



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MAY 6, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. **Legislative items.** The following items are not final until the conclusion of the June 23-24 Division I Cabinet meeting.
  - a. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-14 (Athletics Personnel and Recruiting – Limitation on the Number of Coaches and Off-Campus Recruiters – Baseball and Softball).** The oversight committee voted to adopt Proposal No. 2026-14 as currently written. The proposal allows any institutional staff member to provide technical and tactical instruction to student-athletes. In softball, this leaves intact the limits on off-campus recruiters, specifically: (1) the designation of head coach; (2) requirement to engage in on-campus coaching duties; (3) replacement due to extenuating circumstances; and (4) replacement for national, Olympic, or Paralympic coaches provision. The proposal is effective immediately after being subject to review by the NCAA Division I Cabinet during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
  - b. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-16 (Recruiting – First Date for Correspondence, Telephone Calls, Evaluations, Contacts and Campus Visits – Softball).** The oversight committee voted to adopt Proposal 2026-16. The proposal establishes a consistent time (1 p.m. Central time) on the initial dates for correspondence, telephone calls, evaluations, contacts and campus visits. The proposal is effective immediately after being subject to review by the NCAA Division I Cabinet during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
  - c. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-17 (Recruiting – Definition of Prospective Student-Athlete – Softball).** The oversight committee voted to adopt Proposal 2026-17. The proposal modifies the definition of prospective student-athlete to specify an individual who has started classes for the ninth grade and is not enrolled in the member institution. The proposal is effective immediately after being subject to review by the NCAA Division I Cabinet during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
  - d. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-29 (Playing and Practice Seasons – Field Hockey, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball – Nonchampionship Travel – Eliminate Ground Transportation Restriction).** The oversight committee voted to adopt Proposal No. 2026-29. The proposal eliminates the restriction to ground transportation for travel to competition in the nonchampionship segment in field hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball. The proposal is effective August 1, 2026, after being subject to review by the NCAA Division I Cabinet during its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.
2. **Nonlegislative action items.**
  - None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative item.**

- a. **Review of blanket waiver request.** The oversight committee reviewed and approved a one-time blanket waiver permitting softball coaches to evaluate only (no in-person contact permitted) at the NJCAA Division I Championships May 25-30, 2026, which occurs during the May 26-June 5/6, 2026, softball dead period. The committee noted that the date of this event is later than in previous seasons due to an unplanned facility conflict. Further, the committee noted that it wished to avoid having those prospective student-athletes competing in this event be adversely affected by the change of date and that the event operators should make any necessary contingency plans in the future to ensure there is not a future conflict. The committee reiterated the importance of preserving a recruiting dead period around the timeframe of the NCAA Women’s College World Series and emphasized the one-time nature of the waiver.
  
- b. **NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 Decentralization Feedback – Phase I.** The oversight committee discussed the decentralization of Division I Bylaw 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons). The committee provided initial feedback to the NCAA Division I Cabinet on the first practice date, first competition date, maximum competitions, summer athletics activities and health and safety for softball.

**2. Report of the March 12 meeting.** The committee approved its March 12 meeting report.

*Committee Chair: Natalie Gonzalez Honnen, Clemson University, Atlantic Coast Conference*  
*Staff Liaisons: John Bugner, Championships and Alliances*  
*Jennifer Samble, Governance and Member Services*  
*Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances*  
*Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Division I Softball Oversight Committee May 6, 2026, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees</b>	
Jaysoni Beachum, student-athlete from Florida State University.	
Tara Brooks, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.	
Carol Bruggeman, National Fastpitch Coaches Association.	
Tiffany Edlin, Long Beach State University; Big West Conference.	
Ella Emmert, student-athlete from University of Kentucky.	
Natalie Gonzalez Honnen, Clemson University; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Jessica Leger, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Sun Belt Conference.	
Jesse Martin, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference.	

Stacy Martin, Winthrop University; Faculty Athletics Representative Association.
Steve McCown, National Coordinator of Officials.
Lori Perez, California State University, Sacramento; Big Sky Conference.
Kevin Saal, Wichita State University; American Conference.
Gina Stoll, Western Kentucky University; Conference USA.
Holly Van Vlymen, South Dakota State University; Summit League.
Jane Wagner, Northwestern University; Big Ten Conference.
Vickie Van Kleeck, Secretary-Rules Editor.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Alexis DeBoer, student-athlete from University of Washington.
Paige Saylor, Central Michigan University; Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
John Bugner, Jennifer Samble, Liz Turner Suscha and Kelly Whitaker.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Sami Bogenschutz and Ashlee Follis.