



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEES  
JUNE 26-27, ANNUAL MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Conference championship deadline.** The NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees request that legislation be modified to require conference championships to be completed by 3 p.m. Eastern time on Selection Sunday. (See Action Item 1.)
2. **Automatic qualification.** The committees request approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Items 2-a and 2-b.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Executive Regulations – NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1-(a) – Administration of NCAA Championships – Selection of Teams and Individuals for Championships Participation – Automatic Qualification – Requirements – Conference Championship.**
  - a. Recommendation. That all conference championships for men's and women's tennis be completed no later than 3 p.m. Eastern time on Selection Sunday.
  - b. Effective date. April 1, 2025.
  - c. Rationale. The current legislated deadline of 6 p.m. local time is extremely late and requires the committees to produce the field, select the sites, and compile the bracket in a condensed time. Tennis is the only sport apart from golf that will not be adopting the NPI in 2024-25, which means the committees will require more time than other sport committees to complete their work. All data are submitted through the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), which then must be imported into the NCAA score reporting system. The final data push reflecting all completed results cannot be compiled until the final conference championship match is completed. Only at this time may the committees begin the process of analyzing and selecting the at-large field. Moving up the deadline to mid-afternoon on Selection Sunday will allow the committees additional time to conduct selections, finalize preliminary-round sites, complete the bracket and identify site reps.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Men's tennis automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025 championships:

American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; United East Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 34; Pool C – 10.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. The 34 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.2 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Women's tennis automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025 championships:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; American Rivers Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark

Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; United East; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 39; Pool C – 10.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. The 40 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.2 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Individual alternate increase.**

(1) Recommendation. Increase the number of selected alternates for the individual championships – the singles alternates from four to eight and the doubles alternates from four to six.

(2) Effective date. April 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. The committees are requesting flexibility in providing opportunity to as many participants as possible. Additionally, this recommendation decreases the possibility of a bye in the first round of individual competition. Division III does not require onsite alternates, so there would be no budget impact.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides more opportunity to student-athletes and decreases the likelihood of a bye in the first round of the individual championships.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2023 annual meeting report.** The committees reviewed and approved the 2023 annual meeting report as written.
2. **2023 strategic plan.** The committee reevaluated the 2023 strategic plan and added one new long-term and short-term goal for 2024.
  - a. **Short-term goal.** Establish a cohesive and collaborative rapport to build principles on decision-making.
  - b. **Long-term goal.** Formally review over the next one to three years the continuation of the individual and doubles championships versus expanding the team championships.
3. **2024 championships review.** NCAA staff reviewed the preliminary-round hosts and the championship finals, including the evaluations, selections, protest procedures and other related items. The committees discussed best practices learned through the championships. The committees acknowledged and applauded Washington University in St. Louis on running a great championship and providing an excellent experience for the student-athletes.
4. **Planning for the 2025 championships.**
  - a. **Allowable student-athlete area.** The committees discussed the importance of designating the allowable area for student-athletes and coaches in consultation with the head referee to help limit sportsmanship issues.
  - b. **Schedule of events.** The committees reviewed the Division III Championships Committee's approval of removing the practice day following the conclusion of the team championships and extending the individual championships from three days to four.
  - c. **Weather.** The committees discussed the importance of collaborating on decisions involving inclement weather to help with consistency. Further, the committees suggested adding language to the pre-championships and participant manuals outlining the process.
  - d. **Committee role.** The committees discussed the importance of committee members making every effort to attend the entire championship as part of their committee duties.
5. **Bench size.** The committees reviewed the bench size and would like to add an athletic trainer to the allowable bench size. Further, the committees agreed to add a travel party form that head coaches are required to complete and submit ahead the championships to determine credentials and individuals permitted in the allowable area.

**6. ITA Update.**

- a. **ITA.** Cory Brooks and members of the ITA staff provided an update and solicited committee feedback on potential scoring format changes/recommendations.
- b. **Seven-point scoring pilot.** After reviewing data presented by the ITA, the committees voted to adopt the seven-point scoring format (clinch-clinch) for the 2025 championships on a one-year pilot basis. The ITA will also be piloting the seven-point scoring format at ITA events during the 2024-25 season. The default format of “play-play” will be used, meaning the doubles and singles segments are played to completion unless both coaches agree to stop one or both segments at clinch. The recommendation is aimed to gain additional feedback from the membership.

7. **Selections.** The committees reviewed selection criteria and explored additional methods to help retrieve data. The committees were pleased with the number of results being entered to the ITA but reiterated the need to continue to provide resources and encourage institutions to enter results to ensure more complete data. The committees agreed that the RACs need to be responsible for their conference institutions and providing an update to their committee chair of institutions that have not submitted their results each week of rankings to help reinforce on-time data entry.

**8. Preliminary-round sites.**

- **Site representative.** Committee members will be assigned specific regions and help with securing site representatives for the first, second, and third rounds.
9. **Championships Committee update.** NCAA staff liaison Laura Peterson joined the committees to discuss topics related to the division, including information regarding budget changes, access ratio, NPI, web streaming, geographic proximity and the impacts they will have on the membership.
10. **AMA update.** NCAA AMA liaison Corey Berg joined the committees to discuss sport sponsorship and provide additional updates. She noted that during the 2024 NCAA Convention, Division III adopted sport sponsorship legislation requiring 10 contests with a minimum of four participants in each for men’s and women’s tennis.
11. **Governance update.** NCAA governance liaison Ali Spungen joined the committees to discuss legislation passed at the Convention and provide updates on new enhancements adopted by Division III targeting experience and well-being.
12. **Officials.** Head Official Darren Potkey joined the committees to provide feedback on the 2024 championships and areas that can be improved for officials at future championships.

- 13. Committee chair appointments.** The committee approved current committee member David Weiner, head coach of women's tennis at Christopher Newport University, and Mike Lynch, associate VP for athletics and athletics advancement at Babson College, as chair of the women's committee and men's committee, respectively. Mr. Weiner will replace Suzanne Merritt, who has served for one year as chair of the women's committee and will be rotating off the committee. Mr. Lynch will be entering his third year as chair of the men's committee.
- 14. Review of manuals.** NCAA staff asked the committees to review the pre-championships, host operations and participant manuals and provide changes.
- 15. 2026-2028 championships bid review.** The committees reviewed the submitted championships bids for the 2026-2028 academic years. Staff provided committee comparison information to be reviewed and evaluated. The committees will finalize their recommendations in July.
- 16. Annual meeting.** The committees agreed to meet June 25-26, 2025.

*Committee Chairs:* Suzanne Merritt, LeTourneau University.  
 Michael Lynch, Babson College

*Staff Liaison:* Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances  
 Jennifer Mervar, Championships and Alliances  
 Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances

Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees June 26-27, 2024, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Douglas Chapman, UMass Dartmouth.	
Suzanne Merritt, LeTourneau University.	
Justin Grube, Franklin & Marshall.	
David Weiner, Christopher Newport University.	
Melynda Link, DePauw University.	
John Hirte, Covenant College.	
Mike Lynch, Babson College.	
Ryun Ferrell, Central College (Iowa).	
Erica Perkins Jasper, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.	
Eric Spangler, Haverford College.	
Olivia Winkfield, Rochester Institute of Technology.	
Kevin Calhoun, Transylvania University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Bill Carey, Transylvania University.	

Tom Linhart, Rochester Institute of Technology.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Cory Brooks, International Tennis Association (ITA).
Dave Mullins, International Tennis Association (ITA).
Tim Russell, International Tennis Association (ITA).
Darren Potkey, Head Official.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances.
Jennifer Mervar, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jay Fitzwater, Playing Rules.
Ali Spungen, Division III Governance.
Corey Berg, AMA.
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.