



NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Update - May 2019

Division I women's basketball leaders are taking strategic steps to improve the game, and we want to keep you apprised of a few significant developments. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the staff liaisons associated with the specific issue.

1. Announcement of 2019-24 NCAA Women's Basketball Strategic Plan. The NCAA has announced its strategic plan for women's basketball, a game plan to guide decision-making in the sport across all three NCAA divisions through 2024. NCAA women's basketball engaged more than 1,000 stakeholders in the development of the comprehensive plan. This plan will guide NCAA Divisions I, II and III in collaboration with their key stakeholders to express fully a shared vision for the future of women's basketball.

Women's college basketball just experienced a phenomenal and exhilarating postseason with the 2019 Division I Women's Final Four and the Division II and III national championships. Playing off these successes, we are excited to be officially rolling out our game plan for the next five years.

The yearlong process of developing the plan engaged coaches, administrators and current and former student-athletes at every level of women's college basketball. The leaders of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, USA Basketball, ESPN, numerous media personnel and other strategic partners also actively participated in the feedback and planning process.

Those stakeholders agreed that the values of teamwork, inclusion, passion, excellence and integrity drive the unique identity of NCAA women's basketball and incorporated them in the campaign's tagline: **We TIP with Excellence and Integrity.**



Values drive behavior, and sharing these values across all of women's basketball is important. As we work to grow the sport, we encourage others to join us in being champions for women's basketball by getting involved as the NCAA rolls out our action plans and priorities later this summer.

The NCAA's vision for the sport — developed through stakeholder feedback — is to:

- Unify and grow the women's basketball community.
- Empower student-athletes to reach their full potential.
- Celebrate and elevate the game.
- Create an inspiring experience for all involved.

In collaboration with the NCAA women's basketball staff, a cross-divisional steering committee will lead and oversee implementation of the plan. The steering committee composition includes the Division I, II and III Women's Basketball Committee chairs, the Women's Basketball Oversight Committee chair, the vice president of women's basketball, and all three divisional staff liaisons.

View a video detailing the plan [here](#). View the full release [here](#) and the strategic plan in its entirety at ncaa.org/WBBStrategicPlan. Additional questions and comments about the strategic plan can be directed to wbbstrategicplan@ncaa.org.

Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman, Binh Nguyen and Amy Reis
Steering Committee Listing: [LINK](#)

2. Commission on College Basketball and Review for Women's Basketball. Review of the Commission on College Basketball concepts is currently underway, with teleconferences being conducted by the three subcommittees (recruiting; diversity, retention and professional development; and professional athletic opportunities). Each group is anchored by Women's Basketball Oversight Committee members with ex officio members added for special expertise and perspective. The goal is to propose legislation for the 2019-20 cycle, if appropriate. The following are the areas under review by each subcommittee:



Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Binh Nguyen
Committee chair: Rich Ensor, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference commissioner

3. Update on NCAA Evaluation Tool (NET) and status of future use for women's basketball.

- The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee is conducting its annual assessment of the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) system after the 2018-19 season.
- The RPI will remain the sole provider of supplemental data for the Division I Women's Basketball Committee in its evaluation of teams for at-large selection and seeding of the 2020 championship bracket.
- The committee is taking the next steps toward the possible use of the NCAA Evaluation Tool (or NET) for the start of the 2020-21 season. Steps include analysis of women's basketball statistical data over multiple years to be used in the building of the women's basketball algorithm that includes game results, strength of schedule, game location, scoring margin and net efficiency (offensive efficiency minus defensive efficiency).
- Committee members agreed there is tremendous value in taking the appropriate time necessary to ensure that the women's NET is the best evaluation tool for the sport and championship going forward, with the 2020-21 season the target date for use.
- The committee has been provided an advanced starting point for women's basketball to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of NET because of Division I men's basketball use of the new metric this past season.
- As part of its review, the committee is assessing the men's NET to determine which components of its algorithm should be included.
- As it assesses implementing NET for 2020-21, the committee will solicit the feedback of the women's coaching community and other key stakeholders.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.
Staff contacts: Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Rick Nixon
Division I Women's Basketball Committee chair: Rhonda Lundin Bennett, senior associate athletics director, Nevada

4. NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee Update. The NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee conducted its annual meeting May 7-10 in Indianapolis. The committee considered and voted on rules change proposals for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons. Summary article of the meeting can be viewed [here](#). The rules timeline is as follows:

- May 15-29: Head coaches, athletics directors and conference commissioners will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the rules committee on all rules changes during a two-week comment period.
- June 3-4: The rules committee will review the results of the two-week comment period to determine which rules changes will be forwarded to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel for final consideration.

- June 5: PROP will meet by teleconference to make a final decision on all playing rules changes recommended by the rules committee.

Staff contact: Rachel Seewald

Women's Basketball Rules Committee chair: Linda Cimino, head women's basketball coach, St. Francis Brooklyn

5. NCAA Division I Women's Basketball National Coordinator of Officials Search. June Courteau announced she will retire May 31 from serving as the NCAA women's basketball national coordinator of officials. We have started the search to replace her. The job description may be viewed [here](#), and candidates may submit a cover letter and resume to ncaawbb@ncaa.org. The deadline for applications is May 17. An interview committee of women's basketball leaders, including administrative and head coach representatives, will assist in selecting the new national coordinator.

6. 2019 Division I Women's Basketball Mock Selection Exercise, Aug. 21 at the National Office in Indianapolis. The Division I Women's Basketball Committee and women's basketball staff will be conducting a selection, seeding and bracketing mock selection exercise **Wednesday, Aug. 21**, in Indianapolis. Coaches, school and conference administrators, other women's basketball stakeholders and the media are invited to join the free exercise. The session is limited to a select number, with preference given to those who are interested in attending for the first time.

Attendees will experience an interactive session about the selection, seeding and bracketing process that the committee goes through annually. They will have access to all the tools available to the committee and will follow the same process for selecting and seeding the teams and apply the same principles and procedures the committee uses when it builds the championship bracket. Past attendees have raved about the knowledge gained about the process, including key takeaways on best practices in schedule management and other aspects of program building.

If you are interested in attending the 2019 mock selection exercise, contact Rick Nixon (rnixon@ncaa.org). Space is limited.

This email was sent to NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners, NCAA Division I Senior Woman Administrators, NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Head Coaches, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee and the WBCA.