

MINUTES

Volleyball Coaches of the Southern Conference

**Southern Conference Office
Spartanburg, SC**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019
11:00 AM ET**

Those participating were:

David Zelenock, The Citadel
Benavia Jenkins, ETSU
Michelle Young, Furman
Derek Schroeder, Mercer
Corey Carlin, UNCG
Kaylor Chan, Samford
Michelle Durban, Samford
Travis Filar, Chattanooga
Karen Glover, Western Carolina
Lynze Roos, Wofford
Daniel Leake, Coordinator of Volleyball Officials
John Iamarino, Southern Conference
Doug King, Southern Conference
Jason Yaman, Southern Conference
Hannah Bradley, Southern Conference
Emily Fulton, Southern Conference
Carl Mattox, Southern Conference
Stanley Broaden, Southern Conference

Absent:

Elaine Baker, Furman
Mark Wharton, Chattanooga
AJ Grube, Western Carolina
Stacy Kosciak, UNCG

1. Topic: Welcome and Introductions. Ms. Durban called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM
2. Topic: Commissioner's Remarks
The Commissioner welcomed the head coaches to the Southern Conference office. Benavia Jenkins, ETSU Head Coach, was also welcomed to the Conference. The Commissioner initiated discussions about the transfer portal, the single-signing period for the National Letter of Intent and the inclusion of ESPN+ on the ESPN platform. Many of the Head Coaches presented institutional examples of the added challenges from the new transfer legislation. Mr. Schroeder reflected on the future impacts of the transfer portal as it relates to carrying a smaller squad. The coaches presented concerns of the new transfer legislation as it impacts a portion of their APR in some scenarios. As a reminder to the group, Mr. King mentioned that interconference transfer rules still apply although the transfer portal is in effect; additionally, and the one-time transfer exemption has not changed.

3. Topic: Previous Minutes
 Issue: Review of the Volleyball Coaches' and Committee Meeting minutes from January 17, 2018. No changes were recommended to the previous minutes. Some discussion was generated from items that were not approved by the administrators.
- Action: It was VOTED 9-0 (Roos-Carlin)**
 “To approve the previous minutes as distributed.”
4. Topic: Coordinator of Volleyball Officials Report.
- Issue: a. Mr. Leake began his review of the 2018 season and stated that the officiating crew had a very good year overall. Many of the officials from the Southern Conference advanced to officiate in the NCAA Volleyball Championship. Arbiter is continuing to work through a variety of issues on their platform. Mr. Leake asked that the head coaches send any feedback directly to him via email due to the challenges with Arbiter. Mr. Leake asked the head coaches if they wanted to explore the release of lineups to the game management personnel to prepare stat information in advance of the match. The coaches were not unanimously in favor for this and wish to keep the ability to protect their lineups until they are due. A preseason reminder will be sent to game management personnel when the volleyball match management manual is sent in the fall.
- b. Line Judge Certification – This item was discussed during the 2018 Head Coaches' Meeting to create a standard around the use of certified officials for the lines. The same concerns still apply among the group. Ms. Arakas and Mr. Leake presented that the Conference is exploring the option to hire a conference assignor to assign certified line judges for all of the institutions. The Big South currently uses this model to assign line judges – the rate line judges assigned by the assignor have a match fee of \$70 per line judge. Most of the head coaches currently pay a match fee of \$70+. Ms. Young mentioned that even though line judges are certified and assigned by an assignor, they are not necessarily qualified. Ms. Roos will collect information on institutions who currently use an outside assignor and the associated fee for line judges.
- Action: It was voted 9-0 (Schroeder-Glover).**
 “To have certified line judges assigned by an outside assignor.”
- c. Mr. Leake communicated to the group that he is looking for ways to grow his officiating pool by giving opportunities to new officials who are capable for this level. There have been some limitations with this as he doesn't want to disrupt too much of the current processes. Lastly, he thanked the coaches for working with the officials on lodging accommodations when needed; This has improved from issues that have come up in the past. Mr. Carlin asked what a typical officials' level of experience is with CRS as this is becoming an emerging area within the sport of volleyball. One last reminder was asked of the coaches to send fall 2019 schedules as soon as possible to allow for him to begin the assigning process.

5. Topic: Future Schedules
 Issue: Review of 2020, 2021 and 2022 Conference schedules.
 Mr. Yaman opened discussions on the future schedules. Starting in 2019 everyone will have been through this matrix of pairing pods. Ms. Durban mentioned that the Athletics Directors are taking this item up for discussion on their February teleconference due to institutions not producing academic calendars as far in advance and football schedules aren't typically finalized. Building schedules too far can impact the ability to properly plan around institutional calendars and facility conflicts. Mr. Yaman asked if this is the format that the coaches want to move forward with this style of scheduling. Mr. Chan mentioned that this matrix presents challenges for institutions on the edge of the Conference geography. Overall the head coaches seemed content with this scheduling model; however, seeing this final year will provide a better overview of how the model worked holistically. For example, some of the teams in the pod are typically on the road the last couple of weekends in the season leading up to the travel to the conference championship site. Mr. Yaman will work on producing an additional schedule using the matrix and ghost model. The information will be sent electronically for review and approval.
- Action:** **No formal action taken.**
6. Topic: NCAA Legislation and Compliance Updates.
 Issue: Review of NCAA legislation.
 Mr. King reviewed upcoming proposals being voted on April 2019 related to NCAA legislation. Lastly, he mentioned that the sport's headcount is not impacted should a student-athlete transfer one semester and they want to provide aid to a transfer student starting the ensuing term.
- Action:** **Informational and Discussion.**
7. Topic: 2019 Volleyball Championship
 Issue: The coaches were reminded that the 2019 volleyball championship shall take place on November 22-24 in Spartanburg, SC.
- Action:** **Informational.**
8. Topic: Sport Regulations
 Issue: a. Volleyball
 Mr. Broaden updated the group on changes to the sport regulation. 5.0 Officiating included an increase in officiating fees and future fees were included. Additional administrative updates were made to reflect the 2019 volleyball championship.
- Action:** **It was VOTED 9-0 (Chan-Filar).**
 “To approve the 2019 Volleyball Sport Regulations as presented.”

9. Topic: Volleyball Sport Issues
Issue: a. Standardized Scheduling for Conference Matches
Mr. Zelenock opened the discussion on having standard match start windows for Friday and Saturday matches. Many of the coaches found it to be very challenging to complete a match on Friday, travel to the next competition site and turnaround for a match time for 2:00 PM or earlier. Although, this was discussed in 2018, the coaches are exploring a start window option to accommodate limitations in institutional game management personnel. Mr. Chan will complete proposal action form and the preference sheet for match timing will be included.
- Action:** **It was VOTED 9-0 (Chan-Roos).**
“To standardize scheduling with local start times between 6:00-7:00 PM for Friday matches and 4:00-8:00 PM for Saturday matches.”
- b. Championship First Round Match Timing
The coaches discussed moving the first-round match to the Tuesday prior to the start of the championship with the No. 8 Seed hosting the No. 9 seed. This would provide a championship experience and prevent the winner of this match from having to play two matches in the same day.
- Action:** **It was VOTED 9-0 (Chan-Glover).**
“To move the First Round Match to Monday or Tuesday and hosted by the No. 8 Seed.”
- Subsequently, should the previous proposal not be approved, the Head Coaches wish to have the following considered to accommodate the #8/#9, First Round Match. The winner of Match 1 typically will play again at 2:30 PM. The proposal will shift the winner of match 1 to playing again at 5:00 PM. Sample bracket will be included with the proposal action form.
- First Round
Match 1, 9:30 AM - #8/#9.
- Quarterfinals
Match 2, 12:00 PM - #2/#7;
Match 3, 2:30 PM - #3/#6;
Match 4, 5:00 PM - #1/Winner Match 1; and,
Match 5, 7:30 PM - #4/#5.
- Semifinals
Match 6, 2:00 PM - Winner Match 2 vs. Winner Match 3; and,
Match 7, 4:30 PM - Winner Match 4 vs. Winner Match 5.
- Final
Match 8, 2:00 PM - Winner Match 6 vs. Winner Match 7.
- Action:** **It was VOTED Unanimous.**
“To flip the bracket to allow for more rest to take place between the 9:30 AM Match 1 and the winner playing their second match of the day against the No. 1 seed.”

c. Championship Practice Times and Assigning

Mr. Filar opened discussions on how practice times were assigned for the Thursday prior to the start of competition. All were in favor of returning to the assigning by geography model.

Action:

It was VOTED 9-0 (Unanimous).

“To assign championship practice times on the day prior to competition by geography.”

d. Conference Awards – Season and Weekly Awards

Ms. Roos presented the group with a diagram of season and weekly awards offered by each division I conference. All the head coaches would like to reintroduce the addition of setter and freshman of the week as they are no additional cost. These weekly awards align with awards given across division I volleyball conferences and aid in rankings and regional awards. The breakdown of conference awards by division I conferences will be forwarded to the awards committee.

10. Topic:
Issue:

Other Business

a. CRS at the conference championship

Mr. Carlin inquired about what the landscape was on the pulse of the Challenge Review system. Ms. Durban mentioned that this is currently being used throughout the entire NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship.

Action:

It was VOTED 8-0-1 (Carlin-Schroder).

“To have CRS available at the conference championship using the current infrastructure in place at the venue.”

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.