



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEES
JANUARY 27, 2025, JOINT MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

- **Bench size increase.** The committees are recommending a bench size increase from 32 to 36. (See Nonlegislative Item.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Bench size increase.**

(1) Recommendation. Increase the bench size for both men's and women's soccer from 32 to 36.

(2) Effective date. 2025 championships.

(3) Rationale. Teams participating in the Division II soccer championships are increasingly having to put student-athletes in the stands because of bench size limits. While the committees still believe that a reasonable limit is needed to continue to ensure operational control of the event, they believe an increase of four is appropriate to improve the overall student-athlete experience.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. More student-athletes will be able to be in the bench area with their team during competition rather than sitting in the stands.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of the 2024 championships.** The committees were pleased with the overall administration and planning for the finals site, commending the Wingate University staff for their hard work and dedication to providing a good experience for the teams, particularly on short notice.

The committees also reviewed preliminary-round hosting policies.

1. **2024 championship.** The committees discussed the 2025 championships and noted their excitement to return to Colorado Springs.
2. **Playing rules.** The committees received an update from the playing rules staff on the upcoming Soccer Rules Committee annual meeting.
3. **Division II governance update.** The committees received an update on the 2024-25 Division II Priorities.
4. **Academic and membership affairs update.** The committees received an update on legislation adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention.
5. **Coaches connection update.** The committees received an update on ongoing coaches connection topics.
6. **Acclimatization period.** The committees reviewed information being discussed among coaches and by both genders' coaches connection groups regarding a potential legislative proposal for 2026 that would add to the acclimatization period at the beginning of the season. The committees reviewed this as informational only for now and anticipate hearing more as the proposal is finalized and whether it meets sponsorship requirements.

Committee Chair: Babak Abouzar, Texas Woman's University, LoneStar Conference.

Jamie Joss, Florida Institute of Technology, Sunshine State Conference.

Staff Liaison(s): Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.

Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.

Division II Men's and Women's Soccer Committees January 27, 2025, Joint Meeting	
Attendees:	
Babak Abouzar, Texas Woman's University.	
Kacey Bingham, Western Oregon University.	
Todd Diuguid, University of Charleston (WV).	
Brett Faro, Cedarville University.	
Jon Fridal, Colorado Mesa University.	
Greg Herdlick, Rockhurst University.	
Jamie Joss, Florida Institute of Technology.	
Kathy Kroupa, Lynn University.	
Patrick Long, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania.	
Michael Lovato, American International College.	
Dawn Tatro, Roger's State University.	
Erika Torrez, Wingate University.	
Rob Walker, Saint Martin's College.	
Michael White, Oklahoma Baptist University.	
Michael Winn, Pace University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Tim Selgo, Coaches Connection.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.	
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden, Playing Rules and Officiating.	
Maritza Jones, Governance.	
Ryan Jones, Governance.	
Becca Medel, Governance.	