



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
APRIL 22-23, 2024, MEETING AND MAY 1, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Joint Championship.** The committee recommended participation in a joint championship with Divisions I and III women's basketball in 2028. (See Nonlegislative Action Item.)
- **KPI.** The committee affirmed its intent to use KPI as one of the three sport-specific selection criteria for the 2024-27 cycle. Additionally, the committee agreed to use KPI to seed the Elite Eight. (See Informational Item No. 8-b.)
- **Chair election.** The committee elected Erika Wallace, director of athletics at Wayne State University (Michigan), as chair for the 2024-25 academic year. (See Informational Item No. 15.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Joint Divisions I, II and III Women's Basketball Championships.**
 - (1) Recommendation. That the 2028 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship take place in Indianapolis at Gainbridge Fieldhouse or an alternate venue as part of the Women's Final Four.
 - (2) Effective date. March/April 2028.
 - (3) Rationale. The committee embraces the tremendous opportunity for Division II women's basketball and that the joint championship would provide an outstanding student-athlete experience for the two teams that advance to Indianapolis, as well as the opportunity for greater exposure for the division at the Women's Final Four. The committee acknowledges that the Division II Championships Committee during its September 2018 meeting agreed to the concept of staging the Division II Women's Basketball Championship in conjunction with the Women's Final Four twice over a 10-year period. The other joint championship in 2016 (Indy) and 2023 (Dallas) provided exceptional experiences for the Division II student-athletes. The committee expects a similar experience will be offered in 2028 and looks forward to another joint championship in Indianapolis. The Women's Basketball Coaches Association supports continuing future joint championships.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. \$250,000.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The student-athletes who advance to the championship game would be able to participate in several activities surrounding the Women's Final Four, including the Salute, an introduction during the semifinals of the Women's Final Four, involvement with in-venue and game presentation opportunities at the Division I championship game, and the winning team being introduced during the Division I championship game as the Division II national champion. These experiences provide lifelong positive memories. The student-athletes who advance to the championship would miss four additional days of class time to attend the championship. However, the committee asserts the impact of missing class time is less given the ability to conduct academic pursuits via online platforms.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Approval of April 2023 reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the April 2023 reports.
2. **Championships Committee updates.** The committee discussed a request from the Division II Championships Committee seeking feedback regarding the Division II regionalization model and opportunities to revise the current approach to bracketing. The Championships Committee will review the sport committee feedback at the June 17-18 meeting.
3. **Women's Basketball Coaches Association recap.** The committee received an update from the WBCA Division II business meeting, which took place in conjunction with the Division I Women's Final Four. NCAA President Charlie Baker attended the business meeting to share updates with the coaches.
4. **Coaches Connection update.** The liaison for the Division II women's basketball coaches connection provided an update of the program and the positive feedback she has received, including that the coaches appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on issues important to them. It was noted a conference will be filing a waiver of the Division II women's basketball quiet period that overlaps with the Division I scholastic recruiting weekend in June. The committee expressed support for the waiver.
5. **Regional and national ranking calls.** The committee felt this year's ranking calls went smoothly. However, it was noted that participation via videoconference (i.e., camera on) should be required moving forward unless the regional advisory committee member communicates beforehand with the regional chair (e.g., technology issues). The committee also requested that one call be held with all regional advisory committee members to ensure consistency of information provided to all eight regions.
6. **Review of 2024 championship.**
 - a. **Selections.** The committee felt that this year's selections process went smoothly. The committee noted the importance of educating regional advisory committee members and the membership that the data changes weekly as more games are played.

- b. Review of regionals.** The committee discussed regionals, noting that generally all nine sites were successful, including the split-site regional. The committee noted the new shared sites as a very helpful tool for event operations for all involved (participating teams, hosts and site representatives).

The committee agreed to revise the language for spirit squad members to allow them to be on the full court during timeouts and halftime, provided they are not interfering with participating teams. Additionally, the spirit squads will be permitted to perform for up to three minutes at halftime. If the two participating teams did not bring spirit squads to the regional, the home team's spirit squad may perform for three minutes to enhance the fan experience.

The committee requested that staff explore whether the regional champion mini trophies can be sent to the regional sites to be handed out in a celebratory moment, as opposed to at the Elite Eight when teams do not advance.

The committee also agreed to eliminate the in-person administrative meeting at regionals, noting that the content can be covered during the participant call Monday after selections. Regarding meetings with the officials, the committees appreciated the call the national coordinator had with all 96 participating officials Monday evening. As a result, the committee does not think the calls with the regional evaluators Tuesday remain necessary, but an in-person meeting on-site should be maintained. Based on travel schedules, this can occur either Thursday evening or Friday morning.

The committee noted an issue with a host not having exclusive use of the venue throughout the regional. While the host was granted relief of this requirement for the regional, the committee noted the unique and extenuating circumstances involved and that this decision was not precedent setting for future regionals.

- c. Elite Eight seeding process.** The committee discussed the Elite Eight seeding process and agreed to use KPI rankings for this moving forward.
- d. Review of Women's Elite Eight.** Missouri Western State University and the St. Joseph Sports Commission hosted a successful Women's Elite Eight. The committee provided feedback for consideration for hosting future championships. It was noted that the host provided excellent hospitality throughout the week and made the visiting teams and committee feel special throughout the event.
- e. Participating teams experience.** The committee conducted a post-championship videoconference with Minnesota State University, Mankato, the national champions, to discuss their experience during the championship. Both student-athletes and staff provided positive feedback about their overall experience, while providing suggestions of future enhancement opportunities.

7. Officials.

- a. **Evaluators.** Evaluators again conducted their evaluations in person, and it was noted that this continues to be the committee's preferred approach to ensure the best evaluations possible. Beginning with the 2025 championship, regional evaluators will be provided a stipend for their work, in addition to travel and per diem. The committee provided feedback to the national coordinator on how to streamline communication between the evaluators, site representatives, officials and host institution in the future.
- b. **Elite Eight experience.** The committee agreed that the officiating at the Elite Eight met expectations. The national coordinator reviewed the evaluation process and assignment philosophy.

8. 2025 championship.

- a. **2024-25 timeline.** The committee reviewed the proposed timeline for 2024-25 and did not make any changes. The joint meetings with the Division II Men's Basketball Committee will be added once dates and times are determined.
- b. **Selection criteria.** The committee noted that the 2024-25 season begins a new three-year selection criteria cycle. The following additional sport-specific criteria were submitted and approved by the Division II Championships Committee in June 2023:
 - In-Region Rating Percentage Index.
 - KPI.
 - Results versus Ranked Division II Opponents

Additionally, the committee agreed to use KPI to seed teams for the Elite Eight.

- c. **Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the tentative schedule for the 2025 championship and made several adjustments to practice times to align with the Division II Men's Basketball Championship. The same timing adjustments will be made for the regionals.
9. **Playing rules update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee liaison. This is not a rules change year, so the rules committee will review membership feedback on the rules implemented for the 2023-24 season. The committee was encouraged to provide any additional feedback before the rules committee meeting.
 10. **Automatic qualification forms.** The committee reviewed and approved 23 conferences for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year.

11. **Review of manuals/film exchange process.** Committee members agreed to review the various manuals and provide necessary changes to the NCAA. The committee also discussed changing the language related to film exchange, which will be reviewed later.
12. **2026-28 bid cycle.** Staff provided an update on the bids that were submitted as part of the 2026-28 bid cycle. Several cities indicated interest in hosting both championships concurrently. The committee will review bids in greater detail in the summer once hotel and broadcast information is received, including a discussion with the men's basketball committee on whether any joint championships should be awarded in this bid cycle.
13. **Division I Women's Basketball Committee update.** The committee reviewed an invitation from the Division I Women's Basketball Committee to participate in a joint championship in 2028. The committee recommended the invitation be accepted. (See Nonlegislative Action Item.)
14. **Vice president, women's basketball update.** The NCAA vice president of women's basketball joined the meeting to update the committee on the increased visibility of women's basketball on both television and social media, the new media rights agreement with ESPN, which includes all three divisions of women's basketball, the development of a fan database to assist with marketing and attendance, as well as student-athlete engagement efforts.

The committee also provided feedback on the strategic positioning of women's basketball, with a focus on three areas: memorable championships, transformational student-athlete experience and quality competition.
15. **Committee composition.** Staff noted that the vacancy for the South Central region for the 2024-25 academic year is still in the process of being filled.
 - **Committee chair election.** The committee elected Erika Wallace, director of athletics at Wayne State University (Michigan), as the chair effective September 1, 2024.
16. **Other business.** No other business was discussed.
17. **Future meetings.**
 - April 28-29, 2025, annual meeting (Indianapolis).

Committee Chairs: Josh Prock, West Texas A&M University
Staff Liaisons: Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances

Division II Women's Basketball Committee April 22-23 and May 1, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Amy Anderson, Arkansas Tech University.	
Jenepher Banker, Daemen University.	
Danelle Bishop, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.	
Allie De Witt, Mountain East Conference.	
Randy Loggins, Converse University (April 22-23 meeting).	
Josh Prock, West Texas A&M University.	
Erika Wallace, Wayne State University (Michigan).	
Stephanie Yelton, University of West Florida.	
Absentees:	
Randy Loggins, Converse University (May 1 only).	
Guests in Attendance:	
Natalie Bremer, Minnesota State University, Mankato (April 23 only).	
Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (April 22 only).	
Sandy Hatfield Clubb, The Pictor Group (April 23 only).	
Hannah Herzig, Minnesota State University, Mankato (April 23 only).	
Scott Nelsen, Minnesota State University, Mankato (April 23 only).	
Karen Stromme, Coaches Connection (April 22 only).	
Emilee Thiesse, Minnesota State University, Mankato (April 23 only).	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lynn Holzman, Kerstin Hunter, Connie Perkins, Rachel Seewald (all April 22-23 meeting).	