



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 24-25, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule.
2. **Review/approval of 2017 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2017 annual meeting report as submitted.
3. **NCAA updates.**
 - a. **2018 Convention/legislative update.** The academic and membership affairs representative confirmed the membership approved legislation that will allow moving up the playing and practice season for women's volleyball in years when it is part of the Division II National Championships Festival to avoid losing a week of competition.

The representative also noted that Division II will immediately start accepting membership applications from schools in Mexico.

- b. **Coaches Online Education.** Staff anticipates this new education platform to roll out in spring 2018. The initial focus will be on education for coaches in the areas of rules and health and safety. It will be housed in a learning management system that allows for user-based tracking of completed modules.
- c. **Division II Membership Census.** The census has been distributed and includes, among other topics, questions about the festival and regionalization.
- d. **Regionalization Working Group.** The working group was tasked with reviewing ways to avoid first-round conference match-ups in championship competition. After review, the group determined the options were cost prohibitive and that the membership places greater priority on maintaining proper seeding. This summer, the group will meet with the Division II Championships Committee to review census results.

The volleyball committee asked the working group to review the current contiguous state principles. The recent geographic expansion of some conferences has created an imbalance in the implementation and scheduling options for institutions. At present, an institution can play "in region" but avoid the other two conferences in its region. The committee recommended a return to the original application of the contiguous state principle based on states contiguous to the institution rather than to the institution's conference. The

committee also noted that with recent conference membership changes, it may be time to review regional alignment.

The committee asked that the working group review a divisional requirement for regional conference competition. The committee understands there is reluctance to legislate institutional scheduling, yet some institutions compete only in-conference or against teams that are considered in region based on the contiguous state principle but not against teams from the other two conferences in their region. Under the current selection criteria, such scheduling makes it very challenging for the committees to rank and select the best regional teams.

e. Broadcast update. The Division II Management Council Identity Subcommittee is looking for new ways to broadcast Division II competitions. New distribution platforms can also be used to air press conferences for future championship sites. The committee appreciated the enhanced use of social media for selections announcements and the championship. The members also noted the Championships Committee's approval requiring regional hosts to live stream all contests with enhanced requirements throughout the next few years.

4. Review of Championships Committee actions. The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past year.

5. Review of American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention report. The committee reviewed the report. Items were addressed throughout the meeting.

The committee also reviewed a request to publish selection criteria data each week, rather than only on rankings weeks. The members were not in favor of this because early season data with few results is not deemed as predictive and instead can be misleading.

6. Review of 2017 championship.

a. Bracket. The committee reviewed the final bracket and noted it likes its design.

b. Evaluations/reports. The committee noted that host requirements related to securing qualified individuals to work as scorer, libero tracker and announcer, as well as providing proper crowd control, must be reinforced. The committee emphasized that regional hosts must be reminded they are required to create a neutral site atmosphere.

c. Regional sites.

- (1) **Facility specifications.** The committee noted that some facilities may not have met minimum ceiling height requirements, but hosts did not disclose this in their bids. Staff will review the bid specifications and make appropriate updates, if necessary.
- (2) **Follow-up teleconference with hosts.** The committee directed staff to schedule teleconferences with the regional committee representatives and their regional host institutions to share feedback.

d. Finals.

- (1) **Facility setup.** The committee noted the facility at the University of West Florida was outstanding.
 - (a) **Meeting space.** The administrative meeting area was spacious without being too large and provided appropriate acoustics.
 - (b) **Hospitality.** Hospitality was exceptional. The committee particularly liked having the daily menu and meal times posted.
 - (c) **Officials meeting area.** The officials meeting area was small but adequate, with restrooms across the hall. It was well monitored.
 - (d) **Press conference room and location.** The committee noted the size of the press conference room was appropriate but could have been configured differently and given more of a championship feel.

The pre-championship press conference location will be reconsidered for the future as a closed room rather than an open venue. From a timing standpoint, it works best if it is in the same facility as the banquet.

- (e) **Competition venue.** The committee indicated the venue was of a high caliber and the perfect size for this championship.

The banquet facility and decorations were outstanding, providing many photo opportunities for the participants. The food was good and plentiful with quick access. The master of ceremonies set the appropriate tone.

- (2) **Administrative meeting.** The committee noted the current administrative meeting structure works well. A PowerPoint presentation will be helpful to maintain participants' attention and highlight specific topics.

- (3) **Practices.** The committee indicated that the current closed practice schedule works well and should be maintained.
- (4) **Press conferences/interviews.** The committee preferred the return to the pre-championships press conference format with each match's coaches interviewed separately and student-athletes included.

The committee suggested some additional education and preparation may be warranted for the press conference moderator.

- (5) **Web streaming of matches and press conferences.** The committee noted an improvement in this year's production of the competition. The committee will review and approve a tighter pre-match timeline, including team introduction protocol.

The host needs to ensure all equipment works properly when recording and posting the press conferences.

- (6) **Committee responsibilities.** The committee liked how the championship assignments were divided.
- (7) **Award ceremonies.** The committee was pleased with the order and flow of the championship award ceremonies. The committee discussed the presentation of AVCA awards at the championship banquet and noted that the names of the honored coaches and assistant coaches could potentially be included if they are present. The committee noted the student-athletes were well prepared for the season overview presentations at the banquet.
- (8) **Attendance.** The committee appreciated the local community support of the championship. The host's youth clinic and autograph session were well received. The committee suggested future hosts do more to involve local coaches and regional club directors in marketing efforts. The members also suggested connecting military families with each participating team to better market to the military and veterans.
- (9) **Follow-up teleconference with host.** NCAA staff will share survey results with the host, and the committee member from the host's institution will share committee comments and evaluations.
- (10) **Other.** The committee was disappointed in one team's unwillingness to fully participate in the community engagement activities. Addressing the issue prevented the committee from taking part in its own scheduled community activity.

7. Officials.

- a. **Review of 2017 regional and national officials.** The committee noted the need to delineate the alternate official's duties and responsibilities and to include the scorekeeper and assistant scorekeeper in the officials meeting. The members reiterated that ethical obligations and neutrality of all officials, including the table crew, must be reinforced.

The committee will continue to explore ways to educate site representatives on how to evaluate and determine officials' assignments.

- b. **Evaluation forms.** The committee reviewed coaches' and crew chief evaluations of the regional and national officials.
- c. **Selection of 2018 championship officials.** The committee is waiting for the national coordinator of officials' recommendations, based on conference nominations. The committee discussed requiring representatives from each conference for regionals and establishing an annual regional officials' rotation for nationals, but preferred the current practice of selecting the best officials, regardless of conference or regional representation.

8. Rankings/selections.

- a. **Review of 2017 selections and selection show.** The committee felt selections went well. The members commended the statistics liaison for her diligence and timeliness.

The committee noted that pre-recording the selection show seemed to work better than previous years' live shows and would like to see the link posted well before the start of the show. The committee suggested rotating the order in which regions are introduced from year to year.

The committee indicated using social media to announce each region's top seed worked well and built momentum going into the selection show. Using social media to reveal the seeding of the final eight teams also was well received.

- b. **Time of selections teleconference.** The committee feels the timing of the selections teleconference is challenging because of the late finish of some conference championships and the time needed to conduct regional advisory committee teleconferences. In addition, multiple time zones and the need to review other regions' data to prepare for the national call complicate finding a better time. The committee recommends conference championships start earlier but understands this cannot be mandated. In 2018, selections will take place Sunday instead of Monday to accommodate the festival timeline.

- c. **Rankings.**

(1) Regional advisory committees.

(a) Rosters/replacements. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee rosters and will discuss committee service with potential regional representatives.

(b) Regional advisory committee training. The committee would like to resume conducting the regional advisory committee training webinar. The committee recommended some revisions for future years.

(2) Number and dates of ranking calls. The committee confirmed the number and dates of ranking calls are appropriate.

(3) Score reporting system. The committee indicated the score reporting system is a useful tool and asked whether the common opponents data could be alphabetized. The committee requested staff investigate whether the processing speed may be increased, particularly when numerous sports conduct ranking and selections teleconferences at the same time.

d. Selection requirements/criteria. The committee firmly believes playing in-region, conference crossovers is necessary. Beginning in 2018, the committee will begin using the performance indicator criterion and directed staff to determine if revising break points would increase its predictive qualities.

e. Seeding of final eight teams. The committee liked the process, criteria and result of the seeding. The committee directed staff to determine if there is a better way to compare the final eight teams without having to re-load the data for each specific comparison.

f. Automatic qualification. The committee will review and approve automatic qualifiers once conferences submit their application forms for the 2018-19 academic year.

9. Planning for 2018 championship and beyond.

a. 2018-19 calendar/timeline. The committee reviewed and approved the timeline for the next season.

b. Video exchange. The committee is encouraged by the enhancements made by the current vendor and will continue with the championship video exchange process. The committee requested staff also notify conference commissioners of video exchange requirements because conference tournaments are often the teams' last competition of the regular season.

The committee also directed staff to revise the instructions for the mandatory video exchange before regionals, particularly regarding camera placement and quality of the footage. All participants must make available complete video of their final match before regionals to all other participants in their regional within the timeframe the committee specified. Teams are strongly encouraged to follow similar taping requirements as championship hosts.

The regional hosts will be required to complete the video upload from each regional match within two hours of its conclusion. After regionals, all three regional matches and the final match previously uploaded by the teams will be made available to the eight finalists.

c. Match format.

- (1) **Media timeouts.** The championship format will continue to default to the standard 90-second timeouts. If both teams return to the court before the end of the timeout period, officials may resume play unless a media format is used. Hosts must notify the NCAA championship administrator if they will use the media format for regional matches. Hosts also must include in the regional participant manual the format used at their sites.
- (2) **Intermission/interval between sets.** The committee decided to leave the intermission at three minutes between each set. The committee will continue to monitor and discuss after the playing rules process has concluded for the next cycle.

d. Regional hosts.

- (1) **Bid timeline.** The committee will maintain the current regional bid timeline.
- (2) **Sport specific facility evaluation form.** The committee would like to add a question regarding the use of the challenge review system to the sport-specific facility evaluation form. Staff will address the request with the Divisions I and III championships administrators as this change would impact all divisions.

e. Finals.

- (1) **First dates of practice and competition in festival years.** The committee noted the recent adjustment of dates in festival years.
- (2) **Competing at Division I Women's Volleyball Championship site.** The committee expressed continued interest in a joint championship with Division I. Staff will discuss with governance staff how to achieve this goal.

10. Review of agendas. The committee directed staff to make changes to the championship agendas.

11. Manual revisions. The committee asked staff to revise areas in the committee operations, host operations, pre-championship, participant and site representative manuals.

12. National committee.

a. Committee openings and timeline. The committee reviewed the roster and discussed potential new committee members.

b. New committee orientation. The committee agreed to continue the new committee orientation teleconference.

c. Committee chair recommendation. The committee recommended Doug Walters, Cedarville University, continue as chair for the 2018-19 academic year, noting his years of Division II experience, contacts within the coaching community and previous years of service to the committee.

13. Rules update. The playing rules representative reviewed the past season and noted the upcoming comment period.

14. Future dates and sites.

a. Future championships. The committee reviewed the dates and sites for 2018-2021 championships.

b. 2019 annual meeting. The committee agreed to hold the next annual meeting Jan. 27-28.

15. Other business. The committee discussed using the Challenge Review System for the 2018 championship. The committee approved the use for the finals site and directed staff to research options with the NCAA live stream and other providers.

Committee Chair: Doug Walters, Cedarville University
Staff Liaison: Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Committee January 24-25, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Josh Collins, Southwestern Oklahoma State University.	
Kevin DesLauriers, Molloy College.	
Dustin Fuls, North Greenville University.	
Dr. Karen Hjerpe, California University of Pennsylvania.	
Timothy McDiffett, University of Alaska Anchorage.	
Melanie Robotham, Lone Star Conference.	
Doug Walters, Cedarville University.	
Melissa Wolter, University of West Florida.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Debbie Chin, Coaches Connection (by teleconference).	
Giuseppe Vinci, VolleyMetrics (by teleconference).	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kerstin Hunter, Championships and Alliances.	
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Amanda Conklin, Academic and Membership Affairs (by teleconference).	
Maritza Jones, Governance.	
Ryan Jones, Governance.	
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.	
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.	
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.	