



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
JULY 28-29, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Weekly Hour Limitations -- Outside the Playing Season -- Four-Hour Limitation on Skill Instruction -- Eliminate Limitations on Skill Instruction.**
 - (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee recommends the NCAA Division I Cabinet adopt expedited legislation, for women's lacrosse, to eliminate the four-hour limitation on skill instruction outside the playing season.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. Eliminating the four-hour restriction on skill instruction will align out-of-season activities during the academic year with the current rules for summer athletically related athletic activities. This proposal maintains the limit of eight hours of countable athletically related activities outside of the playing season while providing individual institutions the autonomy to determine the activities to conduct.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal for there is no increase in the weekly hour time allotment.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

- **Recruiting -- Notification of Transfer -- Women's Lacrosse -- Undergraduate Window and Head Coach Departure Exception.**
 - (1) Action. The NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee introduced legislation into the January 2026 legislative cycle to modify the recruiting legislation to specify that an undergraduate student-athlete may initiate the notification-of-transfer process during a 15 consecutive-day period beginning the Tuesday following the conclusion of the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Amending the notification-of-transfer window that opens after the conclusion of the Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship allows student-athletes, coaches, and institutions to complete the full competitive season before beginning the transfer portal process, providing stability for the sport and for those who both play and coach it. This 15 consecutive-day window allows time for student-athletes to finish competing first and then decide where they would like to continue both their academic and athletics careers. This proposal minimizes disruption and distraction while teams are still competing and maintains appropriate focus and support for the national championship tournament.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. **Championship updates.**

- a. **2027 and 2028 joint championship host.** The committee reviewed and approved Towson University as the 2027 championship host. The committee also received an update that Subaru Park will continue to be the 2028 championship host.
- b. **Bid cycle timeline.** The committee received an update from NCAA staff on anticipated key dates for the 2029-31 women's lacrosse championship bid timeline. The committee was reminded of its responsibility in selecting the championship site for the three-year cycle.
- c. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed automatic qualification applications to the 2027 Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship and approved the 15 AOs as presented.
- d. **ESPN meeting.** ESPN provided feedback from this past year's championship, including the addition of the Game On programming, and noted the growth of the championship highlighted by record ratings and impressive year-over-year comparisons. The committee asked ESPN to review programming opportunities for quarterfinal games during the 2027 tournament, and the committee will discuss the topic at its next scheduled meeting.
- e. **ESPN access document.** The committee also reviewed and approved the proposed access document for 2027 championship weekend based on feedback from ESPN on the 2026 championship. The committee will continue refining the requirements but will not require any more than what was approved during the meeting. The committee will also review the 2027 quarterfinal access document during its next scheduled meeting and after approval require the access document for participating

teams and hosts for the first and second rounds to assist coverage of the tournament and team familiarity with the process.

- f. **Regional advisory committee (RAC) and selection weekend.** The committee reviewed the RAC process and rankings and discussed selection weekend timing in preparation for 2027. The committee also reviewed the regional advisory committee roster and noted future openings with expiration dates and conference realignment. The committee affirmed its preference for the RAC structure for the 2027 season.
- g. **2027 Division I women's lacrosse anticipated sport sponsorship, access ratio and seeding.** The committee reviewed the anticipated access ratio for the 2026-27 season in relation to the number of teams participating in the championship and was provided an update on seeding.

The committee believes that women's lacrosse is an excellent candidate for the next championship to be provided with the ability to seed 50% of the championship field. The championship currently seeds eight teams, which means that the 50% model would require fewer than eight additional teams to be seeded. The committee noted the regional makeup of the sport would likely mitigate expenses since the additional seeded teams would have multiple non-seeded institutions within driving distance. The committee emphasized several repeat matchups over multiple years with teams traveling to the same first- and second-round site that occur with the current seeding model, which detracts from the championship experience of those specific teams. The committee believes it has a compelling case to be considered for seeding 50% of the field and hopes that the Division I Cabinet will agree when deciding the next championships to seed 50% of the field.

The committee noted the continued growth of women's lacrosse and the desire for an additional team to be added for the 2028 championship. After the 2027 season, if all programs compete and no institutions discontinue sponsorship of the sport, women's lacrosse will have 131 eligible institutions for the championship, with an additional team after the 2028 season. The last bracket expansion happened after the 2019 championship, when sponsorship was 116 teams, and the championship went from 26 to 29 teams for the 2021 championship. After the 2027 season, there will be 131 eligible institutions, an increase of 15 institutions and the goal of one additional team to the championship, and the preference of three additional teams to the championship for a bracket without any first-round byes and an even 32 teams. While the women's lacrosse committee acknowledges the access ratio for the championship will be 22% after next season, members also recognize that the men's lacrosse championship access ratio continues to remain slightly higher. The access ratio for both men's and women's lacrosse falls within the target of 20-25% for Division I Championships.

- h. **2026 preliminary-round review.** The committee reviewed preliminary-round host requirements for locker rooms, broadcast, and video review. The committee is

pleased with the requirements and thanked 2026 preliminary-round hosts for following the requirements and site representatives for their help ensuring the requirements were met at each site. The committee asked NCAA staff to refine hotel language to assist teams and hosts from potential travel from each round. The committee reviewed the survey results submitted for the 2026 championship and had no additional concerns from the survey comments.

i. 2026 Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship weekend review.

- i. Team hotel feedback.** The committee was pleased with the team hotels for championship weekend. The committee noted the preference to keep teams in separate full-service hotels as the primary consideration over distance to venue.
- ii. Media day and press conference feedback.** The committee noted its desire to continue with in-person press conferences on Thursday after a successful implementation in 2026.
- iii. Survey results.** The committee reviewed the survey results and discussed them throughout the various sections of the agenda.

j. 2027 Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship planning. The committee reviewed the latest draft schedule of events for the 2027 Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship and will continue to review throughout the planning cycle.

k. NCAA Power Index (NPI) selection criteria review. The committee heard a presentation from Tim Danehy, the creator of the NPI selection metric, who provided a basic understanding of the system, the differences to the current criteria, and a look at the past three years of data had the committee been using NPI to evaluate the criteria. The committee will continue the discussion around selection criteria during future meetings this fall. The committee notes that a potential change is not imminent.

l. National coordinator of officials report. The committee met with Mara Banfield, the national coordinator of officials, and asked her to provide a general recap from the past year. The committee thanked Banfield for her work over the past 12 months and looks forward to continued collaboration during the next year.

3. Committee administration.

a. Committee vacancies.

- i. Student-athlete vacancies.** The committee appointed new student-athlete members to the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee.

Notification to the appointees will follow the established process and rosters will be updated in accordance with the start date for service.

- ii. **Playing rules subcommittee vacancies.** The committee appointed new members to the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Playing Rules Subcommittee. Notification to the appointees will follow the established process and rosters will be updated in accordance with the start date for service.

- b. **Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee Meeting Timeline.** The committee reviewed the 2026-27 committee meeting timeline and suggested meeting dates. The committee had no concerns and NCAA staff will schedule meetings accordingly.

4. Playing rules updates.

- a. **Approval of 2027 Division I women's lacrosse rules proposals and editorial changes.** The committee reviewed and adopted 13 playing rules proposals developed by the Division I Women's Lacrosse Rules Subcommittee. Additional information related to the proposals and committee actions can be found in Attachment A.
- b. **Playing rules timeline.** The committee received an update on the timelines to close the rules change process and when the educational materials will be available for the public.

5. Governance and member service updates.

- a. **Overview of sport oversight committees' recent legislative changes and proposals.** The committee received an overview of recent sport oversight committees' legislative changes that were adopted during the April and June 2026 legislative cycles or introduced into the October 2026 legislative cycle and was briefed on other recent general legislative changes as well.
- b. **Complimentary admission to away-from-home athletic events – after commitment review.** In preparation for the Division I Cabinet's October 6-7 review of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-48 (Recruiting -- Precollege Expenses -- Complimentary Admissions To Away-from-home Athletics Events -- After Commitment – Basketball), which would specify that after an individual has signed the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or a settlement related benefits agreement, or after the institution has received the individual's financial deposit in response to its offer of admission, the institution may provide the individual (or the individual's relatives or legal guardians) with a maximum of three complimentary admissions (issued through digital ticketing or a pass list) to an away-from-home athletics event in a facility in the locale of the individual's home or educational institution, the oversight committee discussed whether the proposal

should apply to women's lacrosse. The oversight committee supports the proposal applying to women's lacrosse.

6. **Joint meeting with the Division I Men's Lacrosse Oversight Committee.** The committee met jointly with the Division I Men's Lacrosse Oversight Committee to provide relevant updates from the past year, and specifically from their annual meetings. The committees appreciated the chance to meet jointly and wish to continue this practice annually.
7. **Report of the June 3, 2026, meeting.** The committee approved the report of its June 3 meeting.

Committee Chair: Lindsey Thomas, University of Florida, Big 12 Conference.

Staff Liaisons: Caleb Kolby, Championships and Alliances.

Sara Thurber, Governance and Member Services.

Report of the Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee

July 28-29, 2026, Videoconference

Page No. 7

NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee July 28-29, 2026, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jen Adams, Loyola University Maryland.	
Mara Banfield, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.	
Kristy Bannon, Temple University; American Conference.	
Derek Cowherd, University of Louisville; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Steve Eigenbrot, Towson University; Coastal Athletic Association.	
Amy Foster, Cornell University; The Ivy League.	
Caroline Glus, Student-athlete from Mercer University.	
Suzette McQueen, Kent State University.	
Cathy Reese, University of Maryland; Big Ten Conference.	
Liz Robertshaw, Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association.	
Stefanie Sparks Smith, NCAA Secretary Rules Editor.	
Lindsey Thomas, University of Florida; Southeastern Conference.	
Absentees:	
Chloe Humphrey, Student-athlete from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Sal Mercogliano, Faculty Athletics Representative Association.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Jordan Cannon, ESPN.	
Tim Danehy, NPI.	
Laura Hebert, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor-in waiting.	
Amanda Gifford, ESPN.	
Mallory Kenny, ESPN.	
Lindsay Tomaini. ESPN.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Caleb Kolby and Sara Thurber.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:	
Lucas DuMars, J.D. Hamilton, Shelby Sonnefeldt and Markell Staton.	



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE RULES SUBCOMMITTEE AND
DIVISIONS II AND III WOMEN'S LACROSSE RULES COMMITTEE
JUNE 15-18, 2026, JOINT ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Rules Subcommittee and the Divisions II and III Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2027 season. The committees request approval from the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Oversight Committee and the NCAA Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Rule 2: Approval Date for Equipment.

(1) Recommendation. Change the current rule Require that all equipment subject to certification or governing body approval under the applicable equipment rule be commercially available to all institutions by January 1 preceding the applicable spring season. Equipment that does not meet both requirements shall not be permitted for use during that season.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This requirement promotes consistency, ensures equitable access across the membership, provides institutions sufficient time to obtain approved equipment before the season begins, and helps maintain a level playing field.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Rule 2-2: Stringing.

(1) Recommendation. Strung pockets shall be attached directly to the head exclusively through stringing holes located on the side rail, scoop and ball stop. Strung pockets must be attached to the bottom of the bottom rail of the head. Mesh pockets are permitted. If mesh, the nylon string must be tight to the side rail using the stringing holes, scoop and ball stop to the degree that the gap between pocket and head is not greater than the width of two nylons (0.6 cm).

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. These proposed changes promote greater consistency in equipment standards, improve enforcement by officials, and provide clearer guidance to coaches and student-athletes. They also align the NCAA rule with current standards adopted by other governing bodies, helping to promote consistency across levels of play. This change will deem the following type of stringing illegal because of its effect on mobility.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Rule 2-6: Stick Check.

(1) Recommendation. Require officials to conduct at least one stick check of both drawers' sticks during each quarter. The stick check shall be conducted immediately prior to a draw. In addition, officials shall conduct a stick check of both drawers' sticks immediately prior to the opening draw of each overtime period. The stick check shall include verification of pocket depth and ball mobility on both the front and back of each stick.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Requiring routine checks of pocket depth and ball mobility promotes consistent enforcement of equipment rules, discourages gamesmanship involving draw sticks, and helps ensure the draw is conducted fairly, preserving competitive equity.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. Rule 4-1: Clock Management.

(1) Recommendation. Require the game clock and possession clock to be stopped during official warnings (e.g., non-engagement and misconduct) and during defensive false starts on an 8-meter free position.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Stopping both the game clock and possession clock during official warnings ensures that neither team gains or loses a competitive advantage because of an administrative stoppage. Stopping both clocks during a defensive false start on an 8-meter free position prevents the defense from benefiting from its own violation by allowing game time to expire before play resumes. This change eliminates an opportunity for gamesmanship, preserves the attacking team's opportunity to execute the free position, and promotes a fair and consistent administration of the rules.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

e. Rule 5-1: Reinstate Power Play.

(1) Recommendation. Reinstate the power play rule that was in effect during the 2025 season, with one modification to the definition of possession for purposes of this rule, as follows: If a team with a numerical advantage due to penalties retains possession, as determined by the possession clock, at the expiration of a quarter or overtime period, that team shall be awarded possession to begin the subsequent quarter or overtime period. The 2026 rule permitting any team in possession at the end of the first and third quarters to retain possession at the start of the subsequent quarter, regardless of any numerical advantage, is no longer applicable.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Reinstating this rule will enhance student-athlete safety by discouraging dangerous cardable play during the closing moments of a quarter or overtime period and by discouraging unnecessary last-second shots by the team in possession. It also promotes fairness by ensuring that a team awarded a player advantage due to a cardable foul receives the full benefit of that advantage, rather than having it effectively negated by the automatic draw that begins the subsequent quarter or overtime period before the penalty has expired. Finally, the rule provides teams with additional strategic options when managing possession at the end of a quarter or overtime period.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

f. Rules 5-51 through 5-61: Video Review.

(1) Recommendation. Add the following to the video review rule, along with the edits identified below in red: permit only coaches to request a video review; require officials to notify both teams' coaches whenever a video review request has been made; and provide that, once a video review has been granted, officials shall strive to complete the review within two minutes.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. These proposed changes clarify and refine the video review rule based on lessons learned during its first season as a permissive rule in 2026. The proposals address unintended consequences identified during game administration by clarifying the

procedures governing when and how video review may be requested and administered. They promote greater consistency and efficiency while minimizing unnecessary delays and disruptions to the flow of the game.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

g. Rules 6-4.c and d: Combine Embellishment and Flopping Into One Single Foul.

(1) Recommendation. Combine the fouls of embellishment and flopping into a single foul, flopping, as follows: A player may not exaggerate, dramatize, or simulate contact or the effects of contact in an effort to deceive an official into calling or escalating a foul or card. Examples include, but are not limited to, a player grabbing their head, body, or eyewear when no contact was made; a player exaggerating or dramatizing a fall in a manner inconsistent with the original contact; or a player snapping their head to simulate illegal contact. Classify flopping as a flagrant foul, resulting in a yellow card and a non-releasable two-minute penalty.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This proposal simplifies and clarifies the rule book by consolidating two similar fouls into a single rule with one clear definition. Combining the two fouls will make it easier for officials to identify and enforce the rule consistently. Overall, this change promotes consistent application of the rules, simplifies officiating, and helps ensure fairness and integrity in the game.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

h. Rule 6-6: Exchange Sticks.

(1) Recommendation. Permit players to exchange sticks with another player on the field when they are not in possession of the ball. A player may not take an active part in the game if they are holding multiple sticks. A coach or other team personnel in the team bench area only may hand a stick to a player when the play is dead (e.g., after a goal and before a draw, during a timeout). A stick may never be thrown in an attempt to exchange sticks with a teammate, coach, or team personnel. During live play, a player may leave the field through the substitution area to exchange sticks in the bench area.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This proposed change provides teams with greater flexibility to exchange sticks and addresses unintended consequences of a rules change from 2025. This proposed change also aligns the NCAA rule with current standards adopted by other governing bodies, helping to promote consistency across levels of play.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

i. Rules 6-20 and 6-22: Egregious Conduct and Misconduct Foul.

(1) Recommendation. Revise the egregious conduct foul and the misconduct foul as reflected in the edits below. Additionally, permit, but do not require, an initial warning for misconduct involving a coach leaving the coaching area, a coach communicating in a manner that is not respectful, calm, concise, or professional, and repeated or persistent violation of the rules.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Moving subsection (a) from the egregious conduct foul to the misconduct foul provides officials with greater flexibility to address dangerous conduct by allowing officials to elevate minor and major fouls when warranted by the nature and severity of the physical contact. In addition, permitting, but not requiring, officials to issue an initial warning for specified coach misconduct fouls provides an additional game-management tool. Together, these changes give officials the flexibility to respond appropriately to the circumstances of each situation while reinforcing player safety, sportsmanship, and respect for the game.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

j. Rules 6-22: Targeting.

(1) Recommendation. Add targeting as a new flagrant foul. A player who commits targeting shall be assessed a red card. The proposed definition is as follows: Any action in which a player initiates forcible contact with an opponent without making a legitimate attempt to play the ball, and where the primary purpose of the contact is to strike, hit, or otherwise make significant physical contact with a high potential for injury rather than to contest possession.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Current rules do not specifically address situations in which a player intentionally delivers dangerous contact without making a legitimate attempt to play the ball, particularly when the contact occurs off the ball. This proposal provides officials with a rule that directly addresses those situations and gives them a clearer basis for penalizing contact whose purpose is to strike or make significant physical contact with an opponent rather than to contest possession. The change is intended to discourage unnecessary dangerous contact, improve player safety, and better address off-ball fouls that are not always adequately covered under the existing rules.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

k. Rules 6-29 through 33: Yellow Cards.

(1) Recommendation. Make all yellow card penalties two-minute, non-releasable penalties.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Standardizes yellow card penalties, simplifying administration and promoting consistency.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

l. Rule 6-34: Red Card.

(1) Recommendation. Modify the current red card rule to eliminate the automatic suspension for the subsequent game while retaining the in-game ejection.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. By eliminating the automatic subsequent-game suspension while retaining the in-game ejection, officials may be more inclined to issue a red card when warranted, without concern that it will automatically sideline a student-athlete for the following game. More consistent use of the red card can improve game control, deter dangerous play, and enhance student-athlete safety.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

m. Penalty Categorization and Administration: Revised Penalty Structure.

- (1) Recommendation. Revised proposed penalty restructuring.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. This proposed change simplifies and clarifies foul language, foul categorization, procedures, and administrative responsibilities for officials while addressing unintended consequences of the penalty restructure for the 2026 season. It promotes greater consistency in game management and enhances student-athlete safety.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.