



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 24-25, 2023, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **2026 joint championship.** The committee is seeking final approval of the championship game being part of a joint men's basketball championship in 2026, in Indianapolis. (See Action Item 2.)
2. **Committee chair.** The committee unanimously selected Andy Peterson, director of athletics at Northwest Missouri State University, as committee chair for 2023-24.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Joint Divisions I, II and III Men's Basketball Championships.**

- a. Recommendation. That the 2026 Division II Men's Basketball Championship take place at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis as part of the Division I Men's Final Four.
- b. Effective Date. April 2026.
- c. Rationale. The Men's Basketball Committee believes this would be a tremendous opportunity for Division II men's basketball and would provide an outstanding student-athlete experience for the two teams that advance to Indianapolis, as well as an opportunity for greater exposure at the Men's Final Four. The committee acknowledges that the Division II Championships Committee has previously agreed to the concept of staging the Division II Men's Basketball Championship in conjunction with the Division I Men's Final Four twice over the next 10 years. The last joint championships provided an exceptional experience for the Division II student-athletes. As such, the Division II Men's Basketball Committee believes that a similar experience will be offered in 2026.
- d. Estimated Budget Impact. Approximately \$250,000.
- e. Student-Athlete Impact. The student-athletes who advance to the championship game would be able to participate in several different activities surrounding the Men's Final Four, including an opening reception, a community outreach initiative, recognition during the Division I Men's Final Four and the winning team being introduced during the championship game of the Men's Final Four as the Division II national champion.

These experiences would provide lifelong positive memories. The student-athletes who advance to the championship would at most miss two additional days of class time from a regular Elite Eight experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2022 annual meeting minutes.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2022 annual meeting report as written.
2. **2022-23 Division II Championships Committee update.** The committee reviewed relevant actions and information items from 2022-23.
3. **NABC Division II recap/report.** The committee received an update from staff on recent meetings at the NABC convention. A majority of this conversation with coaches at the convention involved regionalization and bracketing. The NABC Division II coaches congress plans to work on suggestions on how to improve this process to share with the committee.

The committee also discussed the NABC Division II all-star game that is conducted at the Elite Eight and is committed to continuing working with the NABC to improve attendance and the experience for the student-athletes. The committee asked staff to work with the NABC to share ideas on how to accomplish this.

4. Review of 2023 championship.

- a. **Selection call/announcement.** The committee expressed concern with the timing of the selection show, noting that it was required to move back an hour, to 11 p.m. Eastern time, in order to accommodate the show production. The late timing of this show is further hindered by the late start times of conference tournament championship games on Sunday, which limits committee members' time and availability to finalize the selection. This topic was also discussed in the joint meeting with the Division II Women's Basketball Committee. Additional talking points are provided in the joint report based on these discussions.

The committee discussed in detail the inquiries received regarding the South Central region selection. The committee fully agrees that policies and procedures, particularly those around removing any conflicts of interest during discussions, were correctly followed throughout the selection process. The committee strongly believes that the public nature of the inquiries that were made, particularly with regard to social media statements from the conference and member institution administrators, as well as during postgame press conferences by coaches, are highly inappropriate, as they take away from celebrating the accomplishments of the participating teams and student-athletes. They believe there is a proper way to discuss these decisions within the membership while maintaining respect for the process and without publicly questioning the integrity of individuals and the committee as a whole. The committee is always open to continued improvement and dialogue with

members when difficult decisions are made and will continue to ensure staff and committee members are accessible to have these discussions with member conference and institutions that are involved.

- b. Regionals and Elite Eight.** The committee was pleased with the overall administration of the regional tournaments and the Elite Eight. Committee and staff will continue to discuss possible improvements and efficiencies with regard to game administration and communication with participating teams and hosts.

The committee discussed Elite Eight game times, particularly those that were on CBS Sports Network and CBS. Members were happy with the choice of game times this year serving as a "lead-in" to the Division I Men's Basketball Championship regional games and noted the desire to continue with this strategy moving forward.

The committee recognizes the importance of community engagement to the overall experience at the Elite Eight and was pleased with how it was conducted this year. Members noted that they are committed to attracting more of the local youth that are involved in these activities to attend Elite Eight games throughout the week and look forward to working with staff and the local organizing committee on accomplishing this in the future.

- c. Elite Eight seeding.** The committee continues to support the seeding of the Elite Eight and thought the process followed this year for timing and bracket release worked well.
- d. Survey results.** The committee reviewed survey results from all constituents that responded and will consider suggestions made on how to improve.

- 5. Rules and officiating.** The committee was joined by Andy Supergan, assistant director of championships and men's basketball playing rules liaison, and Jeff O'Malley, men's basketball secretary-rules editor. As this is rules change year, they shared potential changes the rules committee is considering that will be discussed and voted on in the coming weeks.

The committee was also joined by John Blazek, Division II men's basketball national coordinator of officials, who provided a comprehensive review of the program, including the selection process and the performance of officials during the championship. The committee shared their observations of the officiating throughout the championships and overall were pleased with the officials' performance.

The committee also shared their concerns of inconsistency from one conference to the next on interpretation of current playing rules and asked Mr. Blazek to continue working with the conference coordinators across Division II, as well as with Jeff O'Malley and others involved with the men's basketball officiating program, to ensure that rules are consistently applied.

Overall, the committee is pleased with the work that Mr. Blazek has done and looks forward to working with him for the 2023-24 season.

6. **Misconduct.** The committee discussed possible misconducts in several instances that occurred during the championship and will be initiating inquiries.

The committee asked staff to send a misconduct inquiry to West Texas A&M University for comments their head coach made during his postgame press conference about officiating decisions and assignments.

The committee also discussed a misconduct inquiry for head coaches at Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference institutions for comments at their postgame press conference with their displeasure with the region seeding and hosting opportunity. The committee recognizes these comments to be inappropriate and serving to fuel the negative storyline that was initiated by the public statements made after the selection announcement. As noted above, the committee expressed its displeasure with these statements but will not pursue misconduct, considering this matter closed and moving on to ensuring continued improvement for future championships.

7. **2024 championship preview.** The committee reviewed and discussed key dates and information related to the 2024 championship.
8. **Men's basketball group update.** The committee was joined by Dan Gavitt, senior vice president of basketball, who provided an update from the men's basketball group that included the growth of the college basketball academies, work being done around the recruitment and retention of basketball officials, and the upcoming rules change year, specifically discussion around the potential introduction of technology on team benches during games.

Mr. Gavitt also shared an update on the potential for a joint men's basketball championship in 2026, with the Division II and Division II championship games joining the Division I Men's Final Four in Indianapolis. The committee understood the additional approvals from each division are required but expressed their strong desire for this to take place, as it is a valuable experience for the student athletes (see Action Item 2 above). The committee further expressed that it would like to see a joint men's basketball championship considered on a more regular basis. Mr. Gavitt noted that this would require further discussion and planning among all three divisions but appreciated the committee's feedback.

9. **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved automatic-qualifying conferences for the 2024 championship.
10. **Manual review.** The committee discussed manual updates that will need to be made for the upcoming year and asked staff to ensure these are made.

11. Committee administration.

- a. **Rosters.** The committee reviewed RAC and national committee rosters, noting turnover for the upcoming year.
- b. **Recognition of outgoing members.** The committee recognized Darrel Brooks, Mitch Cox and committee chair Michael McBroom for their service on the committee, as well as congratulated Mr. McBroom on his retirement.
- c. **Committee chair.** The committee unanimously selected Andy Peterson, director of athletics at Northwest Missouri State University, to serve as chair of the committee for the 2023-24 academic year.

12. Future meeting dates. The future meeting schedule is to be determined in conjunction with the Division II Women's Basketball Committee.

Committee Chair: Michael McBroom, West Texas A&M University, LoneStar Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Committee April 24-25, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Darrell Brooks, Bowie State University.	
Rick Costello, Purdue University Northwest.	
Mitch Cox, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Steve Hardin, Lees-McRae College.	
Michael McBroom, West Texas A&M University.	
Andy Peterson, Northwest Missouri State University.	
Mark Richard, University of Montevallo.	
Absentees:	
Mike MacDonald, Daemen University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
John Blazek, NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Coordinator of Officials.	
Jeff O'Malley, NCAA Men's Basketball Secretary-Rules Editor.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Eric Breece.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Gavitt, Men's Basketball.	
Carla Laster, Championships and Alliances.	