



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RIFLE COMMITTEE  
MAY 12, 2025, MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Individual selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. Align the individual selection criteria to mirror the team selection criteria.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. The committee suggests using a student-athlete's top three scores from three different locations during the regular season, plus the score from NCAA qualifiers, to determine the individual qualifiers in both air rifle and smallbore rifle. The top athletes on non-qualified teams would receive an individual invitation. This mirrors the team selection process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$1,000.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would value the student-athlete's entire season as opposed to one weekend for individual selection purposes.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2024 annual meeting report**. The committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **Strategic plan review**. The committee reviewed its strategic plan and added the short-term goal listed below. Committee members continue to use the strategic plan to guide their work to strengthen the championships and the sport in general.
  - Work on increasing junior club activation for the championships.
3. **Review of 2025 championships**. The committee applauded the exemplary effort of the University of Kentucky and staff for hosting a great championship.
  - a. **Schedule review**. The committee recommended adjusting the time gap between relays to keep spectators engaged. Additionally, the committee recommended reviewing the practice day schedule to shorten the day for student-athletes and coaches.

- b. **Equipment checks.** The committee approved the voluntary equipment check schedule open two-hour block from 3-5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to practice. Further, the committee recommended updating the equipment check form and adding information to the host operations manual.
  - c. **Range officers.** The committee recommended making Gary Trisdale the new chief range officer effective for the 2026 championships. The committee will work with Mr. Trisdale to consider potential range officers and extend invitations to work the 2026 championships in early fall of 2025.
  - d. **Score display.** The committee proposed introducing a better way to visually display and communicate scores to spectators during a close match. Further, members recommended hiring a rifle-specific individual to call the finals and final relay during the championships.
  - e. **Hotels.** The committee reviewed the team and headquarters hotel in Lexington and noted positive feedback. The committee discussed minor challenges with the check-in process.
4. **2026 Championships – The Ohio State University.** The committee discussed initial thoughts on the 2026 championships at The Ohio State University and noted some items to be considered with the host staff (e.g., banquet, Elite 90 presentation, scoreboards, team areas, hospitality, marketing).
5. **NCAA qualifier and selections.** The committee reviewed the team and individual selection policies, procedures, and criteria for the championships.
  - a. **Team selection.** The committee discussed the process and criteria for team selections and made no changes.
  - b. **Individual selection.** The committee discussed the process and criteria for individual selections and proposed individual selection should mirror the team selection process. (See Action Item 1.)
  - c. **NCAA qualifier.** The committee discussed the NCAA qualifier and wants to encourage qualifiers to be scheduled for Friday-Saturday to build a buffer for extenuating circumstances should competition need to be conducted on Sunday.
6. **2024-25 rules modifications.** The committee reviewed the rules modifications proposals and proposed further clarifying the language concerning countable matches. There are additional anticipated changes coming from the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) focusing on format prior to the start of the season. Once finalized, the rules modifications will be posted on the NCAA rifle rules landing page.
7. **Championships policy review.** The committee briefly reviewed various championships policies and made no changes for 2025-26.

8. **Online score reporting system.** The committee was pleased with the NCAA online score reporting system, particularly with the ability to see centers in the system, and believed it helped with tiebreakers. Further, the committee recommended adding capability for additional parties to access and update scores during the championships.
9. **Sport Oversight Committee.** NCAA staff reviewed recent Sport Oversight Committee activity.
10. **Governance update.** NCAA governance liaison Geoff Bentzel joined the committee to provide updates on the House settlement, roster caps, and how the new governance structure will impact national collegiate sports.
11. **Review of championships manuals.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make appropriate updates and additions to the committee operations, host operations, participant, and pre-championships manuals.
12. **Championships budget.** Committee members reviewed the revenue and expenses from the 2025 championships.
13. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed sport sponsorship information.
14. **Committee chair appointment.** The committee approved Paul Downey, senior associate athletics director for academics at The University of Kentucky, as chair, and Leighton Dempster, head rifle coach at the U.S. Military Academy, as vice chair.
15. **Future dates.** The committee reviewed and approved key dates for the 2025-26 academic year.
  - a. **NCAA qualifier.** Friday, Feb. 20 – Saturday, Feb. 22.
  - b. **Team and individual selections.** Monday, Feb. 23.
  - c. **Rifle championships.** Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 – The Ohio State University.
  - d. **Annual meeting.** Monday, May 11.

*Committee Chair: Paul Downey, University of Kentucky, Southeastern Conference*  
*Staff Liaison: Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee May 12, 2025, Annual Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Tus Reilly, University of Memphis.	

Paul Downey, University of Kentucky.
Leighton Dempster, U.S. Military Academy.
Newt Engle, NCAA Secretary-Rules Interpreter.
Alan Lollar, Murray State University.
Shondell Reed, U.S. Air Force Academy.
Jonathan Hammond, West Virginia University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Stanley Broaden, Championships and Alliances.
Geoff Bentzel, Governance.