ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

   • None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

   a. Automatic Qualification.


      (2) **Effective Date.** 2015 championship.

      (3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years.

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

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

   b. RPI Calculation.

      (1) **Recommendation.** That the following adjustments to the RPI calculation be approved for the 2015-16 season:

         • For losses against teams ranked 285 through 309, teams receive a penalty of one position in the RPI. For losses against teams ranked 310 through the
remainder of the RPI, and against non-Division I teams, teams receive a penalty of approximately two positions in the RPI;

- Teams receive a penalty of approximately two positions in the RPI for playing 50 percent of their nonconference schedule against teams ranked 260 through the remainder of the teams, and against non-NCAA opponents.

(2) **Effective Date.** 2015 championship.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee voted to make the two adjustments to ensure that bonuses and penalties have equal impact. The following calculations did not change: (1) For wins against teams ranked 1 through 25 in the original RPI, teams receive a bonus that is approximately two positions in the RPI. For wins against teams ranked 26 through 50, teams receive a bonus of approximately one position in the RPI; (2) Teams receive a bonus of approximately two positions in the RPI for playing 50 percent of their nonconference schedule against teams ranked 1 through 75 in the RPI.

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

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

c. **Instant Replay.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That instant replay be implemented for the 2015 championship at the finals site.

(2) **Effective Date.** 2015 championship.

(3) **Rationale.** In conjunction with the Volleyball Rules Committees implementation of the experimental use of replay, the committee feels that using it at the championship site is a great start for the future of the tournament. With all of the options at the final site to capture video for review, the committee would like to be able to provide that to the officials to make the best calls possible. Three conferences have requested to use instant replay during conference play in the fall of 2015, and the committee believes it is appropriate to begin using instant replay at the finals site as well. The committee will monitor the use of instant replay throughout the regular season and after the championship will discuss potentially expanding it to the preliminary rounds.

Instant replay may be used for the following (all of which the Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved at its February 18 meeting):
• Whether a ball was in or out;
• Ball contact or non-contact with a player;
• Whether a player committed a net violation as defined in the rules book; and
• Whether a foot fault occurred on a serve

Additional items regarding instant replay include:
• Coaches are allowed three challenges per match, win or lose;
• Challenges will not be tied to timeouts; and
• Only one challenge per rally will be allowed.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. Dollars have been requested through the internal budgeting process. If those funds are not available, the committee will authorize reallocations within the volleyball budget to cover the cost of instant replay.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Instant replay helps officials review close calls to ensure fairness during competition, which enhances the experience for student-athletes at the championship site.

d. Non-Predetermined Regional Sites.

(1) Recommendation. That effective with the 2016 championship, all four regionals be played at non-predetermined sites.

(2) Effective Date. 2016 championship.

(3) Rationale. Moving to non-predetermined regional sites allows for a potential increase in attendance, an enhanced student-athlete experience, and competitive rewards (with institutions earning the right to host). Sites would be selected after first- and second-round competition is completed. The highest-seeded team remaining in each quadrant of the bracket would host the regional. The bid process would be conducted in conjunction with the current process for first- and second-round sites.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. The recommendation could result in a cost savings, as the host team would not have to travel.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. These non-predetermined sites have the potential to provide a better atmosphere for participating student-athletes. It also allows for those teams that have earned the right to be a highly seeded team to also earn the right to host regional competition.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review Agenda and Meeting Schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments. The committee also reviewed the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) agenda and prepared for the meeting with AVCA representatives.

2. **Review of 2014 Championship.**

   a. **Championship Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the evaluations and identified inconsistencies between the information included within the various championship manuals. NCAA staff will review the manuals and possibly combine them to reduce redundancy. For preliminary rounds, additional details regarding hotel requirements for full-service properties will be added. The committee recommended scheduling a teleconference with potential site representatives two weeks before selections to discuss the site representative manual and the various roles and responsibilities of this position. The committee also asked staff to list potential site-specific issues and concerns to further prepare site representatives.

   b. **Championship Assets.**

      (1) **Merchandise.** The committee recommended that merchandise be available during practices in order for student-athletes to purchase items.

      (2) **Equipment.** The committee asked the NCAA to consider providing volleyball hitting boxes at the finals site.

      (3) **Signage.** The committee believes the signage at the finals site created a positive championship atmosphere and enhanced the student-athlete experience.

      (4) **Ancillary activities.** The committee discussed whether NCAA staff and future hosts could enhance the banquet at the finals site, including possibly replacing the banquet with a welcome reception. Staff will gather feedback from past participants and begin working with next year’s host on potential options.

   c. **Media Coordination Review.** The committee reviewed the media coordination survey results, noting that media appreciated the setup and space accommodations in Oklahoma City. In addition, Hammond Communications assisted with press conferences for the first time this year and provided quotes and results for media members unable to attend the championship.
d. **Practice Length.** The committee noted the importance of consistent practice times for all rounds of competition. Each practice session should be scheduled for 90 minutes on the day before competition. Practice the day of competition should be an hour. At the finals site, practice times should end four and one-half hours before the established game times.

3. **Officials and National Coordinator Report.** Joan Powell, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials, provided an overview and update on the volleyball officiating improvement program. Ms. Powell identified areas of improvement for next year: (1) develop educational videos as an eligibility requirement for postseason officials; (2) lead the teleconference with officials evaluators before the start of preliminary rounds to review policies and procedures; (3) create an updated and more precise coaches evaluation form; (4) schedule a teleconference with preliminary-round officials to discuss expectations and policies; and (5) develop a one-page educational document regarding officiating for NCAA site representatives to reference while on site at the championship. Ms. Powell commended the four regional advisors for their work throughout the year and expressed gratitude for their recent stipend increase. Along with the secretary-rules editor, Ms. Powell will begin to develop training materials for officials regarding the recent video replay rules experimentation.

4. **Preliminary Rounds.** The committee reviewed various policies and procedures related to preliminary-round competition and recommended that the current neutrality guidelines be altered to allow host sites the ability to create an enhanced student-athlete experience. NCAA staff will begin to develop new language in that regard for the host operations manual. The committee also supported removing the bench location policy stating that home teams must be on the left side of the scorer’s table. This will allow for home teams to continue using the same bench that they do during the regular season.

The committee voted to remove the minimum seating capacity at first- and second-round sites and also voted for a 3,000 minimum seating capacity for regional sites. The committee discussed potentially increasing the guarantees for preliminary-round sites but ultimately decided to continue with the $5,000 for first- and second-round sites and $10,000 for regional sites. The committee will continue to discuss these guarantees in the future.

The committee also reviewed the current bench size policy, which allows for 24 individuals on the bench. The committee discussed potentially increasing this number but ultimately decided to make no changes since coaches have the ability to select who occupies these seats.

5. **Television.** ESPN representatives joined the meeting via teleconference and noted that the overall championship ratings increased from 2012. ESPN also was able to broadcast 16 games overall (the goal is to increase this number annually). Other highlights included a regional semifinal game in Washington being broadcast on ESPNU for the first time. Also for the first time this year, the selection show was one hour long, and ratings for the show were similar to last year’s championship. ESPN asked that student-athletes have numbers on their practice
jerseys to help commentators identify them. The group also discussed the proposal to move regional competition to non-predetermined sites (see Nonlegislative Item 2d). ESPN did not support the proposal, as representatives said it would significantly increase the network’s operating expenses.

6. Meeting with AVCA. AVCA representatives, including Executive Director Kathy DeBoer, joined the meeting to review various issues, including ways to continue partnering with the NCAA to increase attendance throughout the tournament. Ms. DeBoer noted the robust attendance for this year’s AVCA convention in Oklahoma City, and she also said the AVCA appreciates the collaboration with the NCAA staff to enhance the ancillary events surrounding the championship. Ms. DeBoer also noted that in conjunction with the FIVB World Grand Prix tournament in Omaha in July, the AVCA will host a Broadcast Partner Summit to discuss ways to continue gaining television exposure for the sport. Finally, the AVCA coaches in attendance at the committee meeting supported the committee’s proposal to move regional competition to non-predetermined sites starting with the 2016 championship (see Nonlegislative Item 2d).

7. Committee Update. The 2016 annual meeting will take place February 8-10 in Indianapolis.

8. Sand Volleyball Update. The committee noted that sand volleyball will be the 90th championship for the NCAA starting with the 2015-16 championship season. A separate committee will be appointed to oversee the sand volleyball championship.


Committee Chair: Jean Berger, University of Northern Iowa
Staff Liaison(s): Kristin Fasbender, Championships and Alliances
Kelsey Cermak, Championships and Alliances

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<th>February 11-13, 2015, Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Berger, University of Northern Iowa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Bray, University of Alabama at Birmingham</td>
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<td>Rick Cole, Iona College</td>
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<td>Jana Doggett, Utah State University</td>
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<td>Debbie Garcia, University of Texas, Arlington</td>
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<td>Tim Hall, University of Maryland, Baltimore County</td>
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<td>Mary Hill, Delaware State University</td>
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<td>Jim Marchiony, University of Kansas</td>
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<td>David Mines, Auburn University</td>
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<td>Lisa Peterson, University of Oregon</td>
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**Other Attendees:**

- Kirstin Bernthal Booth, Creighton University
- Kathy DeBoer, American Volleyball Coaches Association
- Kevin Hambley, University of Illinois
- Christy Johnson-Lynch, Iowa State University
- Joan Powell, National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials

Kristin W. Fasbender, NCAA; Kelsey Cermak, NCAA; Kristen Jacob Smith, NCAA; Julie Kimmons, NCAA; Damani Leech, NCAA; Paula Wustrack, NCAA.