



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WOMEN'S ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING COMMITTEE  
MAY 27, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Sports sponsorship – elimination of minimum participant requirement (Division I).**
  - a. Recommendation. In acrobatics and tumbling, to eliminate the minimum participant requirement for sports sponsorship.
  - b. Effective date. 2026-27 academic year.
  - c. Rationale. When acrobatics and tumbling was adopted as an emerging sport, the legislative proposal established sports sponsorship requirements. In all three divisions, acrobatics and tumbling was identified as a team sport; however, both a minimum contest (six) and minimum participant (18) requirement was established for sports sponsorship. The intent of the minimum participant requirement was to ensure student-athletes could compete safely and for institutions to build complete rosters. The NCATA Code of Points (which governs the playing rules for acrobatics and tumbling) governs the minimum participants in order to compete in a meet and take into account health and safety considerations.

As the sport has evolved, a bridge program was adopted effective for the 2024-25 academic year that allows teams with a roster size under 18 to safely compete. The bridge program utilizes a simplified format and skill set to ensure safety, retention and a positive competitive experience for student-athletes and coaches during the implementation and building of an acrobatics and tumbling program and roster. Under the current legislation, teams utilizing the bridge program are not able to meet sports sponsorship requirements despite competing in meets that adhere to the playing rules.

In Division I, the only team sports with a minimum participant requirement are rowing and stunt. All other team sports defer to playing rules on the minimum number of participants to complete a contest, and for a contest to be considered countable for sports sponsorship purposes it must be completed in accordance with playing rules.

Eliminating the requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation will keep acrobatics and tumbling consistent with other team sports and ensure the playing rules govern the minimum participant requirement for any necessary health and safety considerations. The Division I Membership Committee and the National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association executive director expressed support to remove the minimum participant requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation. Divisions II and III are also considering this legislative change.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. This change will ensure that all meets in which student-athletes participate and are conducted in accordance with playing rules, are counted for sports sponsorship purposes.

## 2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Referral to the Division II and III Membership Committees – Elimination of minimum participant requirement for sports sponsorship (Divisions II and III).**
  - a. Recommendation. That the Division II and Division III Membership Committees consider recommending noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the minimum participant requirement in acrobatics and tumbling for sports sponsorship.
  - b. Effective date. 2026-27 academic year.
  - c. Rationale. When acrobatics and tumbling was adopted as an emerging sport, the legislative proposal established sports sponsorship requirements. In all three divisions, acrobatics and tumbling was identified as a team sport; however, both a minimum contest (six) and minimum participant (18) requirement was established for sports sponsorship. The intent of the minimum participant requirement was to ensure student-athletes could compete safely and for institutions to build complete rosters. The NCATA Code of Points (which governs the playing rules for acrobatics and tumbling) governs the minimum participants in order to compete in a meet and take into account health and safety considerations.

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In Divisions II and III, only stunt has a minimum participant requirement. All other team sports defer to playing rules on the minimum number of participants to complete a contest, and for a contest to be considered countable for sports sponsorship purposes it must be completed in accordance with playing rules.

Eliminating the requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation will keep acrobatics and tumbling consistent with other team sports and ensure the playing rules govern the minimum participant requirement for any necessary health and safety considerations. The NCATA executive director also supports the removal of the minimum participant requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation. Division I is also considering this legislative change.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. This change will ensure that all meets that student-athletes participate in which are conducted in accordance with playing rules are counted for sports sponsorship purposes.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Approve prior meeting report.** The committee approved the May 18, 2026, videoconference report.
2. **Selection criteria.** The committee met with NCATA staff as well as the chair and vice chair of the NCATA Championships Committee to review the selection criteria data and process used for the NCATA championship. The committee will continue to discuss selection criteria prior to making recommendations for the 2027 championship.
3. **Legislative issues.** The committee discussed the following legislative issues:
  - a. **Sports sponsorship – minimum participant requirement.** The committee reviewed feedback from the Division I Membership Committee regarding potentially eliminating the minimum participant requirement for sports sponsorship. Based on the Membership Committee supporting the concept, the committee agreed to recommend a legislative proposal in Division I (see Legislative Action Item) and refer a review of the Division IIs and III legislative to the divisional Membership Committees for consideration of sponsorship of legislation in those divisions (see Nonlegislative Action Item) to remove the minimum participant requirement for sports sponsorship.
  - b. **Feedback on NCAA Division I Cabinet Bylaw 17 decentralization project.** The committee received an update on the Division I Cabinet's Bylaw 17 decentralization review, including the current areas identified for national standards. Phase I of the Bylaw 17 review will focus on (1) first date of competition; (2) first date of practice, (3) end of the season; (4) maximum number of competitions; (5) summer athletics activities; and (6) health and safety. The committee will continue its discussion on decentralization and provide feedback on these items during a future videoconference.

**4. Future videoconferences.**

- a. Wednesday, June 3, 1 p.m. Eastern time.
- b. Wednesday, June 10, 1 p.m. Eastern time.
- c. Thursday, June 18, Noon Eastern time.

*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 27, 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>	
	Janell Cook, NCATA.
	Matthew Grimm, Stevenson University.
	Kristi Kiefer, Fairmont State University.
	Heather Ould, NCATA.
<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>	
	Luke Schultheis and Sarah Shoffner.