship.

11. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship and noted that 61 institutions currently offer women’s water polo as a varsity sport. The committee expects the number to rise to 64 with the addition of California State University, Fresno, Wittenberg University and McKendree University for the 2017-18 season. Pending approval by the membership committee, Concordia University Irvine is expected to become a full NCAA member for the 2017-18 season. The committee noted that Austin College is expected to begin competition for the 2018-19 season. The committee also reviewed conference alignment updates for the 2017-18 season: Fresno Pacific University will become a member of the Western Water Polo Association; California State University, Fresno, will join the Golden Coast Conference; and Wittenberg University will join the Collegiate Water Polo Association. The committee asked NCAA staff to examine the effect an additional AQ would have on the bracket for planning purposes.

12. **Committee chair.** The committee selected Kelly Barsky, deputy athletics director and senior woman administrator at University of California, Santa Barbara, to chair the
committee effective on September 1, 2017. She will replace Lisa Cooper, head women’s water polo coach at California State University, East Bay, when her term on the committee ends.

13. Manual updates. The committee asked staff to update the pre-championship, committee operations, participant, host operations, play-in game host and play-in game site representative manuals for committee review.

Committee Chair: Lisa Cooper, California State University, East Bay, Western Water Polo Association
Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara; Big West Conference.</td>
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<td>Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno; Golden Coast Conference.</td>
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<td>Lisa Cooper, California State University, East Bay; Western Water Polo Association.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maggie Martini, St. Francis College Brooklyn, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Brian Streeter, Secretary-Rules Editor.</td>
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<td>Bob Corb, National Coordinator of Officials.</td>
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<th>Absentees for May 15 but attended June 22:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Rond, California Lutheran University; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<th>Guests in Attendance:</th>
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<td>None.</td>
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<th>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<th>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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