



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S BOWLING COMMITTEE
JULY 24-25, 2025, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2025-26 academic year: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Conference Carolinas; Conference USA; East Coast Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Northeast Conference; and Southwestern Athletic Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3 and completed the automatic qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Continued opportunity for student-athletes to compete in the postseason.

b. Tournament match results.

- (1) Recommendation. Designate tournament results as a primary selection criterion.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Through a two-year pilot program, the committee successfully used tournament match results as a secondary selection criterion. The selection criterion gave the committee more data to consider when comparing two teams that are relatively equal on both primary and secondary criteria.

Approximately 86% of bowling competitions take place in the tournament format. Therefore, the committee feels it is important to continue weighing those results within the selection criteria given that tournament finishes are a primary measure of strength throughout the regular season. Additionally, lanes and lane conditions can vary from event to event, and this will continue to provide the committee with a criterion that compares teams competing at the same event on the same or similar lane conditions.

Teams would continue to be compared directly in tournaments in which both teams competed. If Team A and Team B competed at four of the same tournaments and Team B had a higher finish in three of those tournaments, Team B's head-to-head tournament finishes would be 3-1 as opposed to Team A's 1-3. If teams did not compete at any of the same tournaments, the criteria would not be applicable.

The committee feels that making this criterion a permanent primary criterion is most appropriate for the task of selecting teams for the championship and placing teams in the bracket.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Election of chair.

(1) Recommendation. That John Williamson, head women's bowling coach at Vanderbilt University, be approved to replace Jana Woodson, deputy athletics director at Tulane University, as chair of the committee.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. Due to committee member attrition and committee member terms concluding, the only returning members of the committee are coaches. Therefore, the committee selected John Williamson to serve as chair for 2025-26.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Agenda and schedule review.** The committee reviewed the meeting agenda and schedule without making any changes.

2. **2023-24 annual report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the 2023-24 annual meeting.
3. **Rochester regional site presentation.** The committee received a presentation from the local organizing committee of the Rochester regional site. The presentation focused on the local organizing committee's plans to address the bowling committee's concerns about the quality of the student-athlete experience at recent regional championships hosted by the Rochester LOC.
4. **2025 championship review.** The committee reviewed survey feedback from participants and noted areas of emphasis for the 2026 tournament (e.g., improve the championship atmosphere at regional sites, attendance at regional post-match press conferences, regional signage, the inclusion of a statistician at regional sites, and the addition of match commentary on the stream of finals site matches that occur prior to the championship match).
5. **Regular-season processes review.** The committee reviewed a draft of the annual correspondence memorandum that will be sent to the membership in September and made suggestions for edits. The committee discussed suggestions for improving the timely submission of match information in the score reporting system and what to do when schools fail to meet deadlines (e.g., warnings and fines).
6. **Selections review.** The committee discussed the distinction between the minimum number of dates of competition for sport sponsorship and at-large selection eligibility purposes. The committee received an update on adding total pinfall data to the score reporting system. The committee also directed the championship manager to add language to the prechampionships manual regarding opening-round match bracket placement of automatic qualifying teams. Finally, the committee directed the championship manager to find out how video footage of teams highlighted in the selection show is requested and received.
7. **2026 championship.** The committee received a report from the championship manager regarding the 2026 championship finals site visit. The committee will add a five-person regional all-tournament team to the championship and directed the championship manager to add the appropriate language to the applicable manuals and to provide the regional hosts with an all-tournament team certificate template for use in providing the selected student-athletes with a memento of their selection.
8. **Manuals review.** The committee agreed to review the manuals associated with the championship as directed by the championship manager. The committee directed the championship manager to add appropriate language to the applicable manuals regarding the determination of lane choice for regional and finals site matches.
9. **2025-26 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee calendar and did not make any significant changes.

10. **Playing rules.** The committee discussed rules related to when bowling balls are allowed to be used by student-athletes relative to the manufacturer's public release date and the implications for when student-athletes use an impermissible ball in competition. The committee directed the secretary-rules editor and the NCAA staff to survey the membership regarding when to issue a warning for impermissible ball use and the implementation of subsequent penalties for impermissible ball use.
11. **Division I governance update.** The committee received an update regarding the proposed Division I governance structure to be implemented in 2025-26.
12. **National Tenpin Coaches Association update.** A representative from the NTCA discussed with the committee the possibility of the national office (or a third party) creating a live statistics program for use by the membership during tournaments. The representative also asked the committee to explore creating and using a selection metric other than, or in addition to, the RPI. Finally, the representative asked the committee if the bench size limit of 10 can be increased to 11 to match the Division I squad size limit. The committee also discussed possibly allowing participating teams to determine the proportion of student-athletes and coaches/administrators within the travel party limit of 13.
13. **Other business.** The committee instructed the championship manager to move the RPI release date from Wednesdays to Tuesdays and to release the last RPI on the Monday of conference championships. The committee received an update on the process to replace a former committee member and an update on the proposal to create a Division II Women's Bowling Championship. Finally, the committee instructed the championship manager to gather information about what training is provided to officials in other sports.

Committee Chair: Janna Woodson, Tulane University, American Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Coreya Bray, Championships and Alliances

Women's Bowling Committee July 24-25, 2025, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jody Fetterhoff, Duquesne University.	
Mike Fine, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Diane Jones, La Roche University.	
Ian Parisi, Molloy University.	
John Williamson, Vanderbilt University.	
Jana Woodson, Tulane University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Femi Alao, Roberts Wesleyan College.	
Rick Barbara, National Coordinator of Officials.	
Amber Brewer, Visit Rochester.	

Libby Craig, Visit Rochester.
Bob Segave, Roberts Wesleyan College.
Scott Taylor, National Tenpin Coaches Association.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Corey Bray, Leslie Havens.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jennifer Fraser and JD Hamilton.