



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JUNE 17-18, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee approved the agenda and meeting schedule.
2. **2024 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 meeting report as submitted.
3. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the strategic plan and focused on enhancing the student-athlete experience at regional sites, increasing the number and quality of officials, and boosting fan and media engagement with the championship. Long-term priorities include expanding livestream coverage, exploring an individual championship with the reduction of the men's teams, achieving a 50/50 coach-to-administrator committee composition, and considering separate men's and women's committees.
4. **Governance updates.** Ryan Jones, director of Division II governance and policy, joined the meeting to review the Division II priorities.
5. **Legislation updates.** Jeremy Christoffels, assistant director of academic and membership affairs, provided an update of upcoming legislation changes.
6. **ITA Updates.** The committee met with Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) representatives to discuss opportunities for collaboration, including aligning NCAA championship policies with ITA rules, exploring joint training or certification programs to expand the pool of qualified officials, and promoting NCAA Division II tennis through ITA platforms. Additional discussion included potential ITA involvement at championships to support outreach, networking, and promotional activities. The meeting was positive, and both groups expressed interest in continuing dialogue to strengthen the relationship and advance the sport.
7. **Review of 2025 championship.**
 - a. **Selection criteria.** The committee noted that the pre-championships manual has listed all potential additional sport-specific Division II selection criteria for several years; however, moving forward, only the Division II required selection criteria and the Division II results vs. teams with a winning record, in-region strength of schedule, and results vs. common opponents will be used, based on what the Championships Committee had previously approved in June 2024.

- b. Preliminary rounds.** The committee continued to experienced challenges in securing viable bids in two regions this spring. The committee permitted competition to be played indoors due to the lack of bids that met the expectations of six outdoor courts. The committee also noted issues with finding hosts that can secure indoor court options in case of weather issues and how that impacts the overall schedule of competition. Lastly, the committee noted from the feedback received in the student-athlete surveys how important the “ticket punch” signs used in the 2024 championship contributed to the overall student-athlete experience and making sure they are added back in the regional signage kit for the 2026 championships.
- c. Web stream.** For the first time, the semifinals and championship match were streamed through Cracked Racquets Media Service. While the equipment setup occurred later than desired, the committee was pleased with the flexibility to move cameras among courts, allowing coverage of three courts for each semifinal match. Moving forward, the committee would like to identify host sites with PlaySight cameras already installed to streamline setup and enhance coverage.
- d. Facility and host.** The championship was hosted at Sanlando Park, a frequent host for the Division II tennis championship. The court volume at Sanlando is excellent, with 24 courts available for competition. While the venue provided a functional championship environment and adequate space for operations, the committee noted concerns with host communication and follow-through, as some commitments made in planning meetings were not executed onsite. The committee discussed establishing a detailed checklist that would be completed by the host prior to the committee's arrival to ensure readiness, including checking Wi-Fi and sound system testing. Gaps in onsite readiness included late or missing signage, untested equipment, and a power outage during competition that required immediate troubleshooting. Despite these challenges, Greater Orlando Sports Commission familiarity with hosting NCAA events allowed staff to respond quickly and maintain the flow of competition. That experience remains a valuable asset for delivering a high-quality championship.
- e. Lodging.** This year, all teams stayed at one assigned hotel. The committee received onsite feedback that breakfast offerings lacked healthier options for student-athletes. While efforts were made to address the issue with hotel management during the event, the committee is making note of this concern for future years.
- f. Officiating.** The committee commended the head and deputy officials for managing the championships professionally and efficiently. The committee emphasized the importance of introducing committee members to the head official and co-head official during the committee's walkthrough to foster relationships and communication. Additionally, the Monday officials' meeting should be held at the venue rather than the hotel to better integrate officials into championship setup and operations.

- g. Student-athlete experience.** The committee reviewed the feedback student-athletes submitted via the NCAA championship survey. The overall sentiment was that student-athletes had a wonderful championship experience. The committee focused on the areas of improvement noted in these surveys and will work to implement applicable changes in next year's championship and beyond.

8. 2026 championships.

- a. Challenge language and deadlines.** The 2025 championship marked the first year in which the challenge process allowed coaches to change their lineups after regionals and prior to nationals. The committee reviewed the process and discussed several adjustments to improve fairness, recovery windows, and logistical efficiency. Proposed changes include closing lineup changes after all teams have completed play to avoid weather-related delays, allowing approximately 24 hours for changes once lineups reopen, and setting a clear, reasonable challenge and rebuttal timeline. The committee also recommends removing the current medical verification requirement for last-minute substitutions. Deadlines and the full policy will be communicated in future newsletters, manuals, and through the Coaches Connection program.
- b. Enhancing championship visibility and fan engagement.** The committee discussed strategies to enhance championship visibility and fan engagement, including increasing media coverage through early outreach to local outlets, partnerships with schools and conferences, and potential collaboration with the USTA and ITA. Ideas to boost onsite attendance included engaging local tennis clubs and community groups, offering youth program invitations, and creating a more dynamic atmosphere with music, giveaways, and visible championship branding.
- c. Championship banquet and community engagement.** The committee discussed ideas for enhancing the championship banquet to make it more engaging while still recognizing teams and student-athletes. Suggestions included incorporating highlight videos, and interactive elements, as well as inviting former players or notable alumni as guest speakers. In addition, the committee explored opportunities to expand community engagement during championship week, such as hosting youth tennis clinics, meet-and-greet sessions, and partnering with USTA sections or local tennis organizations to promote events. While community engagement activities would be optional, the banquet would remain a required component of the championship schedule, serving as a key opportunity to celebrate participants and foster a shared championship atmosphere.
- d. Regional competition.** The committee noted that a policy for establishing clear parameters for when regional competition can be extended due to weather delays and setting an absolute cutoff date for play was discussed but never formally established following the 2023-24 annual meeting, and members agreed it should be implemented for the upcoming season. This policy applies only in situations in which a host is unable to secure an indoor

court option to complete play as scheduled. Effective in 2025-26, this language will be included in the pre-championships manual. The policy will state that regional play may extend one day past the scheduled completion date in the event of weather delays (Friday/Saturday rounds may extend into Sunday; Monday/Tuesday rounds may extend into Wednesday), with Wednesday serving as the absolute final day of allowable competition.

- e. **Regional games committee.** The committee discussed reformatting the existing games committee at regional sites, which is currently composed of the tournament director and head official, to include additional members and ensure a more balanced decision-making process. The games committee will include the tournament manager, or a designated representative, the head referee, and the national committee member assigned to oversee their regional hosts (who shall serve as chair of the games committee). While national committee members currently serve in this oversight role, the committee emphasized how important it would be to have dedicated site representatives in the future to provide consistency across all regional locations and strengthen onsite decision making. If an issue arises involving one of the schools represented by a games committee member, that individual will be required to recuse themselves, or the matter may be elevated to the national committee for resolution. The primary focus of this approach is to ensure fairness in resolving disputes, such as protests, lineup challenges, weather issues, and rules questions, while also helping to expedite resolutions and minimize delays to match play.
 - f. **Regional schedule requirements.** The committee sought to require specific match start times for regionals to create consistency in turnaround times between competition days. However, in 2025 hosts frequently adjusted match times to accommodate local constraints such as graduations, class schedules, or facility availability. While the committee will continue to provide recommended match times to promote fairness and adequate recovery windows, it recognizes the need for some flexibility at the host level.
9. **Reduction in championship field.** The committee revisited its October 2024 recommendation to reduce the championship field, which included adjustments to the bracket, access ratio ranges, and format for both preliminary rounds and the finals site. Although the group examined the possibility of moving to a super regional format, further evaluation led members to reaffirm their original proposal while adding the recommendation for two additional officials at each regional site, on top of the two already requested in the original report, to support the increased number of teams at each site.
10. **Triennial budget timeline.** The committee reviewed the triennial budget and, with the anticipated reduction in the men's championship field, members discussed adding to the earlier recommendation of additional officials and site representatives at regional sites, and asking the Championships Committee to reinstate an individual championship for singles and doubles to align more closely with the formats used in Division I and Division III.

11. Committee chair. The committee reappointed Josh Cobble of Cameron University as the committee chair for 2025-26.

Committee Chair: Josh Cobble, Cameron University, Lone Star Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances

Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee June 17-18, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jaime Browne, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Jon Coles, Grand Valley State University.	
Josh Cobble, Cameron University.	
Spencer Shamo, Dominican University of California.	
Madeline Simmons, Missouri Western State University.	
Adrienne Singletary, Coker University.	
Christi Wade, University of West Alabama.	
Absentees:	
Stefanie Whitby, Wilmington University (Delaware).	
Guests in Attendance:	
Cory Brooks, Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).	
Lizzie Conti, Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).	
David Mullins, Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jeremy Christoffels, Jay Fitzwater, Ryan Jones, and Dallas Woods.	