



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OCT. 8, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Committee orientation.** The committee chair welcomed all committee members and reviewed key orientation items such as the committee calendar, file sharing location, confidentiality, the legislative cycle and weighted vote.
2. **Division I Softball Rules Subcommittee vacancies.** The committee approved Christina Drumm to replace Robbie Guest as the nonvoting, active umpire on the rules subcommittee. The committee approved Alexis DeBoer as the nonvoting, student-athlete representative on the rules subcommittee.
 - a. **Recruiting – initial contact date.** Carol Bruggeman, executive director of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, reviewed progress on the development of new legislative concepts for the initial contact date. The committee provided some initial feedback. The coaches association plans additional work before returning to the committee for additional conversation on the concept.
 - b. **Legislative update.** NCAA staff provided an update on proposals that were adopted and those introduced into the January 2027 legislative cycle by the NCAA Division I Cabinet at its Oct. 6-7, 2026 meeting.
3. **NFCA facility survey.** The committee reviewed the NFCA's initial survey results related to turf infields and in-stadium technology available. The NFCA will provide final survey results for the committee's November meeting.
4. **Softball technology project update.** Staff updated the committee on the project charter for the use of data analytics for umpire training, development and evaluation. Next steps of the project are finalizing the standards for evaluation of the data and seeking a high adoption rate of the standards by stakeholders followed by leveraging industry and technology experts in establishing training best practices and fine-tuning the use of the data for training and evaluation.
5. **Game operations/facilities and umpire advisory groups.** NCAA staff reviewed committee assignments and the charge of the game operations/facilities advisory group and the umpire advisory group.
6. **Regional advisory committee rosters.** NCAA staff provided the updated regional advisory committee rosters to the championships subcommittee members for the 2027 season. Subcommittee members will work to schedule the regional calls in the coming weeks.

7. **Annual meeting follow-up items.** The committee will review the annual meeting follow-up agenda items at its November meeting.
8. **Joint meeting topics.** NCAA staff invited the committee to brainstorm topics of interest for the joint meeting with the Baseball Oversight Committee in November.
9. **NFCA convention attendance.** NCAA staff reviewed the NFCA Convention dates and asked committee members to confirm plans to attend. The committee will discuss topics for the NCAA presentation during the caucus at its November meeting.
10. **Other business.** NCAA staff briefed the committee on plans for a site visit to Oklahoma City to review the location of the Women's College World Series Fan Fest that will need to be adjusted due to construction impacting the current site.
11. **Future meetings.** The oversight committee will meet Nov. 4 for its next meeting.
12. **Report of the Aug. 4-6 annual meeting.** The committee approved its Aug. 4-6 annual meeting report.

Committee Chair: Jane Wagner, Northwestern University, Big Ten 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 Oct. 8, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees	
Jaysoni Beachum, student-athlete from Texas Tech University.	
Tara Brooks, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.	
Carol Bruggeman, National Fastpitch Coaches Association.	
Alexis DeBoer, student-athlete from University of Washington.	
Tiffany Edlin, Long Beach State University; Big West Conference.	
Stef Ewing, University of Montana; Big Sky Conference.	
Madeline Hickey, Loyola University Chicago; Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee.	
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.	
Kevin Saal, Wichita State University; American Conference.	
Paige Sayler, Central Michigan University; Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Kat Smith, Western Kentucky University; Conference USA.	

Vickie Van Kleeck, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Holly Van Vlymen, South Dakota State University; Summit League.
Jen Vining-Smith, University of Notre Dame; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Jane Wagner, Northwestern University; Big Ten Conference.
Absentees:
Steve McCown, National Coordinator of Officials.
Emmy Cardenas, student-athlete from Winthrop University.
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 Ashlee Follis.