



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 24, 2024, MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

- 1. Challenge and lineup adjustment.** The committee adjusted its championship challenge language and deadline process and procedures for submitting lineups prior to selections. (See Informational Item 5-a).
- 2. Regional hosting requirements.** The committee adjusted the regional hosting requirements to include six outdoor courts secured for the bid to be viable. (See Informational Item 5-b).
- 3. Review of access ratios for men's and women's tennis.** The committee began discussing aligning the tennis brackets with the Division II 4.25-6 access ratio range (See Informational Item 6.)
- 4. Feedback regarding minimum contest requirements.** Per the request from the Division II Management Council, the committee offered feedback on Bylaw 7.3.1.7.1.1 (minimum contests and participants requirements for sports sponsorship). (See Informational Item 7.)

**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. Sport sponsorship review.** The committee reviewed and discussed regional composition for the 2025-26 academic year. The group anticipates seeing adjustments as intuitions are shifting among regions, changing their divisional affiliation, and adding provisional members into the division. The committee will confirm regional alignment before the fall.
- 4. Review of 2024 championship.**

- a. **Selections and seeding.** The committee confirmed keeping the adjustment of selections on Monday moving forward. This provides ample time for the committee and member institutions to make travel arrangements for their preliminary-round competitions.

The committee discussed the ranking process for the regional advisory committees and noted that the representation in the West Region is limited. The West Region is composed of only two conferences, which results in the region having only two members on the committee. The national committee believes that giving only two individuals the responsibility of ranking the entire region and the high likelihood that their own team could be in contention, which would leave only one representative to execute the ranking, is not ideal.

- b. **Preliminary rounds.** The committee 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 expectation of six outdoor courts. The committee is identifying best practices for avoiding this conflict moving forward.
- c. **Web stream.** This year was the first time that the finals site web stream included all six competition courts. This was a huge enhancement for the finals site and something the committee is excited to see continued.
- d. **Division II Festival.** The spring festival was held in Orlando, Florida, featuring men's and women's tennis, softball, women's lacrosse, and men's and women's golf. The festival experience includes an opening ceremony for all participants, student-athlete lounges, team breakfasts, and a closing ceremony. The boosted signage at each facility and unique festival branded gifts made the festival feel exciting. The overall student-athlete feedback and experience was excellent.
- e. **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 available courts for competition. The park was kept in great shape and was ready for the championship. The elevated signage and branding at the event created a great student-athlete atmosphere. The committee hopes to work with future hosts to create additional player experience components at the competition venue as well as additional athletic training support for teams not traveling with an athletic trainer.
- f. **Lodging.** In the festival year, all teams are assigned their designated hotels. These hotels included other festival teams, student-athlete lounges and group breakfasts. The committee was satisfied with the quality of the hotels but was concerned that the distance from each property to the competition venue was not the same. The group understands that is a consequence of hotel availability but wanted to highlight that as a priority moving forward.
- g. **Officiating.** The committee commended the head and deputy officials for managing the championships professionally and efficiently. The addition of an official on every court was a great enhancement for the student-athlete experience. Not only is it essential to have

officiating on every court for execution of competition, but it creates a bona fide championship atmosphere for the student-athletes.

- h. Student-athlete experience.** The committee reviewed the feedback student-athletes submitted via the experience 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.

## 5. 2025 championships.

- a. Challenge language and deadlines.** The committee is updating the challenge language and deadline process and procedures. The adjustment would require all institutions to submit their lineup prior to the start of selections. It will also include an opportunity for teams advancing to the finals site to change their lineup before championship competition. The deadlines and full policy will be shared in future newsletters, manuals, and highlighted through the Coaches Connection program.
- b. Regional hosting requirements.** The committee reviewed the preliminary rounds and discussed the importance of hosts securing six outdoor courts as a part of the bid expectations. The committee reemphasized that this championship is intended to be played outside. Starting in 2025-26 the committee will require all potential hosts to confirm they have secured six outdoor courts for preliminary-round competition. The inability to secure outdoor courts as a hosting institution could result in the hosting bid being awarded to a different institution.

The committee is adopting a policy for any scenario in which regional competition cannot be completed and a team needs to be identified to advance to the finals site. Effective in 2025-26, this language will be included in the pre-championships manual.

The committee discussed a few additional desires specific to regional competition. Currently, tennis does not have site representative present during regional competition. The committee is interested in investigating the financial implications of adding one site rep to each regional competition. Additionally, the committee will request an analysis on the addition of one official at the regional. The group feels there is a great benefit of having more substantial officiating oversight at the preliminary rounds. Both requests will have a financial impact and must be submitted during the next triennial budget cycle in 2027.

- c. Regional schedule requirements.** The committee discussed the schedule of regional match times, specifically the turnaround time between matches from each day of competition, and would like to create consistency. For the 2025-26 season, the committee will have prescribed and scenario-based match times that must be adhered to across all regions. This is similar to the policy the Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committees require for their preliminary-round contests.

- 6. Review of men's and women's access ratios.** The committee has been asked to review both the men's and women's tennis championship access ratios. Currently both brackets have more access than other Division II championships and are outside of the 4.25-6 range established by the Championships Committee last summer. The committee is being charged with developing bracket concepts that would align tennis with the access ratio range. This will result in a reduction, specifically in the men's bracket, to be effective 2027-28. The committee will review the access ratios and develop championship brackets that adhere to the threshold.
- 7. Minimum contest requirements.** The Management Council asked the tennis committee to review and provide feedback on Bylaw 7.3.1.7.1.1 (minimum contests and participants requirements for sports sponsorship) regarding whether an increase to the minimum participant requirement for tennis is necessary. Under current legislation, for a contest to count in tennis, an institution is required to have a minimum of five participants. For institutions that only field the minimum number of participants on their roster, it was noted that the institution forfeits participation at No. 3 doubles and No. 6 singles in each match, which could surrender two team points. The committee expressed concerns whether the model is a benefit to the student-athlete experience and if an increase to the minimum participant requirement is appropriate.
- Ultimately, the committee agreed that it was in the best interests of the sport to leave the requirement at five participants to meet minimum contest and sport sponsorship requirements. The committee did not believe having five participants impacted the integrity of the match as there is always the opportunity for student-athletes to withdraw from competition, cutting the match short for their opponent. Playing with five players does concede one singles point, but it does not guarantee that the doubles point is lost as it is the best two of three. The committee also noted that teams on campus are already financially restricted and requiring one more player would amplify the strain that already exists.
- 8. Championship bid review.** The committee reviewed the bids received as a part of the two-year host awarding process. All NCAA championships are currently out to bid for 2026-27 and 2027-28. The committee will only select a host for the 2027 championships as 2028 is a festival year and is selected in collaboration with another group. The committee will vet all bids for section of hosts by the end of July.
- 9. Committee chair.** The committee appointed Josh Cobble of Cameron University as the committee chair for 2024-25.

*Staff Liaison(s): Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances*

Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee June 24, 2024, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Hendrik Bode, Hawaii Pacific University.	
Josh Cobble, Cameron University.	
Joey Eskridge, Anderson University (South Carolina).	

Karen Henson, Drury University.
Christi Wade, University of West Alabama.
Stefanie Whitby, Wilmington University (Delaware).
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Cory Brooks, Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).
Antony Montero, Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).
David Mullins, Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Dallas Woods, Championships and Alliances.