



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS COMMITTEE
JUNE 9-10, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Recruiting calendar.

- a. Recommendation. The NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee recommends the NCAA Division I Cabinet revise the Division I women's gymnastics recruiting calendar to add:

(1) A dead period from the first to last day of the coaches association convention;

(2) A quiet period from the Monday to Sunday after the USA Gymnastics Developmental Nationals; and

(3) A recruiting shutdown period from Thanksgiving day to the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

- b. Effective date. Immediate.

- c. Rationale. The committee received a request from the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association to revise the recruiting calendar to encourage attendance at the coaches association convention, benefit the health and safety of prospects, and create a break for prospects and coaches to maintain mental health and life balance.

- d. Estimated budget impact. Potential reduction in recruiting expenses.

- e. Student-athlete impact. Coaches attending the convention collaborate to make decisions that will create opportunity, parity and overall growth of the sport that will directly impact and benefit student-athletes. A break for prospects at the end of the season could result in improved recovery during their offseason. The recruiting shutdown will give coaches the opportunity to reset and return focused and motivated for their student-athletes.

2. Recruiting – Notification of Transfer – Women's Gymnastics – Undergraduate Window.

- a. Recommendation. The committee recommends the Cabinet introduce a proposal into the October 2026 legislative cycle to shorten the notification-of-transfer window to a 15-day period that begins the Monday after the NCAA championship (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.4).

- b. Effective date. Immediate.

- c. Rationale. The committee received a request from the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association to revise the timing of the notification-of-transfer window to allow all teams to finish their season with roster stability and align with similar NCAA sports' windows. The revised window can create a more inclusive team environment during postseason competition, reduce stress and improve student-athletes' transitions between teams.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation allows student-athletes to complete their season with the current team and fully experience the postseason before roster changes are made. Decisions involving the transfer portal can be made with more appropriate timing for all athletes and teams.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. **Welcome and announcements**. Staff welcomed committee members and guests to the videoconference and reviewed the meeting schedule.
- 2. **Approval of 2025 annual meeting report**. The committee approved the 2025 annual meeting report as presented.
- 3. **Review of 2026 regionals**. The committee discussed and debriefed the 2026 regional sites.

While participant survey responses were generally positive, committee members and staff discussed challenges with discrepancies between participating team locker rooms, travel expenses and hotel availability at some regional sites. Committee members also discussed consideration for a new policy for look-throughs at regionals.

- 4. **Review of 2026 championships**. The committee discussed and debriefed the 2026 national championship site in Fort Worth, Texas. Committee members noted several enhancements at this year's championships, including the elevated carpeted arena entrance and additional videoboard.

Committee members and staff noted that the championship experience and transportation were the two lowest ranked categories from participant survey responses. Committee members also noted the need to increase the celebratory experience for individual competitors.

- 5. **Review of championship manuals**. Staff and committee members did not review and edit the 2026-27 championship manuals during this meeting. However, they agreed to do so at a later date.

6. **Selection and bracketing policies and procedures.** Staff and committee members discussed the selection and bracketing policies and procedures.
 - a. The committee removed conference affiliation from the list of bracketing policies so as not to hinder or restrict the bracketing process in any way. However, the committee wants to continue using appropriate discretion with regard to conference affiliation as a best practice during the bracketing process.
 - b. Committee members and staff also discussed team tiebreakers under the new National Qualifying Score policy and will finalize updates to this policy at a future meeting before the start of the 2026-27 season.
7. **Championship bid cycle.** NCAA staff updated the committee on bid cycle timelines in receiving, deliberating, and voting on regionals and national championship sites for the 2029, 2030 and 2031 championships. The bid process is tentatively scheduled to open in August, with sites selected in the first quarter of 2027.
8. **Championship enhancements.** Staff and committee members discussed various championships enhancements and began planning for the 2027 championships. Additional operational enhancements for the championships will be reviewed at a later date.
9. **Rules changes.** Staff and committee members met with Janette Doucette, national collegiate women's gymnastics rules interpreter, and discussed the proposed rule changes submitted by the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association and USA Gymnastics that will impact NCAA women's gymnastics next season. The committee and Doucette also discussed impactful clarifications and specific wording to add to rules modifications. Additional information on their implementation will be released this fall in the 2026-27 Rules Modifications document.
10. **Review of championships broadcast.** Staff and committee members met with staff from ESPN to review the 2026 season, including coverage throughout the regular season and championships.

NCAA staff, committee members and ESPN staff discussed ESPN's coverage of the national championships, including the team-specific streams. ESPN staff noted their goal of attempting to best document and tell the story of the event, which may not include showing each routine on the primary broadcast, and may include a number of routines shown in full screen, rather than split screen.

ESPN staff reported strong viewership metrics throughout the regular season and during the championships and reiterated their commitment to coverage of women's gymnastics.

11. **2027 championships planning.** Knight Eady and Fort Worth Sports Commission staff joined the committee to provide a recap of the 2026 championships, including additional enhancements that were introduced this year, along with a financial overview of their hosting expenses. Further meetings with Knight Eady, the Fort Worth Sports Commission, Dickies Arena, Texas Woman's University, and the committee will occur throughout the 2026-27 academic year in planning the 2027 national championships.
12. **WCGA Proposals.** The committee reviewed and took action on several proposals that were forwarded by the WCGA board of directors.
 - a. **Cancellation of regular-season meet policy.** The committee voted to support a penalty in the event that a team cancels a regular-season meet after the schedule of meets form submission deadline. The penalty will be solely at the discretion of the women's gymnastics committee and would result in the team receiving a score of 0.000 for the meet, barring the following circumstances:
 - (1) An Act of God, defined as the following: Any extraordinary natural event, including but not limited to flood, hurricane, earthquake, severe weather emergency, or other event beyond human control or foreseeability.
 - (2) Another completely unavoidable occurrence, defined as the following: Any event or circumstance that renders competition impossible despite good-faith efforts to proceed and/or reschedule, including declared public safety emergencies and facility failures.
 - b. **Equipment lists for postseason checks.** The committee supported posting all regional equipment checklist documents in championship manuals to ensure transparency, standardization and reliability. The official equipment check will occur before all coaches' equipment checks and can be tested for accuracy to the standardized equipment checklist. The official equipment check will be conducted by the site's meet referee, NCAA site representative, AAI representative and host tournament director.

The committee also supported adding and standardizing a new coaches equipment check model ahead of the next championship year. First-round coaches will have the opportunity to attend an equipment check the evening before their date of competition. Likewise, Session I and II coaches will have the ability to attend a coaches equipment check the night before their competition. Equipment checks will be conducted with the site's NCAA representative, meet referee, AAI representative and all coaches together. Timing will be orchestrated by the site's tournament director to accommodate all team travel.

- c. **WCGA championships and competition committee member involved in postseason planning calls.** The committee did not support a proposal to add a WCGA competition and championship committee member to NCAA postseason planning meetings. Additionally, it was noted that the women's gymnastics committee does not oversee planning for conference championships and, therefore, cannot approve a WCGA competition and championship committee member to conference championship planning meetings as requested.

The committee remains committed to improving the women's gymnastics championships and has directed NCAA staff to continue to explore ways to further enhance the championships by measures such as adding site representatives at regionals, increasing engagement with future regional hosts earlier and securing consistent, dedicated NCAA championships staff assigned to the sport.

The committee noted a desire for the WCGA Competition and Championships Committee to provide feedback to women's gymnastics committee as all parties have a vested interest in enhancing these championships and improving student-athlete experiences and visibility.

- d. **Recruiting calendar.** The committee discussed the recruiting calendar, resulting in a recommendation. (See Action Item No. 1.)
 - e. **Transfer portal – opening and duration.** The committee discussed the transfer portal, which resulted in a recommendation. (See Action Item No. 2)
 - f. **Event updates.** The committee discussed skills being named after an NCAA student-athlete, including the desire to add a right of refusal to this process.
- 13. **NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 Decentralization Feedback – Phase I.** The women's gymnastics committee discussed the decentralization of Division I Bylaw 17 (playing and practice seasons). The committee provided feedback to the Division I Cabinet on the first practice date, first competition date, end of the playing season, maximum competition dates, summer athletics activities, and health and safety for women's gymnastics.
 - 14. **Review of judges' selection process.** The committee received updates from NCAA National Coordinator of Officials Jenna Karadbil regarding the judging selection process and judges' observation program. Karadbil discussed with the committee refined practice session and practical exam requirements of all judges, standardized equipment checks across regional sites and data-driven NCAA postseason judge selection.
 - 15. **Future meetings.** The committee and staff confirmed the schedule for upcoming meetings.

16. **Committee composition.** The committee thanked Cindy Harris for her six years of contribution to this committee. KJ Kindler was welcomed to the committee's roster as her term will begin Sept. 1.

Committee Chair: Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University, Big Ten Conference

Staff Liaisons: John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances

Danielle Day, Division I Governance and Member Services

Kelsi Mahoney, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee June 9-10, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Lisa Bowerman, Texas Woman's University.	
Danna Durante, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Cindy Harris, Illinois State University.	
Colleen Kelly, Brown University.	
Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart, University of Denver.	
George Nelson, U.S. Air Force Academy.	
Shaun Richard, The Ohio State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
John Baldwin, Danielle Day, Kelsi Mahoney.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Sami Bogenschutz, Keisha Burnette, Jobrina Marques, Jarom McLiver, Autumn Monaghan, Rachel Seewald.	
Guests:	
Heath Aucoin (Fort Worth Sports Commission), Jannette Doucette (Rules Interpreter), Katie Evers (Knight Eady), Ericka Galbraith (ESPN), Amanda Gifford (ESPN), Drew Hays (Fort Worth Sports Commission), Ava Jahner (ESPN), Jenna Karadbil (National Coordinator of Officials), Mallory Kenny (ESPN), KJ Kindler (University of Oklahoma), Preston Kirk (Knight Eady), Cara Lagana (ESPN), Shawn Murphy (ESPN), Cassie Poss (Fort Worth Sports Commission), Daniel Smith (Knight Eady), Madison Webb (ESPN).	