



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE  
DEC. 18, 2025 VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Tennis championship format – reduction to men's field and adjustments to championship format.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships be amended as follows: (1) reduce the men's bracket from 34 to 32 teams, consistent with the access ratio policy adjustment recommended during the Division II Championships Committee December 2025 videoconference, which would require any bracket adjustment requests to not have an access ratio greater than 4.25; (2) reduce both men's and women's tennis championships to eight teams per gender at the finals site; (3) implement four Super Regions (Atlantic/East, Central/Midwest, South/Southeast, and South Central/West), with two hosting sites per super region for each gender; (4) and assign a site representative and additional officials to each regional site to support the increased number of matches and ensure proper championship administration.
- b. Effective date. 2027-28 academic year.
- c. Rationale. The transition from eight regional sites per gender to a four-super region format reflects a recommendation from the Division II Management Council for the committee to explore a structure that better aligns with championship access principles. While the committee did not initially support reducing the number of regional sites, it recognizes that this change will help ensure inclusive participation by allocating championship opportunities based on the number of sponsoring schools, thereby promoting fairness and consistency. Under this approach, bids will be allocated to each super region according to sponsorship numbers, ensuring equitable access across all regions.

The committee also explored the possibility of allowing one super region with significantly higher numbers of sponsoring teams to have three host sites, while another region with fewer sponsoring teams would only have one host site, thus providing only one opportunity for a team to advance to the national championship. After discussion, the committee decided against this approach, emphasizing the importance of maintaining equal opportunity for two teams from each Super Region to advance to the national championship.

Similarly, the committee did not initially support reducing the men's bracket; however, it acknowledges that this adjustment is necessary to comply with the access ratio policy. The reduction from 34 to 32 teams aligns with the access ratio proposal developed during the Division II Championships Committee meeting in December, which applies the policy to bracket adjustments and remains pending Management Council approval in January.

Assigning a site representative and additional officials to each regional site will help manage the increased number of matches within the super region structure, enhance competitive equity, and maintain the overall quality of the championship experience.

The committee strongly supports that this reduction of the men's bracket and the move to super regions does not begin until the 2027-2028 academic year to align with the new triennial budget and bid cycle. The championship host has already been secured for the 2026 and-2027 championships under the original format of 32 teams (16 per gender) advancing to the final site. Additionally, this would align the cost savings with the 2027-30 triennial budget cycle.

- d. Estimated budget impact. Projected savings of \$245,000 (\$47,000 women's tennis, \$198,000 men's tennis).
- e. Student-athlete impact. These changes will ensure tennis student-athletes have similar access to the championship and final site as other Division II team sports.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Advancement policy for 2026 season.** The committee has finalized an advancement policy for the 2026 season to address gaps in the current Division II tennis championship procedures. Previously, the only advancement language permitted a team to extend play by one additional day in the preliminary rounds if it was unable to compete on the originally scheduled dates; however, there was no policy for situations where competition could not resume at all due to weather or when play could not extend beyond the one-day allowance. The new policy states that if no indoor backup is available at the regional host site and inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances make it impossible to complete a regional round, matches scheduled for Friday–Saturday may be moved to Sunday, and matches scheduled for Monday–Tuesday may be moved to Wednesday, with play beginning by 9 a.m. local time on the additional day. Hosts must make every effort, including moving to an alternate site, to complete the match, and documentation must be provided demonstrating these efforts. If play still cannot be completed, the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee is authorized to advance the higher-seeded team to the final site after reviewing all actions attempted by the host. To further mitigate these issues, the committee will place strong emphasis on selecting hosts that have secured indoor courts prior to hosting, and this information must be included in the bid

materials submitted for consideration to host a regional round. Failure to provide documentation or demonstrate due diligence in securing an alternate site may result in revocation of hosting privileges in future years.

2. **In-region, non-conference opponent requirement.** The Tennis Committee has initiated discussion to provide feedback to the Championships Committee regarding the potential implementation of an in-region, non-conference opponent requirement for championship selections.

*Committee Chair:* Josh Cobble, Cameron University

*Staff Liaison(s):* Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee Dec. 18, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jaime Browne, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Josh Cobble, Cameron University.	
Jon Coles, Grand Valley State University.	
Spencer Shamo, Dominican University of California.	
Madeline Simmons, Missouri Western State University.	
Adrienne Singletary, Coker University.	
Christi Wade, University of West Alabama.	
Stefanie Whitby, Wilmington University (Delaware).	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Dallas Woods, Championships and Alliances.	