



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WOMEN'S ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING COMMITTEE  
MAY 18, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Championship date formula.**

- (1) Recommendation. Establish the acrobatics and tumbling championship date formula as the fourth full weekend in April (Thursday through Sunday). Selections would take place the Monday the week prior to the championship.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2027 championship and thereafter.
- (3) Rationale. The current NCATA championship is held Thursday through Sunday on the fourth weekend in April and the committee believes this continues to be the best schedule for the championship. These dates avoid a conflict with the NCAA gymnastics championships (one week earlier). The only other NCAA championships that occur this weekend are National Collegiate Women's Water Polo and Division III Men's Volleyball. The following weekend includes National Collegiate Beach Volleyball and National Collegiate Stunt (anticipated). The Thursday-Sunday competition pattern is also the preference of ESPN and increases the chances that the championship meet may be broadcast on a linear channel.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed date formula is consistent with the NCATA championship dates. The date formula will allow the championship to be completed prior to the start of final exams and graduation for most institutions.

**b. Championship format.**

- (1) Recommendation. Establish a 12-team bracket with no event finals. [Attachment]
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2027 championship and thereafter.
- (3) Rationale. While the NCATA championship has included event finals as part of the championship schedule, the committee believes that expanding the bracket and eliminating event finals will provide a more comprehensive student-athlete experience.

Providing championship opportunities for additional teams is an incentive for institutions to continue to invest in comprehensive acrobatics and tumbling teams.

Eliminating the event finals, which have typically been held after the team event, also will reduce missed class time as non-advancing teams will return to campus earlier. Currently, teams are on site for the entirety of the championship provided the team is represented in the event finals (four of eight teams advance to event finals in each discipline based on performance during the quarterfinal meet in addition to at-large qualifiers based on regular season performance).

A 12-team bracket would consist of four opening round meets on day one involving seeds 5-12, four quarterfinal meets on day two, two semifinal meets on day three and a championship meet on the last day. Based on the length of acrobatics and tumbling meets, it is not feasible to have more than four meets per day and it is important to have adequate rest and recovery time between meets.

It is anticipated that the National Collegiate Stunt Committee will also recommend a 12-team bracket, so this would provide the same number of championship opportunities for both new championships. The acrobatics and tumbling championship access would be 25% based on 2026-27 projected sports sponsorship. The committee believes this level of access is within the range for team sports and is appropriate to benefit the growth of the sport as a team sport with the recommended elimination of event finals.

Although not the preferred option, the committee also discussed a 10-team bracket. This would put the championship access at 21%. A 10-team bracket would have two opening round meets on day one involving seeds 7-10.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. A 12-team bracket can be implemented within the previously approved budget for the championship.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This would provide opportunities for more teams to be involved in the championship.

**c. Squad size, travel party and bench limit.**

- (1) Recommendation. Establish a squad size and travel party of 30 and bench limit of the full roster plus 10 non-athletes.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2027 championship and thereafter.

- (3) Rationale. Acrobatics and tumbling teams are limited to 28 student-athletes per meet per the playing rules. A squad size of 30 provides the appropriate flexibility to change the roster between meets for injury or illness reasons while also maintaining competitive equity across teams with various roster sizes. The committee believes it is important to have all eligible student-athletes as members of the travel party included in all elements of the student-athlete experience (e.g., banquet, participant gifts).

The committee acknowledges that this recommendation does not provide NCAA reimbursement for individuals outside of the squad size. While there is a desire to increase the travel party in the future, this recommendation is in line with other National Collegiate Championships including beach volleyball and men's and women's water polo.

Allowing the full roster to be on the bench enhances the experience for non-participating student-athletes. The Division I roster limit in acrobatics and tumbling is 55, so an institution with a full roster will have as many as 25 student-athletes not able to compete. For team morale and roster retention purposes, the committee believes these student-athletes should be able to be in the bench area as they are in the regular season. The bench limit would include ten non-athletes to allow for key staff (e.g., coaches, athletic trainer, strength and conditioning coach, team physician, team administrator) to be in the bench area. Based on the floor set-up for meets, there is not a space concern with these additional individuals being in the bench area.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. A 30-person travel party can be implemented within the previously approved budget for the championship.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This would provide opportunities for more teams to be involved in the championship.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

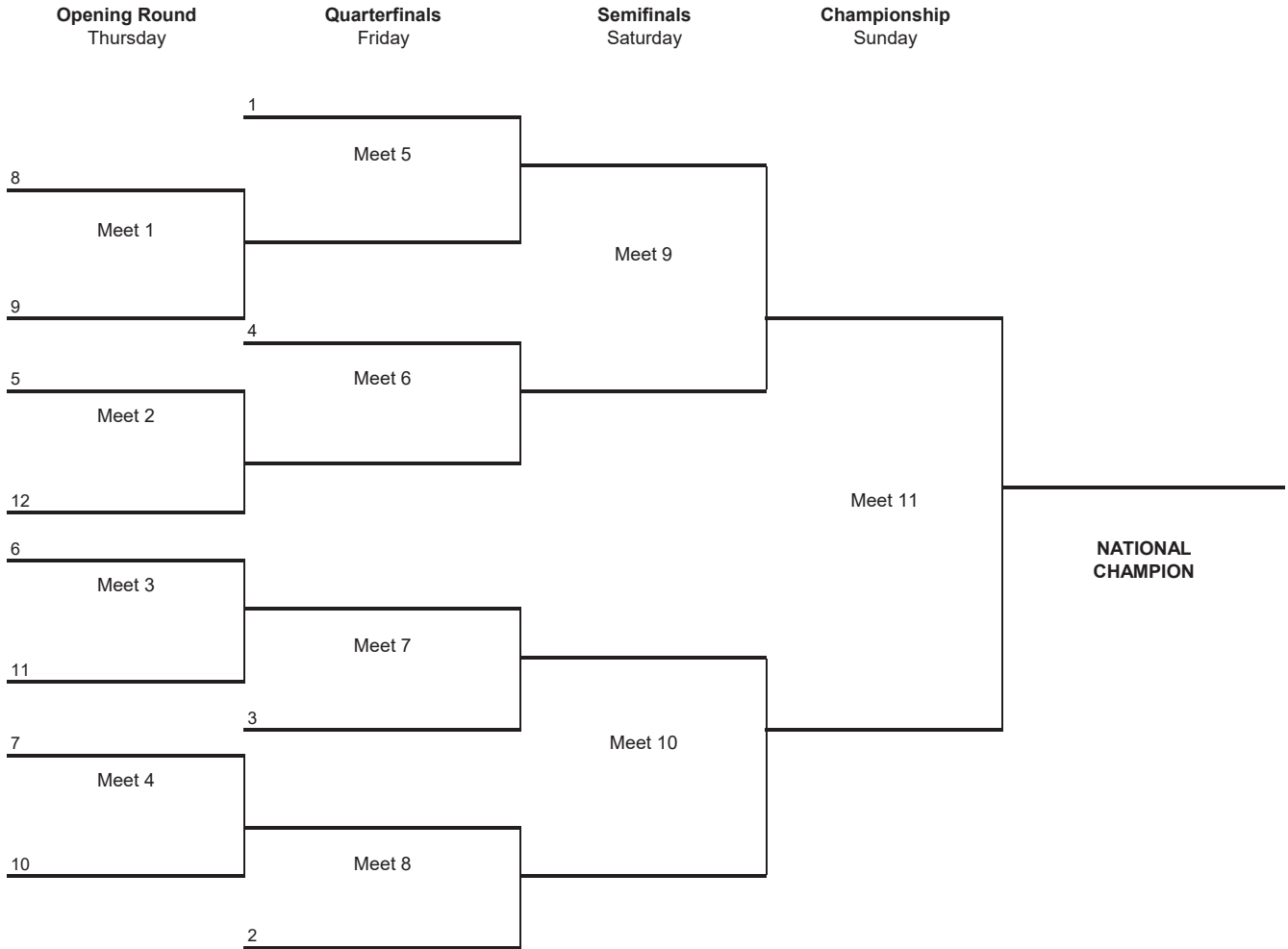
1. **Approve prior meeting report.** The committee approved the May 4, 2026 videoconference report.
2. **Committee zone overview.** Staff provided an overview of the committee zone. Meeting materials and other committee documents will be uploaded to the committee zone moving forward.
3. **Championship format.** The committee considered options for the championship date formula, format and squad size, travel party and bench limit. The committee finalized its recommendations for consideration by the Division I Cabinet Subcommittee (see Nonlegislative Action Item Nos. 2-a through 2-c).

4. **Future videoconferences.**

- a. Wednesday, May 27, 1 p.m. Eastern time.
- b. Summer videoconference schedule to be determined.

*Committee Chair:* Meg Sharp, Adrian College  
*Staff Liaison:* Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances  
D.J. Brown, Governance and Member Services

<b>NCAA Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee May 18, 2026, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Katie Armedure, Frostburg State University.	
Luke Groth, Augustana University (South Dakota).	
Katie Harbert, University of Oregon.	
Felecia Mulkey, Baylor University.	
Meg Sharp, Adrian College.	
Alia Stark, Buffalo State, State University of New York.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
D.J. Brown, Governance and Member Services.	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Julie Kimmons and Nancy O'Hara (contractor).	



All times are Eastern time.  
 Information subject to change.  
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