



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MARCH 9, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Legislative discussion.

a. Employment at institutional and non-institutional camps and clinics

- (1) Action. The NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Oversight Committee introduced a proposal into the June 2026 legislative cycle that specifies any employment by a women's soccer coach or women's soccer sport-specific staff member at an institutional or noninstitutional camp or clinic must be publicly advertised on the institution's website at least 14 days prior to the camp or clinic's start date.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The proposal increases transparency by requiring advance notice of institutional and non-institutional camp employment and helps prevent activities resembling club practices from occurring under the guise of a camp or clinic. The proposal also promotes consistency across institutions and reduces opportunities for informal recruiting interactions with prospective student-athletes.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposal supports a more consistent and transparent recruiting environment by reducing informal contact opportunities and promoting equitable access to camp employment information.

- b. Foreign tour discussion.** In preparation for the Cabinet's April 14-15 review of Proposal No. 2026-8 (Playing and Practice Seasons – Foreign Tour – Time Lapse Between Tours – Basketball – Once per Year), which would eliminate the once-in-four-years timing limitation and permit an institution to take a foreign tour once per year, the committee discussed whether the proposal should apply to women's soccer. The committee supports the proposal applying to women's soccer and emphasized the importance of ensuring consistency across sports. The committee's discussion focused on weighing concerns related to timing, academics, student-athlete downtime, and financial impact against the player development benefits, competitive opportunities, and the once-in-a-lifetime experience associated with participation in a foreign tour.

- c. **ElectionBuddy voting update.** The committee received an update on the national office's transition to ElectionBuddy, a voting software that will be used for committee action items, along with instructions for accessing the website, completing a test vote, and available support resources.

2. **Intercollegiate Women's Soccer Organization for Coaches (IWSOC) update.**

- a. **First permissible contact date and first date to call prospects.** The committee received an update from the IWSOC noting that further conversations on the first permissible contact date and first date to call prospects will be postponed until after Proposal No. 2024-62 (Playing and Practice Seasons – Women's Soccer – First Date of Competition and Transition Period) has been effective for a year.
- b. **Weekly hour limitations – outside of the playing season.** The committee discussed weekly hour limitations outside of the playing season, including consideration of removing the four-hour limit on skill instruction in women's soccer while maintaining the overall eight-hour weekly restriction. The committee noted increased flexibility would allow institutions to determine the most appropriate activities for student-athlete development during out-of-season activities and could reduce the administrative burden associated with monitoring the current out-of-season skill-instruction limit.

While the committee is interested in continuing these discussions, members were informed that the NCAA Division I Cabinet is currently reviewing Bylaw 17 for deregulation; therefore, the committee will pause further conversation until additional updates from that review are available.

- c. **NCAA women's soccer championship tournament and Women's College Cup.** The committee reviewed challenges associated with the current format for the 2026 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship and Women's College Cup, noting issues related to second-round travel logistics, hotel availability, Thanksgiving Day scheduling, and reduced attendance at neutral-site games. The IWSOC presented a calendar illustrating these conflicts and proposed shifting to an alternative format that would keep the first three rounds on the higher-seeded team's campus to reduce travel costs, avoid Thanksgiving games, and improve attendance. The concept also included expanding the College Cup in Cary, North Carolina, from four to eight teams to enhance revenue, increase national exposure, and ensure strong quarterfinal attendance without increasing flight demands. Committee members emphasized that while the model offers promising competitive and operational benefits, further review is needed regarding scheduling, broadcast considerations, academic impact, and existing championship agreements.

3. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Action. The following 31 conferences have been approved for automatic qualification for the 2026 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship:

America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.

- (2) Effective date. 2026 championship.
- (3) Rationale. This reflects all eligible conferences.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

- 4. Committee chair vote.** The committee held its chair election and appointed Brandi Stuart, deputy athletics director for competitive excellence/student-athlete wellness and senior woman administrator at Pennsylvania State University, as its new chair.
- 5. Preliminary-round feedback.** The championship subcommittee reviewed feedback provided from the preliminary rounds of the 2025 Division I Women's Soccer Championship and noted enhancements that could be made to help mitigate some issues that occurred from happening again in the future.
- 6. Report of the January 28-29 meeting.** The committee approved its January 28-29, 2026, annual report.

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.

Division I Women's Soccer Oversight Committee March 9, 2026, Virtual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Samar Azem, Villanova University.	
Sara Bower, University of Akron.	
Laura Cannon, University of Incarnate Word.	
John Collins, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.	
Nathan Fry, Harvard University.	
Elizabeth Galvin, Eastern Illinois University.	
G Guerrieri, Intercollegiate Women's Soccer Organization for Coaches.	
Isabella Gutierrez, East Carolina University.	
Ryan Higginbotham, Texas Christian University.	
Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University.	
Todd Plourde, Iona University.	
Thad Satre, Loyola Marymount University.	
Brandi Stuart, Pennsylvania State University.	
Eddie Radwanski, Clemson University.	
Jackie Wallgren, University of Akron.	
Absentees:	
Rich Grady, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Stephanie Ransom, University of Georgia.	
Saige Wimes, University of Kansas.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jejuan Bowser, Abigail Markey and Alyssa Rice.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden and Jackie Kawamoto.	