



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 28-29, 2026, VIRTUAL MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Governance structure orientation.** The Women's Soccer Oversight Committee participated in a comprehensive orientation that provided an in-depth overview of the Division I governance structure and legislative process. The session highlighted key structural distinctions within the oversight structure, including clarification of the authority and responsibilities of sport oversight committees and an overview of the weighted-voting model used in the governance structure.
2. **Governance and membership services update.**
  - a. **First permissible date to call and contact prospects.** The committee began discussing the first permissible date to call and contact prospective student-athletes and agreed to talk to women's soccer coaches and student-athletes before continuing the discussion during its March meeting to determine whether to introduce a proposal into the June legislative cycle.
  - b. **Employment at noninstitutional camps.** The committee reviewed legislation regarding employment at noninstitutional camps and clinics and discussed potential restrictions and safeguards to protect the integrity of the rule and to prevent coaches from running club practices that are masked as a noninstitutional camp or clinic. The committee noted its interest in a potential legislative requirement that specifies any employment by a women's soccer coach or women's soccer sport-specific staff member at a noninstitutional camp or clinic must be publicly advertised on the institution's website at least 14 days prior to their start date. The committee will revisit the discussion during its March meeting to determine whether to introduce a proposal into the June legislative cycle.
  - c. **Division I women's soccer playing season.** The committee discussed Proposal No. 2024-62, effective August 1, 2026, which amends the Division I women's soccer playing season. The committee discussed questions it has received regarding the proposal and directed staff to update the Q&A to provide additional guidance to the membership. The committee also agreed to share information with the membership regarding important dates for the 2027 fall season, including the first date of the transition period, preseason practice period and the first permissible contest date in order to help women's soccer programs plan their future schedules.

3. **U.S. Soccer NextGen White Paper Discussion.** The committee reviewed the recommendations in the white paper and elected not to move forward with any of the recommendations at this time. Finally, while not interested in the specific white paper recommendation involving the spring nonchampionship segment, the committee did note its interest in discussing a potential legislative change that would add a contest or two to the nonchampionship segment in the spring. The committee noted it will be important to collect student-athlete feedback before pursuing any legislative changes to the maximum contest limit in the future.
4. **Officials update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA national coordinator of officials regarding the selection and assignment processes, the evaluation of officials, and how coaches evaluate officiating performance.
5. **Playing rules subcommittee update.** The committee was provided an update from the Division I Women's Soccer Rules Subcommittee and noted that men's and women's soccer is in a rules change year.
6. **Review of 2025 championship – preliminary rounds.** The committee reviewed the 2025 championship preliminary-round survey results, which included evaluations related to broadcast operations and host expectations, hotel accommodations, postgame press conferences, and locker room requirements.
7. **Review of 2025 championship – Women's College Cup.** The committee received an update from ESPN regarding television ratings, broadcast coverage, and programming from the 2025 championship, noting significant growth across both linear and digital platforms.
8. **Joint Men's and Women's Soccer Oversight Committee meeting.** The men's and women's soccer committees met jointly to discuss a variety of topics, including the 2026 championships, committee priorities, and future sites. More information can be found in the joint committee report.
9. **Women's soccer joint championship concept.** The committee received a presentation on a proposed Women's Soccer Championship Extravaganza, a 10-day event beginning in December 2028 that would connect all three NCAA Women's Soccer Championships in one warm-weather city. The presentation outlined the inclusion of major youth tournaments, a national coaches symposium, the Senior Bowl Match, and other affiliated events designed to elevate visibility, attendance, and revenue for women's soccer. The committee expressed initial concerns regarding the potential for missed class time associated with the proposed schedule and encouraged the Intercollegiate Women's Soccer Organization for Coaches to continue discussions to identify key priorities for enhancing the NCAA Women's College Cup.

10. **Championship subcommittee update.** The committee received an update from the championship subcommittee regarding ongoing activities and current championship planning efforts.
11. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the current championship selection criteria and did not make any adjustments for the 2026 championship.

The committee did express an interest in updating the bracketing policy that prohibits conference teams meeting prior to the third round to permit conference matchups in the first and second round if the teams did not face one another during the regular season. This is something that is being considered across all Division I championships, so no action is being taken at this time.

12. **Rating Percentage Index update.** The committee received an update on the Rating Percentage Index (RPI), including its application as a selection tool, and engaged in discussions regarding the operation of the RPI bonus and penalty structure as it applies to both conference and nonconference opponents.

The committee noted the importance of continuing to monitor the RPI calculation and review any potential impacts of the adjustments made to RPI by the sport committee prior to the 2024 season which requested to have ties count for one-third of a win instead of one-half of a win, changed the bonus/penalty structure in the RPI to a bonus for wins and ties against teams ranked 1-25, provided a lesser bonus for wins and ties against teams ranked 26-50 for all games, and the lowest bonus would go to wins only against teams ranked 51-100. The adjustment also changed the penalty for ties and losses to teams ranked 151-250 and provided a more significant penalty for losses and ties to teams ranked below 250.

13. **Tentative automatic qualifiers for the 2026 championship.** The committee received an update on the tentative automatic qualifiers for the 2026 Division I Women's Soccer Championship. The committee will reconvene after the automatic qualification deadline and review the conferences that submitted a request for AQ access.
14. **2026 championship subcommittee calendar.** The committee reviewed the 2026-27 championship subcommittee calendar.
15. **Election of chair.** The committee was informed that the current chair's term concludes on August 31, 2026. Staff invited expressions of interest from members wishing to be considered for appointment as the next chair. The committee will formally vote on the chair at its next meeting.

16. **NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Oversight December 9, 2024, and January 29, 2025, annual meeting reports.** The committee approved its December 9, 2024, and January 29, 2025, meeting reports.
17. **Future meeting date.** The committee was notified that information regarding future meeting dates and the cadence of meetings will be shared at a future date.

*Committee Chair:* Jackie Wallgren, University of Akron, Mid-American Conference.  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Jejuan Bowser, Division I Governance and Member Services.  
 Abigail Markey, Division I Governance and Member Services.  
 Alyssa Rice, Championships and Alliances.

<b>Division I Women's Soccer Oversight Committee January 28-29, 2026, Virtual Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Samar Azem, Villanova University, Big East Conference.
Sara Bower, University of Akron.
Laura Cannon, University of Incarnate Word.
John Collins, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.
Nathan Fry, Harvard University, Ivy League.
Elizabeth Galvin, Eastern Illinois University.
G Guerrieri, Texas A&M University.
Isabella Gutierrez, East Carolina University.
Ryan Higginbotham, Texas Christian University, Big 12 Conference.
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.
Todd Plourde, Iona University, West Coast Conference.
Thad Satre, Loyola Marymount University.
Brandi Stuart, Pennsylvania State University, Big Ten Conference.
Eddie Radwanski, Clemson University, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Stephanie Ransom, University of Georgia.
Jackie Wallgren, University of Akron.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Rich Grady, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor.
Saige Wimes, University of Kansas.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Ian Dunning, ESPN.
Daniel Kole, ESPN.
Mallory Kenny, ESPN.
Courtney Sirmans, Miami University (Ohio).

<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Jejuan Bowser, Abigail Markey and Alyssa Rice.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Stanley Broaden, Jackie Kawamoto, Haydyn Makins and Jarom McLiver.