



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING COMMITTEE
MARCH 27 & 28, 2017, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- The committee selected a new committee chair for the 2017-2018 academic year.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2016 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual meeting report from the previous year.
- 2. Manuals review.** The committee assigned a manual review across members of the committee, and asked staff to update those where necessary.
- 3. Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship and took no action. Members will continue to monitor as information for the upcoming year becomes available.
- 4. Rules.** The committee reviewed the rules implementation over the past year, given the experimental rule that was used for the 2016-17 season in saber (use of a 3-meter on-guard line). In light of the decision made by US Fencing to return to using a 4-meter on-guard line, the committee took no action to modify its use of US Fencing rules. It will revert to the 4-meter line, to stay consistent with US Fencing rules.
- 5. Regionals.** The committee reviewed the regional competitions this year and agreed that they ran smoothly. Future host locations were also discussed, and the committee members will confirm locations for their regional rotation in the coming months.
- 6. Championships review.** The committee was pleased with the overall administration of the championships, and commended the University of Notre Dame and Indiana Sports Corporation on their efforts. The committee specifically reviewed the following items:

- a. Schedule of events. The committee reviewed the schedule, and agreed that in order to keep each day consistent, all competition will start at the same time each day next year. Moving forward, all days of competition will begin at 9 a.m. Other portions of the schedule for the week will remain the same.
 - b. Institutional identification. The committee noted that this was the second year they fully implemented the policy of not allowing country affiliation on uniforms. Minimal changes were needed by institutions/competitors prior to the start of competition.
 - c. ESPN. The committee appreciated the exposure afforded to the championships by ESPN 3. They continue to discuss ways that this exposure might continue to increase interest in the sport, as well as how the footage may be made more readily available, beyond the window of time it is replayed online. Staff will continue to work with the NCAA broadcasting staff to explore these opportunities.
 - d. Officials. The committee agreed that the official cadre for the championships did a good job. They commended new head officials, Mark Stasinos and Mary Frye for their hard work leading up to, and throughout, the championships, and requested that they be hired to fill the same positions in 2018.
 - e. Participant feedback/survey results. The committee will review this feedback once it is received from the coaches. If follow-up is needed based on this feedback, the committee will convene via teleconference to discuss.
 - f. Venue. The committee felt the participating institutions enjoyed the venue for the championships. While there were some issues that needed to be addressed throughout the week, the host and facility staff worked effectively to make sure they were taken care of as quickly as possible, with minimal disruption to the competition.
- 7. Qualification procedures.** The committee reviewed the current selection information and asked staff to make clarifications in the language so that the printed information is more easily understood by the membership. Specifically, the language that defines how institutional alternates and at-large nominations are determined will be updated to reflect the current procedure used by the committee.
- 8. 2018 championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming championship at Pennsylvania State University, and is confident in their ability to host the event. Staff will plan to do a site visit to solidify plans for venue layout and event operations.
- 9. Committee administration.** The committee noted vacancies, and asked staff to keep them updated on when replacements are identified. The committee also unanimously selected Rob Lichten, Associate Athletics Director at Northwestern University, as the new chair of the committee (see Nonlegislative Item 2).

The committee also discussed making sure all regional advisory positions are filled. All committee members agreed to work with coaches and administrators in their regions to make sure these positions are filled, taking an active role in the regional competition planning process.

10. Future championships. The committee reviewed their future host bid recommendations, and noted that the announcement for future hosts will take place on April 18.

11. Future annual meeting. The committee discussed future meeting dates and will make a determination on these in the coming months, based on committee and staff schedules.

Committee Chair: Maureen McNamara, University of Notre Dame, Atlantic Coast Conference

Staff Liaison: Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee June 12-14, 2016, Meeting
Attendees:
David Baker, Pennsylvania State University; Big Ten Conference.
Liz Jarnigan, U.S. Air Force Academy; Mountain West Conference.
Rob Lichten, Northwestern University; Big Ten Conference.
Maureen McNamara, University of Notre Dame; Atlantic Coast Conference.
David Poolman, Columbia University; The Ivy League.
Lisa Posthumus, Stanford University; Pac-12 Conference.
Bill Shipman, Brandeis University; University Athletic Association.
Chris Spencer, Haverford College; Centennial Conference.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Liaison in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.