



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEES  
FEB. 3-4, 2026, JOINT ANNUAL MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committees reviewed the annual meeting agenda and schedule.
2. **Review of the 2025 championship.** The committees discussed the 2025 championship, hosted at Roanoke College by the City of Salem and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. The committees noted a few minor improvements that can be made for future championships and identified other items that need to be replicated at future sites for continued success.
3. **NCAA Power Index (NPI).** The committees reviewed the NPI data from the previous two years and have identified dials they intend to recommend changes to this spring as part of the process of recommending dial changes. The committees will meet again to set these dial recommendations and propose those changes this spring.

The committees asked that the NPI data be released earlier and released more often (daily throughout the year preferred).

Overall, the committees had positive feedback for the NPI and felt any changes made are to address minor concerns related to the increase in ties since the change in overtime rules.

4. **Bracketing and selecting hosts.** The committees reviewed preliminary-round host bids and identified concerns about the current priority process. The committees discussed a new process for identifying hosts and resolving potential conflict of a site hosting both genders. This discussion will be continued in the spring based on other conversations related to protection of the top eight seeds in the bracket. The men's and women's committees recommend that this protection include a guarantee to host even if it causes flights in the first weekend.
5. **2026 Championship – Columbus, Ohio (Historic Crew Stadium).** The committees discussed the 2026 championship in Columbus, Ohio. They reviewed recent championships in Salem and enhancements they intend to promote going forward. A site visit will take place in April and more conversation will be held at the next committee meeting specific to the championship.
6. **Officiating.** The committees welcomed John Collins, the soccer national coordinator of officials, who provided data on the number of officials used and a breakdown of those used during the tournaments. The committees reviewed the new rotation of officials at the finals

site and will recommend that we use new crews for each of the three games at the final site to be in line with all divisions and genders. This will be proposed as well in the spring meeting report.

7. **Governance updates.** The committees welcomed both Laura Peterson, NCAA director of championships and alliances and NCAA Division III Championships Committee liaison, and Corey Berg, NCAA associate director of Division III for governance and member services, to provide updates. The committees provided feedback on the protection of the top eight teams in the bracket. The committees received some additional information on the soccer committees' continued interest in changing its championship date formula. Lastly, the soccer committees expressed their desire for men's and women's soccer to be included in the coaches connection initiative in 2026-27.
8. **Upcoming bid process.** The committees briefly discussed the upcoming bid cycle and confirmed that they will bid out the men's and the women's championships both separately and combined. They have created bid specs for a men's championship and a women's championship, while also considering sites interested in hosting a joint championship. The committees expressed priority for separate championships, given the quality of bids received.
9. **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 do it differently. The committees discussed potentially removing the preliminary-round award ceremonies and simply recognizing the non-advancing team and its successful season before dismissing them to their benches. At the sectional rounds, the committees discussed awarding a sectional champion trophy for the four teams that advance and then at the finals site doing trophies for only the champion and runner up, which would eliminate the awards ceremony after the semifinal contest.
10. **Field sizes.** The committees will continue to collect field sizes from member institutions to address concerns about venues that don't meet the minimum field size requirement for hosting championship competition.

*Committee Chairs: Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin–River Falls (Women)*

*Dejan Mladenovic, John Carroll University, North Coast Athletic Conference (Men)*

*Staff Liaisons: Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances (Men)*

*Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances (Women)*

<b>Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees</b> <b>Feb. 3-4, 2026, Joint Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Men's Committee Attendees:</b>
Mo White, Connecticut College.

Joe Calabrese, Endicott College.
Ben Cross, University of Rochester.
Tom Galbraith, Randolph College.
Dejan Mladenovic, John Carroll University.
Megan Patruno, Muhlenberg University.
Miguel Ruiz, Cal Lutheran University.
Brian Sisson, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.
Michael Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois).
<b>Women's Committee Attendees:</b>
Andy Foltz, Pacific Lutheran University.
Molly Wilkie, University of Maine, Farmington.
Beth Tiffany, Union College (New York).
Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin – River Falls.
Tiffany Pins, Washington and Lee University.
Stephanie Smyrl, Emerson College.
Dani Gunderson, Ohio Athletic Conference.
Amy Reifert, University of Chicago.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Susan Kolb, Hood College.
Agath Tsantsaridis, Brooklyn College.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
John Collins, NCAA Soccer Coordinator of Officials.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.
Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Bryce Peters, Championships and Alliances.
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Corey Berg, Division III Governance.
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.