



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 6, 2024, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Women's championship.** The committee recommends creating a separate women's championship. (See Action Item 1-a.)
- 2. Tryout and national team exceptions.** The committee supports a recommendation to create exceptions to the tryout and national team rules for NCAA fencing. (See Action Item 1-b.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. Creation of a women's championship.

- (1) Recommendation. Create a women's championship resulting in separate fencing championships by gender. The remaining championship of men's programs (sponsorship of 35) would remain in place under the Olympic sport exception. The women's championship (sponsorship of 44) would be held at the same site as the men's and conducted concurrently.
- (2) Effective date. 2025-26 season.
- (3) Rationale. Under the current scoring format, institutions that sponsor only women's fencing face a statistical impossibility in winning a national championship. The separation of the two genders into individual championships would allow for a more equitable championship experience and a tangible pathway for all teams to compete for national championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$7,200 increase in the operational budget for four additional sets of team awards.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed championship change would provide competitive equity to the nine programs and the 154 student-athletes currently representing women's-only fencing programs. These student-athletes and coaches would have a tangible pathway toward a collegiate championship and further incentivize grassroots participation in the sport.

b. Tryout and national team rule exceptions.

- (1) Recommendation. Create flexibility in the areas of tryout exceptions (NCAA Bylaw 13.11) and national team exceptions (NCAA Bylaw 14.2.1.8).
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. These changes, similar to their impact for men's gymnastics, would allow for institutions to better and more effectively recruit prospective student-athletes and high-level coaches. Given the limited number of collegiate fencing programs removing mileage-based limitations, the recommendation would create a more sustainable model for institutions.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Both prospective and postgraduate student-athletes would gain increased access to elite coaching and facilities.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- None.

Committee Chair: Zach Moss, Northwestern University, Big Ten Conference.

Staff Liaison(s): Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee December 6, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Katarzyna Dabrowa, United States Air Force Academy.	
Nick Feller, University of California, San Diego.	
Bruce Gillman, Vassar College.	
Kelsie Gory-Harkey, Cleveland State University.	
Elinor Hurt, Duke University.	
Zach Moss, Northwestern University.	
David Sierra, Wagner College.	
Absentees:	
Rob Charlton, Wellesley College.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Brandy Hataway, Academic and Membership Affairs.	