



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEE
MAY 12, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee recommends the seven conferences meeting the requirements to be eligible for automatic qualification for the 2025 NCAA championship. (See Action Item 2-a and Informational Item 5.)
2. **Selection criteria.** The committee requests that for the 2025 championship an additional secondary criterion be included that provides the committee more information when comparing teams during selections. (See Action Item 2-b and Informational Item 3-a.)
3. **Committee chair.** The committee recommends Ted Minnis, head men's and women's water polo coach at Harvard University, to serve as chair of the committee for the 2024-25 academic year. (See Action Item 2-c.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship: Big West Conference, Collegiate Water Polo Association, Golden Coast Conference, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mount Pacific Sports Federation, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Western Water Polo Association.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All conferences eligible for an automatic qualification bid are being recommended. The remaining three spots in the 10-team bracket shall be filled by at-large teams. If any conference identifies that it intends to not accept its automatic bid to the championship, the spot in the tournament field would not be filled by an additional at-large team and the bracket would include a single opening-round game.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Selection criteria.

(1) Recommendation. To add results versus teams already qualified and other teams under consideration as a secondary criterion.

(2) Effective date. 2025 season.

(3) Rationale. The committee believes that this would be a helpful tool to compare teams. The additional secondary criterion allows the committee the ability to look at the teams for a quality win or loss to their common opponent. It gives the committee more information and another data point to use when comparing teams.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Committee chair.

(1) Recommendation. Approve a waiver allowing Ted Minnis, head men's and women's water polo coach at Harvard University, to serve as chair for the 2024-25 academic year.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. Mr. Minnis is well respected within the coaching community and has experience serving on both men's and women's water polo committees. He has the unanimous support of the committee and outgoing chair. Additionally, the committee feels that a coach in the position of chair on this committee is best suited for the sport.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and announcements. The chair welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their time.

2. Review and approval of the 2023 annual meeting report. The committee approved the May 13, 2023, annual meeting report.

3. Review of the championship process and structure.

- a. **Selection process and criteria.** The committee reviewed and recommended adding a secondary criterion. {See Action Item 2-b.)
- b. **Practice and game times.** The committee reviewed the proposed practice and game time schedules for the 2025 championship and noted that game times could fluctuate based on ESPN's broadcasting schedule and allowing adequate rest between games.
- c. **Administrative call.** The committee recommended combining the participant and administrative call into one and having it on Wednesday after selections. Much of the content on the two calls is repetitive and can be condensed into one call.
- d. **Ticketing.** The committee noted issues with having all-session passes on days where four games are contested. The committee recommended communicating with the host on the best plan to ensure we don't sell out of tickets but still have ample seating.
- e. **Roster form.** The committee moved the deadline for roster forms to be submitted from Wednesday to Thursday, prior to the start of the championship. This gives teams an additional day to solidify their rosters.
- f. **Facility/host.** The committee thanked the University of California, Berkeley, staff for a great championship experience. The committee noted a few suggested areas of improvement that the NCAA staff will relay to future hosts.
- g. **Banquet.** The committee discussed the banquet and agreed to explore adjusting the format to a more casual experience. The committee suggested continuing with the current banquet format and circle back on this next season. The committee recommended that a buffet be the food option rather than a plated dinner.
- h. **Pre-game timing sheet.** The committee recommended allowing teams access to the pool and balls at the top of the hour prior to their game. This will allow consistency between each game. The committee recommended providing teams the pre-game timing sheet each night with officials' assignments and locker room assignments included.
- i. **Championship administrator meeting.** The committee recommended having a brief meeting with each championship team administrator two hours prior to game time to discuss logistics, team awards, fan behavior and any other pertinent information.
- j. **Table staff.** The committee recommended to continue administering the head table test with modifications to refine the questions.

- k. **All-tournament team.** The committee plans to review the all-tournament team selection and procedures prior to the 2025 championship.
- l. **Bid process.** The committee reviewed the bids submitted for the 2027 and 2028 championships.
- 4. **Officials.** The committee heard a report from Amber Drury, national coordinator of officials. The report included officials' selection criteria, review of championship officials and information that has been shared through RefQuest to continue providing educational content for officials.
- 5. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed applications from the seven conferences requesting automatic qualification to the 2025 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship. The committee discussed concerns regarding the USA Water Polo Division III championship and the intention of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) to participate in that event. The committee understands that if a conference declines to accept its automatic qualification bid to the NCAA championship, that spot in the tournament field would not be filled by an additional at-large team and the bracket would include a single opening-round game. (See Action Item 2-a.)
- 6. **Review of manuals.** The committee will continue reviewing manuals leading up to the championship.
- 7. **2025 annual meeting dates.** The committee will continue meeting in conjunction with the 2025 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship.

Committee Chair: Taylor McInerney, Indiana University, Bloomington, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Staff Liaison(s): Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee May 12, 2024, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Taylor McInerney, Indiana University, Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.	
Ted Minnis, Harvard University, Collegiate Water Polo Association.	
Erica Monteabaro, University of California, Irvine, Big West Conference.	
Rachel Roche, University of Redlands, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Daniel Teliski, Gannon University, Western Water Polo Association.	
David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Absentees:	
None.	

Guests in Attendance:

Amber Drury, National Coordinator of Officials.

NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
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Paige Newman, Championships and Alliances.
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