



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
NOV. 5, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and roll call.** The committee chair welcomed a returning committee member and the three new student-athlete members to the oversight committee.
2. **Report approval.** The committee approved its Oct. 10 meeting report with no changes.
3. **Devon Park updates.** Cheryl Bond, chief financial officer at USA Softball, updated the committee on upcoming capital improvements at Devon Park in Oklahoma City, the site of the Women's College World Series.
4. **Softball Umpire Program updates.** NCAA staff updated the committee on the Softball Umpire Program, which is adding a new umpire advisor position for 2025-26.
5. **Facilities and umpire subcommittees.** The committee chair reviewed the purpose of the facilities and umpire subcommittees and assigned championship subcommittee members to each subcommittee. The committee agreed to rename the facilities subcommittee to the game operations advisory group and the umpire subcommittee to the umpire advisory group. The committee chair appointed Tara Brooks as chair of the umpire advisory group and Jesse Martin as chair of the game operations advisory group.
6. **Legislative update.** NCAA staff updated the committee on the new legislative cycle added for April along with a review of the legislative timelines for the existing three cycles.
7. **Playing rules subcommittee.**
 - a. **Composition.** NCAA staff updated the committee on the Division I Baseball Oversight Committee's discussion on potentially modifying the composition of its playing rules subcommittee to account for a representative of each of the four autonomy conferences. Staff will update the committee on the outcome.
 - b. **Corporate logos on uniforms/field.** NCAA staff noted that the Division I Cabinet recently introduced a proposal into the January 2026 legislative cycle to modify legislation on the use of commercial trademarks or logos on equipment, uniforms, apparel and playing surfaces. If passed in January, the proposed legislation would be effective for the 2026-27 academic year. The playing rules subcommittee will provide requested feedback to the Division I Cabinet for softball.

- c. **Oversight committee representative.** The committee approved Jessica Leger, deputy director of athletics and SWA at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, as the oversight committee representative to serve as a nonvoting member of the playing rules subcommittee.
- d. **Student-athlete representative.** The committee approved Ella Emmert, softball student-athlete at the University of Kentucky, as the student-athlete oversight committee representative to serve as a nonvoting member of the playing rules subcommittee.

8. Action items.

- a. **Squad size.** Based on a referral from the Division I Cabinet Subcommittee, the committee approved an increase to the championship squad size from 22 to 25 to match the softball roster limit in NCAA Division I Bylaw 17.2 (roster limitations) effective for the 2026 championship. This increase in squad size does not increase the official travel party, which remains at 30, or any other championship elements, (e.g., awards) dependent on the squad-size number.
- b. **Diamond Sports Rankings.** The committee approved adding Diamond Sports Rankings as a reference during the selection process, similar to the KPI, effective for the 2026 championship selection.

9. Concepts under discussion. The committee chair reviewed the following items that remain under discussion for the oversight committee: a four-day regional competition, adjusting the Women's College World Series schedule with the if-necessary games to reduce the opportunity for doubleheaders, and adjusting the media day and practice schedule at the Women's College World Series.

10. NFCA convention topics. NCAA staff reviewed the following items planned for the NFCA convention presentation in December: new committee structure, 50% seeding policies, video review, squad size change, application of the Diamond Sports Rankings as a reference during the selection process, and regional competition format.

11. Joint meeting agenda. The committee chair reviewed the agenda for the Nov. 5 joint meeting with the Division I Baseball Oversight Committee.

12. Other business. The committee will consider adding an informational meeting with the NFCA to learn about potential legislative recommendations before the end of the year.

13. Future meetings. The committee will meet next Thursday, Jan. 8.

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

NCAA Division I Softball Oversight Committee Nov. 5, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees	
Jaysoni Beachum, Florida State University.	
Tara Brooks, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.	
Carol Bruggeman, National Fastpitch Coaches Association.	
Alexis DeBoer, University of Washington.	
Tiffany Edlin, Long Beach State University.	
Ella Emmert, 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.	
Steve McCown, national coordinator of officials.	
Paige Sayler, Central Michigan University.	
Kevin Saal, Wichita State University; American Conference.	
Gina Stoll, Western Kentucky University; Conference USA.	
Vickie Van Kleeck, secretary-rules editor.	
Holly Van Vlymen, South Dakota State University.	
Jane Wagner, Northwestern University; Big Ten Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Cheryl Bond, USA Softball.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
John Bugner, Jennifer Samble, Liz Turner Suscha and Kelly Whitaker.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Sami Bogenschutz, Ashlee Follis and Brandy Hataway.	