ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items. The NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

   a. Playing Surface (Rule 1.1.1).

      (1) **Recommendation.** For facilities constructed after 2016, a free zone of 3 meters (9 feet, 9 inches) is required.

      (2) **Effective Date.** January 1, 2017.

      (3) **Rationale.** Increases player safety and lessens the potential for interference with fans. This change may also promote longer rallies with increased free space outside the court.

      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** This proposal improves student-athlete safety.

   b. Assessment of Sanctions (Rule 6.4).

      (1) **Recommendation.** Delete the sanction level of Expulsion (dismissal for the remainder of the current set). A further sanction after a penalty (red card) would result in Disqualification (dismissal for the remainder of the match).

      (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

      (3) **Rationale.** Places a greater emphasis on sportsmanship by not allowing coaches or players to return after being expelled.

      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** This proposal improves the image and integrity of the game.

   c. Uniform Numbers (Rule 7.1.2.6).

      (1) **Recommendation.** Shirts may be numbered from “0” through “99”.

      (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.
d. Rally and Completed Rally (Rule 8.1.3.1).

(1) **Recommendation.** Modify the definition of a rally as follows:

**Current definition:** “A rally is the sequence of playing actions from the moment of the service contact by the server until the ball is out of play. A rally is completed when the playing actions result in a point awarded to either team.”

**New definition:** “A rally begins from the moment of the service contact by the server until the ball is out of play. A rally is completed when a point is awarded to either team.”

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** This will allow a coach the option of substituting when play is stopped to issue a penalty (red card). Prior to this change, if play was stopped to issue a penalty point, it was not considered “playing actions,” so the rally was not considered “complete.” A substitution would not have been allowed.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Limited.

e. Pre-Match Protocol (Rule 9.1.1.1).

(1) **Recommendation.** The pre-match warm-up protocol (Table 2) may be adjusted by conference policy for the first 20 minutes (until the 40-minute mark on the clock). The adjustment to the current protocol may only be made on a conference level and may not be used for non-conference matches. The NCAA championships will follow the default warm-up protocol (Table 2).

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate

(3) **Rationale.** This change allows conferences to alter their warm-up protocol due to facility space restraints.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None
(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete welfare.

**f. Timeout Length (Rule 11.2.2).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Change the default timeout length from 60 seconds to 75 seconds. A timeout may be less than 75 seconds if both teams are ready for play.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Allows coaches more time to communicate with their players and matches the recommended length of a media timeout.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Limited.

**g. Media Timeouts (Rule 11.2.3.3).**

(1) **Recommendation.** By mutual consent of both coaches, the length of all timeouts may be reduced from the default length of 75 seconds to 60 seconds, or increased to the length of 90 seconds. If both coaches do not agree to the modified length, the default time of 75 seconds will be used.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Modification to the timeout length to meet the rules change in Rule 11.2.2.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Limited.

**h. Substitutions for Accident or Injury (Rule 11.3.5.1).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Allow coaches the option of replacing the injured libero with the player she came in for and then allow one substitution for the replacement player (only).

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** For all other injured players, the coach may substitute any legal substitute. Currently, if play is stopped because the libero is injured, the coach may only return the player that the libero came in for to continue
play. This would allow the coach to replace the injured libero with the player she came in for and then allow one substitution for the replacement player.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Limited.

i. **Libero Uniforms (Rule 12.1.3.3).**

(1) **Recommendation.** It is not required that the libero’s shorts be identical to her teammates.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate

(3) **Rationale.** Allows the libero to be more visible by providing more uniform options.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None, unless schools choose to purchase new shorts for the libero.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

j. **Libero Uniforms (Rule 12.1.3.1.5 - New).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Allow a single mascot and/or school reference to be placed on the sleeve, provided it does not exceed 4” x 4” or 3” x 5”.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate

(3) **Rationale.** Allows for displays of school spirit while maintaining the integrity of the solid-colored uniform rule.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None, unless schools choose to purchase new solid-colored uniforms.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Limited.

k. **Player Contact with Net or Antennas (Rule 15.2.1.2).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Change the current net rule to allow contact with the net outside the antenna provided it does not interfere with the play or is not used as a means of support while playing the ball.
(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate

(3) **Rationale.** Allows for more consistency by officials when calling net violations and aligns with USA Volleyball rules.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

l. **Officials’ Jurisdiction (Rule 18.1.2).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** The jurisdiction of the referees begins with their arrival on the court, which should be at least 40 minutes before the match start time.

   (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate

   (3) **Rationale.** Currently, the jurisdiction of the referees begins at least 30 minutes before the match start time. This proposal would require officials to be on the court at least 40 minutes before the match start time to conduct the required pre-match protocol.

   (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

m. **The Scorekeepers - Terminology (Rule 18.4).**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Change terminology from “scorekeeper” to “scorer”.

   (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate

   (3) **Rationale.** Aligns with USA Volleyball and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules language.

   (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements.** Committee members and invited guests were welcomed to the meeting. All individuals introduced themselves and stated their background and experience in volleyball.

2. **Overview of Schedule, Agenda and Meeting Goals.** The committee reviewed the schedule and agenda, and outlined meeting goals and objectives.

3. **Review Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed the following items and procedures: committee operations handbook, conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting minutes, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines.

4. **Approve Reports from 2013 Annual Meeting and Teleconferences.** The committee approved the 2013 annual meeting and teleconference reports as written.

5. **USA Volleyball Report.** An overview was provided of the FIVB rule making process and 2013 FIVB rules changes. While there are no new rules changes for 2014, more emphasis is being placed on the spectator/parent code of conduct.

6. **NFHS Report.** The committee received an overview of the NFHS rules process and recent rules changes. It was noted that participation rates for girl’s high school volleyball are increasing.

7. **National Coordinator of Officials Report.** The National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials provided an overview of the Volleyball Officiating Program, which included educational and training initiatives for officials through ArbiterSports and the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO). There are 3,102 officials registered through ArbiterSports for 2013-14. Seven clinicians conducted 29 NCAA/PAVO in-person clinics across the country last summer and online clinics were conducted for officials in Alaska and Hawaii. The committee also reviewed 2013 NCAA post-season officiating statistics.

8. **PAVO Active Official Report.** The committee received an overview of the PAVO, which consists of 3,300 members. A new online training tool will be launched in the spring of 2014 and will cover mechanics, rules, safety, professionalism and communica-
tion. Twenty-nine clinics attended by 2,000 officials were conducted across the country last summer. The clinics are four hours and are required for Division I post-season consideration. Webinars were conducted for officials in Alaska and Hawaii.

9. **Secretary-Rules Editor Report.** The NCAA Women’s Volleyball secretary-rules editor provided the committee with an overview of actions, interpretations and activities for the 2013 season, which included a review of approximately 150 uniforms to verify compliance with the solid-colored uniform rule, developing the coaches video, responding to numerous inquiries and protests, informing 151 institutions that their uniforms do not meet the solid-colored jersey rule, producing three rules interpretation newsletters, and attending the American Volleyball Coaches Association convention to conduct rules sessions at the divisional coaches meetings.

10. **NCAA Injury Surveillance Data and Report.** A report on trends in women’s volleyball injuries was provided to the committee. Injury data and concussions were discussed and it was noted that the committee would like to capture pursuit as a mechanism of action in injury data. The NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports reaffirmed its position on soft headgear at its December meeting. As a result, the NCAA will not provide medical waivers for the use of soft headgear in non-helmeted sports for the prevention of concussion.

11. **Review Rules Survey Results.** The committee reviewed the results and qualitative feedback from the fall survey.

12. **Review Proposed Rules Changes.** The committee reviewed the rules proposals and voted to approve the items as noted in the report above. While no changes were made to the pursuit rule, the committee spent a significant amount of time discussing the rule and its effect on student-athlete safety, as well as the safety of officials and spectators. The committee agreed to track on injury data specific to the pursuit rule and engage coaches in the discussion of the rule.

13. **Prepare for 2014 Data Collection and Rules Survey.** The committee identified several survey items for next year, which included adding timeouts and substitutions when sets go beyond 25 points, playing the fifth set to 25 points, aligning the net rule with USA Volleyball, adding a third timeout per set, allowing noisemakers and disallowing let serves.
14. **Future Meeting Dates and Teleconferences.** Next year’s annual meeting will take place January 20-22, 2015, in Indianapolis. The teleconference dates will be August 26, 2014, September 30, 2014, October 28, 2014 and November 18, 2014.

15. **Representatives at Annual Meeting.** The committee agreed to invite the same guests and representatives from the same organizations to next year’s meeting as they continue to serve as valuable resources to the committee.

16. **Election of Chair.** The committee re-elected Todd Dagenais, University of Central Florida, as chair for the 2014-15 academic year.

17. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2014.

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**Committee Chair:** Todd Dagenais, University of Central Florida, American Athletic Conference  
**Staff Liaison:** Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances

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<tr>
<th>January 21-23, 2014</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>Absentees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Bodkins, Alderson-Broaddus College</td>
<td>Todd Dagenais, University of Central Florida</td>
<td>Tim Hall, University of Maryland, Baltimore County</td>
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<td>Sarah Davis, College of Wooster</td>
<td>Valencia Jordan, Tennessee State University</td>
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<td>Kelley Kish, Nova Southeastern University</td>
<td>Bonnie May, Smith College</td>
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<td>Anne Pufahl, Secretary-Rules Editor</td>
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<td>Salima Rockwell, University of Texas at Austin</td>
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**Other Participants:**

Greg Johnson, NCAA; Becky Oakes, NFHS; Joan Powell, National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials; Pati Rolf, USA Volleyball; Latrice Sales, NCAA; Rachel Seewald, NCAA; Julie Voeck, PA-VO; Brad Woodward, NCAA