



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES
MAY 7, 2026, JOINT VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative item.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative item.**

- **Increase of the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Fields from 68 to 76 Teams.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Board of Directors increase the number of NCAA Division I Championship opportunities for men's and women's basketball student-athletes by increasing the Division I men's and women's basketball championship fields from 68 to 76 teams.

Specifics of the championship expansion include the following:

- (a) Increase of the championship fields from 68 to 76 teams, whereby, the 12 lowest seeded at-large teams on the overall seed list would play in six Opening Round games and the 12 lowest seeded automatic qualifier teams will play in six Opening Round games prior to the start of the First Rounds. This results in a tournament field of 64 at the start of the First Rounds.
 - (b) For men's basketball, in addition to the currently awarded First Four/Opening Round site of Dayton, the additional Opening Round games would be hosted at a second yet to be awarded predetermined site. For women's basketball, the Opening Round games would be hosted at 12 of the 16-campus hosted nonpredetermined sites awarded to top seeded teams to host.
 - (c) Eight additional Basketball Performance Fund units for both the men's and women's basketball championships resulting in a total of 12 total Basketball Performance Fund units for the winners of Opening Round games. Increases the DI Revenue Distribution budget by \$6.1M beginning in 2028 and increases to \$37.4M by 2033 to avoid unit dilution as a result of expansion of the men's and women's Basketball championship field sizes from 68 teams to 76 teams.
- (2) Effective date. 2027 Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships.

- (3) Rationale. The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Committees unanimously supported this recommendation.

Expanding the Division I men's and women's basketball championship fields from 68 to 76 teams will result in equal NCAA championship participation opportunities for men's and women's basketball student-athletes, better matchups for teams, and result in 21% of Division I teams having an opportunity in the NCAA basketball postseason. In addition, expanding the tournament fields provides additional investment in the exposure of our men's and women's basketball student-athletes as well as our member institutions while providing additional Basketball Performance Fund unit distributions without diluting the current value. Lastly, expansion provides new specified categories for the NCAA's Corporate Champion and Partner (CCP) program including beer/wine/spirits/hard seltzer and cryptocurrency and allows for an expansion of in-game broadcast advertising categories. For all NCAA championships other than the Division I Men's Basketball Championship, it also resulted in the NCAA being able to sell local sponsorships that are materially differentiated from the NCAA CCP program and limited to the designated market area where a championship is held and also permits the NCAA to pursue limited, sports specific sponsorships with select equipment companies whose products are used in the applicable championship. For men's basketball specifically, broadcast partners would be permitted to lengthen up to four in-game media timeouts per game by 30 seconds resulting in two additional minutes of commercial inventory.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The NCAA will be able to award more than \$131 million in new revenue distributions to member schools participating in the basketball tournaments over the remaining six years of the NCAA's broadcast agreements. The value of the rights agreement will result in an average annual value of \$50 million over the course of the six years. After expenses, the rest of the projected surplus will be used to continue investments in the basketball tournaments and enhance all championship experiences for student-athletes.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Increase in NCAA championship opportunities for Division I men's and women's basketball student-athletes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review and approval of February 27, 2026, meeting report.** The men's and women's basketball oversight committees reviewed and approved their February 27 meeting report.

2. **Other business.** The committee conducted no other business.
3. **Future meetings.** The committees reviewed the 2025-26 men's and women's basketball joint committee meeting schedule.

Committee Chairs: Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara
Dan Butterly, Big West Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Meredith Cleaver, Director of Women's Basketball
Dan Gavitt, Senior Vice President of Basketball
Lynn Holzman, Vice President of Women's Basketball
Charnele Kemper, Director of Division I Governance and Member Services
JoAn Scott, Vice President of Men's Basketball
Andy Supergan, Director of Basketball

NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees May 7, 2026, Joint Meeting
Attendees:
Val Ackerman, Big East Conference.
Ketra Armstrong, Faculty Athletics Representative Association.
Kelly Barsky, University of California, Santa Barbara, Big West Conference.
Amy Beggin, University of New Mexico, Mountain West Conference.
Paul Brazeau, Atlantic Coast Conference (alternate).
Sara Burton, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Big Ten Conference.
Dan Butterly, Big West Conference.
Tiffany Daniels, Southeastern Conference.
Liz Darger, Brigham Young University, Women's Basketball Committee vice chair.
Luke Davidson, Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee.
Kery Davis, Howard University, Mid-Eastern Conference.
Danielle Donehew, Women's Basketball Coaches Association.
Lindsay Edmonds, Rice University, American Conference.
Terry Gawlik, University of Idaho, Big Sky Conference.
Garth Glissman, Southeastern Conference.
Ron Hunter, Tulane University, American Conference.
Jeff Jackson, Missouri Valley Conference.
Lindy La Rocque, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Mountain West Conference.
Nadine Mastroleo, Faculty Athletics Representative Association.
Ed McLaughlin, Virginia Commonwealth University, Atlantic 10 Conference.

Martin Newton, Samford University, Men's Basketball Committee vice chair.
Vince Nicastro, Big East Conference (alternate).
Jeff O'Malley, NCAA Secretary Rules Editor.
Dayna Sherf, Big 12 Conference (alternate).
Chris Rastatter, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.
Brad Taylor, Big Ten Conference (alternate).
Brian Thornton, Big 12 Conference (alternate).
Brad Walker, America East Conference.
Quannas White, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Sun Belt Conference.
Brooke Wycoff, Florida State, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Absentees:
Maya Chocano, Student-Athlete from University of California, Riverside.
Travis Goff, University of Kansas, Big 12 Conference.
Steve Forbes, Wake Forest University, Atlantic Coast Conference.
J'Vonne Hadley, Student-athlete from University of Louisville.
Martin Jarmond, University of California, Los Angeles, Big Ten Conference.
Erin McDermott, Harvard University, The Ivy League.
Cade Phillips, Men's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group Chair from University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Craig Robinson, National Association of Basketball Coaches.
Jill Shields, Kansas State University, Big 12 Conference.
Taryn Sides, Student-Athlete from Kansas State University.
Adrianna Smith, Student-Athlete from University of Maine.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Dan Gavitt, Lynn Holzman, Charnele Kemper, Binh Nguyen, Andy Supergan and JoAn Scott.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Tim Buckley, Keisha Burnette, Meredith Cleaver, Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, Brian Higgins, Jared Tidemann and David Worlock.