

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 4-6, 2025, JOINT ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. NPI rankings.** The committees support the NCAA Power Index and acknowledged its positive impact in the first year. They recommended removing the regional rankings; making the first public ranking earlier (as early as the first Monday of October, which is 9-10 games into the season of an average of 16-18 games played); adding a second weekly release and an additional week of daily releases leading into conference tournaments; adding more informational items and data to the NPI site; and transitioning the regional advisory committee (RAC) to the coaches connection, volunteering men's and women's soccer to be the first sport in 2025 to move to this model. (See Informational Items 4 and 7.)
- 2. Future championship bids.** The committees agreed they would prioritize and review championship bids in the next bid cycle that would offer separate men's and women's championship locations. They intend to solicit bids for men's championships and women's championships but will consider sites that are interested in hosting a combined championship as well. (See Informational Item 11.)
- 3. Officiating proposal.** The committees support their previous proposal specific to officials assignments at the finals site, which requests one additional official. The committees will compile information relative to how other sports might handle similar situations. (See Informational Item 9.)

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committees reviewed the annual meeting agenda and schedule.
- 2. Approve 2024 annual meeting report.** The committees reviewed and approved the 2024 annual meeting report.
- 3. Review of the 2024 championship.** The committees discussed the 2024 championship hosted by UNLV and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority in Las Vegas, Nevada. They reviewed participant, host, and committee survey responses and individual feedback from participating teams from the championships. The committees noted that the championships went well overall, and many survey responses reflected that perspective. The committee did

receive feedback that identified areas for enhancement and needed improvements specific to this site that the committee can apply to future host bids and sites.

4. **NCAA Power Index (NPI).** The committees reviewed the results of the NPI dials and identified dials they intend to track closely in 2025 as part of the two-year review at the 2026 annual meeting. The committee had positive feedback overall for the NPI and felt everything went well with the rankings.
5. **Tournament film exchange.** The committees discussed the process for tournament film exchange and some concerns they received from the membership. The committees agreed that any national regular-season film exchange would need to go through the coaches association and conference offices and not the committee. Specific to the postseason, the committee will ask conferences to assist with initial exchanges coming out of the conference tournaments. The committees added language to the requirements specific to coaches' film vs. broadcast film and a deadline for the film to be submitted. Staff was directed to work with the film exchange partner to improve the process and quality of the exchange.
6. **Bracketing and selecting hosts.** The committees reviewed preliminary-round host bids and identified concerns about the accuracy of some of the field sizes being submitted. They intend to focus on field sizes in 2025 to ensure they are accurate and ensure the postseason games are taking place on fields that meet the requirements. The committees also discussed the need for backup facilities for those that play on natural grass should the weather affect the championship.
7. **Regional Rankings.** The committees discussed and recommended the following improvements to the NPI rankings processes.
 - The men recommended the first week of October for the first release of the NPI rankings, while the women agreed on moving the release date earlier but didn't settle on a specific date.
 - The committees agreed there should be a release on Monday and Friday each week, with the final two weeks having daily releases to assist conferences with their rankings and tiebreaker procedures. The committees would support the system eventually to be live and updated daily.
 - The committees suggested additional information be included in the system, including an up/down arrow for when teams climb or fall in the ranks; conference rankings and data, and informational pop-ups to describe what each item is (formula and summary).
 - The committees recommended removing the weekly regional rankings as this information readily available in each ranking push, and it supported the removal of the RAC and transitioning to the Coaches Connection groups.

8. **2025 Championship – Salem, Virginia (Kerr Stadium at Roanoke College).** The committees discussed the 2025 championship in Salem, Virginia. They reviewed recent championships in Salem and enhancements they could make to the championship. The practice schedule was revised and initial conversations regarding hotels and team assignments were considered. The committees noted the upcoming women's basketball and women's lacrosse championships, which are both in Salem in the winter/spring of 2025. Upon conclusion of those championships, the committees will review feedback as it begins planning the 2025 championships this fall.
9. **Officiating.** The committees welcomed John Collins, the national coordinator of officials, who provided data on the number of officials used and a breakdown of those used during the tournaments. He provided feedback on video review and recommended it for the regular season and tournament, but the committees did not take any action. Mr. Collins discussed a non-rules change year based on the international rule changes likely to be adopted for 2025, which are being sent directly to the membership for comment. The committees currently have a proposal to the Division III Championships Committee specific to official assignments at the finals site, for which the committee has been directed to provide more support.
10. **Governance updates.** The committees welcomed both Laura Peterson, Division III Championships Committee liaison, and Louise McCleary, NCAA vice president of Division III, to provide updates. The committees provided feedback on the protection of the top eight teams in the bracket and received some additional information on the soccer proposal to change its championship date formula. The committees received an initial look at the potential transition from the RACs to the Division III Coaches Connection group. Soccer recommended implementing men and women coaches connections in the same academic year and volunteered interest in being the first sport to transition in 2025-26. Lastly, the committees received an update on the tournament streaming project that began this past all and the success of the project in gaining increased viewership and driving interest through the fan database.
11. **Upcoming bid process.** The committees briefly discussed the upcoming bid cycle. While it has yet to be determined for what years or the dates of the bid process, the committees discussed an interest in splitting the men's and the women's championships. The plan will be to create bid specs and open bidding for a men's championship and a women's championship, considering sites interested in hosting a joint championship as well. The committees expressed priority for separate championships, given the quality of bids it receives.
12. **Awards.** The committees discussed the awards ceremony for soccer and possible enhancements. No formal decision has been made yet, but the committees would like guidance from the Division III Championships Committee on a policy for distributing awards. Based on anecdotal information, some championships seem to do it differently. As examples, an on-field presentation of the participant medallions to each athlete, or no on-field presentation; a reduced presentation to hand medallions to the captains and honor the team as a whole. Similarly, at the finals site, handing out the big trophy only and not the mini-trophies as there

are not have enough for everyone in uniform and on the field. The committees ask for a consistent process that is a positive experience for teams that were just eliminated.

Committee Chair: Brian Marcantonio, Utica College (Men)
Jess Huda, Montclair State University (Women)
Staff Liaison(s): Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances (Men)
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances (Women)

Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees February 4-6, 2025, Joint Annual Meeting	
Men's Committee Attendees:	
Patrick Colbert, Conference of New England.	
Mark Griffin, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark.	
David Kulik, Johnson & Wales University (Providence).	
Brian Marcantonio, Utica College.	
Dejan Mladenovic, John Carroll University.	
Megan Patruno, Muhlenberg University.	
Miguel Ruiz, Cal Lutheran University.	
Brian Sisson, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.	
Nate Stewart, Centre College.	
Michael Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois).	
Women's Committee Attendees:	
Andy Foltz, Pacific Lutheran University.	
Jess Huda, Montclair State University.	
Katari Key, Alverno College.	
Susan Kolb, Hood College.	
Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin – River Falls.	
Tiffany Pins, Washington and Lee University.	
Brienne Smithson, Bowdoin College.	
Stephanie Smyrl, Emerson College.	
Adam Sprague, Mount Aloysius College.	
Matthew Webb, Houghton University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
John Collins, NCAA Soccer Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.	
Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.	

Bryce Peters, Championships and Alliances.
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.

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