



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SKIING COMMITTEE  
JUNE 4-5, 2018, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. 2019 regional site selections.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the 2019 West Region Championships be held at Alyeska Resort and Kincaid Ski Trails, February 21-24 and hosted by the University of Alaska Anchorage; that the 2019 East Region Championships be held at Sunday River and Black Mountain, February 22-23 and hosted by Bates College; and that the 2019 Central Region Championships be held at the Michigan Tech Trails, February 23-24 and hosted by Michigan Technological University.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The regionals are selected on a rotating basis by each of the region institutions, and these were the only bids received. In addition, there is no formal budget process, as the host institutions receive a set stipend for hosting. These institutions have all hosted successful events previously.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The stipend is \$3,500 per region.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Each of the venues will provide a top-caliber facility and experience for the competing student-athletes.

**b. Reinstatement of “minus-one” championship allocation rule.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the allocation formula for the championships be adjusted, wherein the “minus-one” rule would be reinstated for the 2019 championships, allowing the maximum number of qualifiers from a given region to be equal to three times the number of teams sponsoring the sport in the region, minus one.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.

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- (3) Rationale. The committee has discussed this topic at length during recent annual meetings and supported the reinstatement of the rule at the 2017 meetings. A fall 2017 survey sent to the head coaches within the skiing membership indicated that 78 percent of respondents either supported or strongly supported the reinstatement of this rule, while only 19 percent of respondents noted opposition or strong opposition to the proposal. The “minus-one” rule was in effect from 2009 to 2012 and the committee believes that its reinstatement will allow for better in-region competition throughout the regular season and more overall support for the sport nationally.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Reinstatement of this rule will be positive for student-athletes, as it will require season-long competition from all student-athletes within each region, and no teams will be guaranteed a full allotment of championship slots prior to the start of the season.

**c. Institution of “50 percent” championship allocation rule.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the allocation formula for the championships be adjusted to include an additional measure, stating the following: “If a discipline has more than two regions, the maximum number of allocations for a single region must be no more than 50 percent of the total number of allocations for the given discipline.” Currently, this rule would apply only to Nordic skiing, as Alpine skiing is sponsored only in two regions.
- (2) Effective date. 2020 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The committee has also discussed this topic at length during recent annual meetings and supported the institution of this rule at the 2017 meetings, as well. A fall 2017 survey sent to the head coaches within the skiing membership indicated that 66 percent of respondents either supported or strongly supported the institution of this rule as an additional measure to ensure additional balance with championship allocations nationally, while 32 percent of respondents noted opposition or strong opposition to the proposal. As with the “minus-one” rule, the committee believes that this will allow for more overall support for the sport nationally.

Additionally, it should be noted that the “minus-one” rule currently makes this rule moot with the current makeup of the skiing membership, but the committee feels that it is important to put this rule into place in advance of any future changes within the skiing membership.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The addition of this rule will be positive for student-athletes, as it will help to ensure a greater dispersion for championship bids throughout skiing programs nationally.

**d. Institution of one-year waiting period for new regional members to claim additional championship allocations for a given region.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the allocation formula for the championships be adjusted to include the following clarifying measure: “Regional allocations are based on the previous year’s membership. A new regional member will not be eligible to claim additional championship allocations for the region during its first year of regional membership.”

This waiting period would apply to both newly established NCAA skiing programs and existing NCAA programs realigning to a different region.

- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.
- (3) Rationale. The committee believes that the sport is negatively impacted by allowing regional championships allocations to immediately fluctuate as programs move regions. The committee feels that berths to the championships should be earned by regional members during a given year, and that first-year members in a given region should not be permitted to piggyback on the prior year’s success of the region.

The addition of this rule will allow for a more consistent and less volatile assignment of championship berths by region by allowing championship allocations to be set at the end of the prior year’s championships.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The impact of this rule will be positive, as it will allow for more consistency and predictability from one championship to the next regarding championship allocations by region.

**e. Amend per diem reimbursement for championships to allow for a second coach if two or three student-athletes from different disciplines qualify from the same institution.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the per diem policy be adjusted to allow for reimbursement of a second non-athlete should an institution qualify two or three student-athletes competing in both disciplines (Nordic and Alpine).
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.

- (3) Rationale. Under the current reimbursement policy, a participating institution with two or three qualifying student-athletes in both Nordic and Alpine disciplines is reimbursed only for one non-athlete. The committee believes that this presents student-athlete safety concerns, as Nordic and Alpine training and competitions are regularly held at the same time and at different venues during the championship week. Adding a second reimbursable non-athlete would remove this safety concern by allowing the institution to send one non-athlete to each of the competition venues to be on site with the participating student-athletes.

Under the current policy, two non-athletes are reimbursed if an institution qualifies more than three student-athletes, so this would not be an issue in that scenario. Likewise, it would not pose any issues if only one student-athlete qualified from a given institution, or if two to three qualifiers from the same discipline qualified from a given institution.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$3,000.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The impact of this proposal would be positive for student-athletes as it would mitigate health and safety concerns.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the annual meeting agenda and schedule.
- 2. Review 2017 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2017 meeting report as presented.
- 3. Review of 2018 championships.** The committee reviewed participant survey responses and discussed the 2018 championships, which were hosted by the University of Colorado, Boulder, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The committee noted positive feedback on the competition venues for the championship events, including the night slalom at Howelsen Hill. However, the committee also noted areas for future improvement, including more communication among the NCAA, host institution, and race officials and organizers; post-event team awards ceremony and barbeque logistics; and an earlier selection and approval of key race officials. The committee also would like NCAA staff to share participant survey responses with future hosts to aid in planning processes for future championships.
- 4. 2019 championships updates.** The committee discussed the 2019 championships, which will the University of Vermont will host in Stowe, Vermont. The committee discussed the competition schedule and noted that the Slalom will be the concluding event in 2019.

The committee also discussed the event rotations for future years and removed the requirement that the Giant Slalom races be run to completion by gender. The Giant Slalom races can now

alternate between genders each year if the host site can accommodate it, taking the opposite rotation of the Slalom events.

The committee also noted its desire for gatekeeper and video replay to be discussed more regularly during championship planning meetings.

The committee discussed the Nordic races at the 2019 championships and noted its desire to work with the host and race officials to enforce technique zones on the championship course, as well as the ability to set single-track best line. The committee noted the need to be diligent in planning for the location of the waxing tent and possible student-athlete tent, as well.

The committee also noted a desire for more key personnel to be included in host planning calls leading up to the championships to ensure optimum communication and efficiency once on site at the championships. The committee would like for these individuals, including the host coach(es), to also be involved in on-site meetings at the championships.

- 5. Qualification/selection processes.** The committee discussed at length the allocations for the championships, both by region and by discipline. The committee also reviewed and discussed regional qualification criteria and made appropriate updates.

The committee voted to move forward three recommendations related to regional allocations, effective with the 2019 and 2020 championships.

- 6. Proposals.** The committee discussed several proposals from the skiing membership.

The committee continued discussions regarding a format change to the schedule of events at the championships that would incorporate a third event into the championships for both Nordic and Alpine, and members noted continued interest from all three skiing regions in support of this concept. Committee members noted that they would not like to see the championship schedule condensed into a three-day, three-event-per-gender schedule. Committee members were more supportive of reallocating an official training day from the current schedule than cutting one of the four competition days. They noted that additional expenses under this new format could include, but would not necessarily be limited to: officials, timers, individual awards, and general operational expenses.

The committee reviewed and expressed interest in further evaluating a proposal that would allow scores to count for only the top two finishers from each championship event, as opposed to the current format of counting three scores per event. The committee took no action on the proposal and will seek additional feedback from the membership on this topic in the future.

The committee also reviewed and took no action on proposals from the membership related to the following topics: an increase in coaching limits, Division II prize money legislation, and a proposal to count only the top 21 of 24 total team scores at the championships.

- 7. FIS-Uni age rule update.** The committee met with NCAA Assistant Director of Academic and Membership Affairs Sarah Heberd to discuss the recent change to the FIS-Uni age rule and to look at potential recommended adjustments to Division I legislation that would ensure consistency between NCAA and FIS-Uni rules. The committee will seek additional feedback from the skiing membership pertaining to legislation in all three divisions before moving forward with any specific recommendations.

NCAA staff will work together to draft potential legislation to share with the committee in the coming months.

- 8. 2017-18 sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the most recent sponsorship report and discussed some recent changes and potential upcoming changes within the skiing membership. The committee also discussed strategies to attract new NCAA skiing programs.
- 9. Regional information.** The committee reviewed information from each of the three recent regional meetings, including discussion on various membership proposals. The committee also discussed regional sites for the 2019 championships (see Action Item 2-a).
- 10. Webcast review.** The committee discussed the webcast from the championships and noted a high level of satisfaction with the second year of the remote production of the event in 2018. The committee was highly supportive of the drone coverage of the Nordic events and received a great deal of positive feedback in support of that coverage continuing for future championships. The committee noted a desire to continue increasing the overall quality of the production, including the addition of timing and student-athlete placement graphics into the events in future years. The committee also noted a desire to improve the messaging and consistency of announcers in future years.
- 11. Rules discussion.** The committee met with NCAA Assistant Director of Playing Rules and Officiating Ben Brownlee and discussed a rule to allow for flipping the entire Alpine field beginning in 2019-20. The committee will vote on this rule next summer, with the intent of implementing it during the 2020 championships.

Mr. Brownlee also discussed the process of transitioning from the current rules book to a rules modification document beginning in the 2019-20 academic year.

- 12. Coaches association update.** The committee discussed the coaches association and noted several opportunities for increased exposure for institutional programs and for the sport through different potential coaches association initiatives.

As part of this discussion, the committee voiced its support for the use of a consistent results template for the championships, highlighting detailed breakdowns of each individual event, including team results for each discipline and gender.

- 13. National committee composition and committee chair appointment.** The committee voted that Kevin Francis, head Alpine coach at Montana State University, Bozeman, be named chair of the committee, effective immediately. Shanna Kornachuk, former chair of the committee, stepped down during the 2017-18 academic year to take a position at an institution that does not sponsor skiing. The committee also noted that no members' terms expire until the end of the 2018-19 academic year.
  
- 14. Review committee timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved a timeline for the 2018-19 academic year, including the selection announcement date of Tuesday, February 26 at 1 p.m. Eastern time.
  
- 15. Manual review.** The committee reviewed and made appropriate updates to the committee operations, participant and pre-championships manuals.
  
- 16. Future annual meeting dates.** The committee determined that the dates for the 2019 annual meeting will be June 3-4.
  
- 17. Other business.** Committee and NCAA staff discussed the possibility of securing a long-term partner for Nordic timing for the championships. NCAA staff will work with upcoming hosts to see if any agreements are currently in place before proceeding.

The committee also noted a desire to create continuity with championships results reporting from year to year.

*Committee Chair: Kevin Francis, Montana State University, Bozeman*

*Staff Liaison: John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances*

<b>National Collegiate Men's and Women's Skiing Committee June 4-5, 2018, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Brian Blank, University of New Hampshire.
Jamie DiLoreto, Boston College.
Peter Dodge, Dartmouth College.
Sten Fjeldheim, Northern Michigan University.
Kevin Francis, Montana State University, Bozeman.
Fredrik Landstedt, University of New Mexico.
David Stewart, University of Denver.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.

<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Nancy O'Hara, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Sarah Heberd, Academic and Membership Affairs.