



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OCT. 10, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and roll call.** Staff welcomed 13 new oversight committee members.
2. **Committee orientation.** Staff reviewed key responsibilities of the new committee, expectations, policies and procedures, confidentiality, voting procedures and the legislative cycle and authority of the oversight committee. Staff also reminded committee members to complete the conflict of interest statement.
3. **2025-26 key dates.** The committee reviewed key dates for the 2025-26 academic year.
4. **Committee vacancies.** The committee voted to appoint the following individuals to fill its remaining vacancies:
 - a. **Committee chair.** The committee appointed Natalie Gonzalez Honnen, executive senior associate athletic director at Clemson University, as committee chair.
 - b. **Committee vice chair.** The committee appointed Jane Wagner, associate athletic director at Northwestern University, as committee vice chair.
 - c. **At-large appointment.** The committee appointed Lori Perez, head softball coach at California State University, Sacramento, to the remaining at-large seat.
 - d. **Student-athlete appointments.** The committee appointed Alexis DeBoer from the University of Washington, Jaysoni Beachum from Florida State University, and Ella Emmert from the University of Kentucky as the remaining student-athletes on the oversight committee. The committee approved the following student-athletes to serve as alternates to the oversight committee: Belle Sardja from the University of South Florida, Emily Cardenas from Winthrop University, Hannah Ferguson from Saint Mary's College of California and Sofia Vallejos Coleman from Bethune-Cookman University.
 - e. **Playing rules subcommittee vacancies.** The committee appointed David Deiros, associate athletic director at Florida Gulf Coast University and Jexx Varner, head softball coach at Robert Morris University, to the remaining seats on the playing rules subcommittee. The committee will appoint one student-athlete from the oversight committee and one voting oversight committee member to the remaining non-voting seats on the playing rules subcommittee at its Nov. 5 meeting.

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5. **2025 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2025 annual meeting report as written.
6. **2026 automatic qualifying conferences.** The committee approved the recommendation that the following 31 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2026 NCAA Division I Softball Championship: America East Conference; American Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
7. **Joint meeting topics.** Staff will update the committee via email on agenda items for the Nov. 5 joint meeting with the Division I Baseball Oversight Committee.
8. **NFCA convention attendance.** Staff shared an invitation to attend the annual NFCA convention in December.
9. **Other business.** Carol Bruggeman, chief executive officer of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, provided updates on the NFCA's key legislative priorities for the new softball oversight committee. Staff will hold a separate orientation call for first-time committee members in the coming weeks.
10. **Future meetings.** The committee will meet Wednesday, Nov. 5 in a session on its own and in a session with the Division I Baseball Oversight Committee.

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 Women's Softball Oversight Committee Oct. 10, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Tara Brooks, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Carol Bruggeman, National Fastpitch Coaches Association.	
Tiffany Edlin, Long Beach State University.	

Natalie Gonzalez Honnen, Clemson University.
Jessica Leger, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
Jesse Martin, Oklahoma State University.
Stacy Martin, Winthrop University.
Steve McCown, national coordinator of officials.
Paige Sayler, Central Michigan University.
Kevin Saal, Wichita State University.
Gina Stoll, Western Kentucky University.
Holly Van Vlymen, South Dakota State University.
Jane Wagner, Northwestern University.
Absentees:
Vickie Van Kleeck, secretary-rules editor.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
John Bugner, Jennifer Samble, Liz Turner Suscha and Kelly Whitaker.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Sami Bogenschutz and Brandy Hataway.