REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING COMMITTEE
JUNE 17-18, 2026, MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

- **None.**

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **2025 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2025 annual meeting report as submitted.

2. **Championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2026 championship and discussed key items to continue to enhance future championships. The group made special note of the work done by the University of Notre Dame to successfully host the event.

3. **Regional review.** The committee reviewed the 2025 regionals and discussed hosts for 2026. The committee made special note of concerns around the size and length of some regionals.

4. **Officiating review.** The committee met with the head and deputy referees from the 2025 championships and discussed potential new cadre qualifications.

5. **Selection show.** The committee asked staff to explore adding a selection show for the 2027 championships.

6. **Regional entry process.** The committee voted to change the minimum requirements for fencers to qualify for regionals. The minimum number of bouts was raised from 21 to 30, and the minimum win percentage was raised from .250 to .333. The committee noted that while this would shrink the regional field sizes in some cases, reaching the minimum number of bouts shouldn't be prohibitive and the increase in the required win percentage creates a more competitive overall field while still retaining broad access across all four regions.

7. **Allocation formula review.** The committee reviewed the first year of the new allocation formula and discussed items for future consideration.

8. **Regional format change.** The committee added more requirements to regional formats. Beginning for the 2027 championships, regionals must now have a final pool of nine and a minimum of two rounds with the first round being no more than 18 fencers. Additionally, all regions must submit their formats to the national committee to ensure compliance with the format rules no later than February 1 prior to the regional.

9. **Playing rules discussion.** Autumn Monaghan joined to discuss playing rules.

10. **United States Fencing Coaches Association Discussion.** Adam Mack and Juan Ignacio Calderon from the United States Fencing Coaches Association joined the call to discuss potential data sharing between the USFCA and NCAA.

11. **Potential championship format change.** The committee discussed the possibility of moving the championship to a team-based championship. Discussions will continue in the coming months, and the committee plans to engage the membership on this topic should it continue to be of interest.

12. **NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 Decentralization Feedback – Phase II**. The committee discussed the decentralization of Division I Bylaw 17 (playing and practice seasons). The committee provided feedback to the NCAA Division I Cabinet's request on the first practice date, first competition date, and of the playing season, maximum competition dates, summer athletics activities, and health and safety for men's and women's fencing.

Committee Chair: Kelsie Gory Harkey, Cleveland State University, Horizon League.
Staff Liaison(s):Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee January 5, 2026, 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.
Peter Grandbois, Denison University.
Elinor Hurt, Duke University.
David Sach, Wheaton College, Massachusetts.
David Sierra, Wagner College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Manuel Belmonte, Head Referee.
Juan-Ignacio Calderon, United States Fencing Coaches Association.
Adam Mack, United States Fencing Coaches Association.
Adam Maczik, Harvard University.
Tasha Martin, Deputy Referee.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Audrey Cappannari, Governance and Member Services
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Autumn Monaghan, Championships and Alliances.
Ryan Rea, Championships and Alliances.