



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III SOFTBALL COMMITTEE
JULY 21, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **NCAA Power Index (NPI) adjustments.**
 - a. Recommendation. The committee recommends making the following NPI adjustments:
 - (1) Decrease the quality win base (QWB) from 54 to 52.
 - (2) Increase the QWB multiplier from 0.5 to 0.55.
 - (3) Increase the retained wins from 12 to 15.
 - b. Effective date. Sept 1, 2027.
 - c. Rationale. The committee reviewed data from the first two seasons using the NPI when considering recommendations for NPI adjustments.
 - (1) Decreasing the QWB is intended to incentivize scheduling more quality teams (potentially increasing a team's strength of schedule) while maintaining overall balance among the NPI performance metrics.
 - (2) As is the case with decreasing the QWB, increasing the QWB multiplier is intended to incentivize scheduling more quality teams (potentially increasing a team's strength of schedule) while maintaining overall balance among the NPI performance metrics.
 - (3) Based on the average number of games played in a season, the committee felt that the retained wins dial of 12 was too low. By increasing the number of retained wins to 15, teams would still be allowed to drop the lowest games while also being required to keep more of their schedule which results in a better representation of the full body of work for the season.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.

- e. Student-athlete impact. While the changes will not create a significant direct impact on student-athletes, it will provide improvements to the NPI encouraging teams to pursue quality wins throughout the season. Thus, teams will be more accurately ranked and placed in the championship bracket resulting in student-athletes competing within a better bracket.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **None.**

Committee Chair: Casie Runksmeier, Colby College, New England Small College Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison: Corey Bray, Championships and Alliances

Division III Softball Committee July 21, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Dani Bishop, Brandeis University.	
Kim Camara-Harvey, Blackburn College.	
Jamie Mueller, Wartburg College.	
Hannah Qualls, University of Mary Washington.	
Casie Runksmeier, Colby College.	
Terry Small, New Jersey Athletic Conference.	
Van Zanic, Geneva College.	
Absentees:	
Traci Barrett, Pacific Lutheran University.	
Sara Curran-Headley, State University of New York at Oneonta.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Kevin Alcox and Tim Danehy.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Corey Bray.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	