



NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF THE NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING COMMITTEE  
MARCH 20, 2018, MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. The committee is seeking approval of regional sites for the 2019 championships.
2. The committee selected a new chair for the 2018-19 academic year.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Site selection - regionals.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Competition Oversight Committee approve the following institutions as hosts for the 2018 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships regional round of competition:

**Northeast** – Columbia University (at Vassar College); Poughkeepsie, New York.

**Mid-Atlantic/South** – Lafayette College; Easton, Pennsylvania.

**Midwest** – University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Indiana.

**West** – University of California, San Diego; San Diego, California.

- (2) Effective date. 2019 championships.
- (3) Rationale. Each region's national committee members work with their regional advisory committee to determine a host rotation/selection for each year. The national committee approved these sites during their annual meeting.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. There will be no additional budgetary impact. [Note: Each regional host will receive a \$7,000 stipend. In total, regional competition will have a planned budget impact of \$28,000. Currently, the NCAA does not reimburse travel or per diem expenses for participants.]
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2017 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual meeting report from the previous year.
2. **Manuals review.** The committee assigned manual review among members and asked staff to update them once feedback is provided over the coming months.
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 changes to the US Fencing rules book and took no action to suggest additional modifications. Per the policy already in place, NCAA fencing competition will be conducted using US Fencing rules that have been implemented by October 1, with the stated modifications that are provided in the pre-championship manual.
5. **Regionals.** The committee reviewed the regional competitions this year and agreed that they ran smoothly. Members also reviewed and recommended future hosts and locations (see nonlegislative item above).
6. **Championships review.** The committee was pleased with the overall administration of the championships and commended the hosts from Pennsylvania State University on their efforts. The committee specifically reviewed the following items:
  - a. Schedule of events. The committee agreed that the modifications to the schedule from previous years were well received and made for less down time between competitions.
  - b. ESPN. The committee appreciated the exposure afforded to the championships by ESPN3. Members continued to discuss ways this coverage might 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.
  - c. Officials. The committee agreed that the officials cadre for the championships performed well. Members commended head officials Mark Stasinos and Mary Frye for their hard work leading up to and throughout the championships and asked that they be hired to fill these positions for 2019.
  - d. Participant feedback/survey results. The committee reviewed feedback from the participant surveys and once again noted the low response rate. The committee anticipated the negative feedback on the hotel accommodation and will continue to work with future hosts, as well as with Penn State (which is hosting again in 2021) to ensure better accommodations are reserved for participating teams.

e. Venue. The committee felt the participating institutions enjoyed the venue for the championship. Minor adjustments will be made to this layout when the event returns to Penn State for the 2021 championships to better maximize the ample space available.

**7. Selections/Qualification procedures.** The committee reviewed the current selection information and asked staff to clarify the language so that the printed information is more easily understood.

The committee also discussed whether the current championships selection procedure is still the preferred method of individual selection, given conversations that members had with coaches throughout the year. While these were just ideas on ways to improve the championship and ensure the best fencers are competing, they will continue to seek feedback to determine whether the membership believes this can be improved in future years. The committee asked staff to survey coaches regarding these concepts.

**8. 2018 championships.** The committee discussed the upcoming championships at Cleveland State University and is confident in the institution's ability to host the event in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission. Staff will conduct a site visit to solidify plans.

**9. Committee administration.** The committee noted vacancies and asked staff to keep them updated on when replacements are identified.

The committee also selected Liz Jarnigan, Associate Athletics Director/SWA at The United States Air Force Academy, as the chair of the committee.

The committee also discussed making sure all regional advisory positions are filled. Members agreed to work with coaches and administrators in their regions to solicit participation.

**10. Future annual meeting.** The committee discussed future meeting dates and will decide in the coming months based on committee and staff schedules.

*Committee Chair: Rob Lichten, Northwestern University*  
*Staff Liaison: Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee</b> <b>March 20, 2018, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
David Baker, Pennsylvania State University.
Liz Jarnigan, U.S. Air Force Academy.
Rob Lichten, Northwestern University.

NCAA Fencing Committee

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David Poolman, Columbia University.
Lisa Posthumus, Stanford University.
Bill Shipman, Brandeis University.
Chris Spencer, Haverford College.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Steve Corder, University of Detroit Mercy.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.