

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEES SEPTEMBER 19, 2025, JOINT VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- 1. Legislative items.
 - None.
- 2. Nonlegislative items.
 - Bench size increase.
 - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Increase the bench size for both men's and women's basketball to 25 with 20 chairs.
 - (2) Effective date. 2026 championships.
 - (3) <u>Rationale</u>. The current bench limit is 23 with 18 chairs. While the committees still believe that a reasonable limit is necessary to ensure effective operational control of the event, an increase of two is appropriate to enhance the overall student-athlete experience. This recommendation aligns Division II basketball with Division III.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. More student-athletes will be able to be in the bench area with their team during competition, aligning with the practices of other divisions.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and introductions. The committee was introduced to Lynne Andrew, who will be taking over as the women's basketball championship manager effective August 20. Karen Kirsch, who will be taking on other responsibilities during the winter championship season, will remain available as needed to ensure a smooth transition.
- 2. 2026 NCAA Convention membership-sponsored proposals. The committees discussed and supported 2026 Convention Proposal No. 2026-10, which would amend the first date of competition legislation to specify that a member institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition before the Monday that is 17 weeks before the Division II men's and women's championship selection dates. The committees noted that the proposal aims to prevent multiple competitions within a single week. Additionally, the committees believe this approach serves the best interests of student-athletes and aligns with the Division II Life in the Balance philosophy.

- ____
- **3.** Championships Committee updates. The committees discussed a referral from the Championships Committee regarding the championship format, specifically whether to move to a three-weekend format with two rounds per weekend. The committees agreed to request a budget analysis on the format for consideration during a future joint videoconference. If recommended, the committees would need to submit the request as part of the 2027-30 triennial budget cycle. Sport committee requests will be initially reviewed by the Championships Committee in February 2026.
- **4. Discussion regarding bench limit.** The committees discussed the current bench limit of 23 individuals with 18 chairs and agreed to recommend an increase of two to align with Division III basketball. (See Nonlegislative Action Item.)
- **5. Triennial budget cycle.** The committees discussed whether to submit any other requests as part of the triennial budget cycle. No additional requests were identified.
- **6. Site visit recap.** The committees received an update on the preparation and planning for the 2026 Division II joint basketball championship in Pittsburgh.
- 7. Future joint meeting dates.
 - a. November 5, 2025, videoconference.
 - **b.** January 28, 2026, videoconference.
 - c. April 27-28, 2026, annual meeting (Indianapolis).

Committee Chairs: Pryor Orser, Colorado School of Mines

Erika Wallace, Wayne State University (Michigan)

Staff Liaisons: Lynne Andrew, Women's Basketball

T. Mitchell Bailey, Men's Basketball

Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Committee September 19, 2025, Joint Videoconference

Attendees:

Amy Anderson, Arkansas Tech University.

Ken Badylak, Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Rachel Burleson, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida).

Michelle Caddigan, Catawba College.

Christine Collins-Kiernan, Concordia University Irvine.

Allie De Witt, Mountain East Conference.

Report of the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Committee Joint Videoconference September 19, 2025

Karen Kirsch, Jordan Lysiak and Angela Red.

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