



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEES
JUNE 25-26, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Men's tennis automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2026 championships:

American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; Conference of New England; 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: Automatic Qualifier – 35; At-Large – 9.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. The 35 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 2026 championships:

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; Conference of New England; 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 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 Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Automatic Qualifier – 37; At-Large – 12.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. The 37 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. Data spreadsheet contractor.

- (1) Recommendation. The committees recommend contracting former committee member Justin Grube to help provide data spreadsheets for team and individual rankings and selections.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. The spreadsheets help organize the data in a concise and clear format that is beneficial for ranking and selection discussion.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$1,000.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024 annual meeting report.** The committees reviewed and approved the 2024 annual meeting report as written.
2. **2024 strategic plan.** The committee reevaluated the 2024 strategic plan and removed one short-term goal and adjusted the following long-term goal to a short-term goal for 2025.
 - **Short-term goal.** 1–3 year review and conversation surrounding singles and doubles championships paired with the conversation around expanding the team championships.
3. **2025 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 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps for running a great championship and providing an excellent experience for the student-athletes.
4. **Planning for the 2026 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 and better enforce the bench size requirements. Additionally, the committee discussed providing wristbands to those in the allowable area.
 - b. **Alternate deadline.** The committees discussed altering the individual alternate deadline until the completion of the last first-round match. Once the first-round match has concluded for singles and doubles, alternates will no longer be entered into the field.
 - c. **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.
 - 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. ITA update.

- a. **ITA.** Cory Brooks and members of the ITA staff provided an update and solicited committee feedback on 2025-26 rule changes.
- b. **Seven-point scoring pilot.** After reviewing survey data collected by the NCAA, the committees recommended adopting the seven-point scoring format as a permanent rule change beginning in the 2025–26 season. This recommendation follows a comprehensive survey conducted at the end of the 2024–25 season, which gathered feedback from head coaches, athletics directors and conference commissioners across all sponsoring institutions. The survey revealed a notable shift in support, with more stakeholders than ever before favoring the new format. The committees' vote reflected this trend, with a decisive 13–2 outcome in favor of implementation.

Central to the rationale for change is the enhancement of student-athlete experience. The seven-point format fosters a stronger sense of team competition by ensuring that all student-athletes have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the team score. The committees noted that the “doubles point” emphasizes the three doubles teams (six players) all working together for that all important first point and creates an exciting team atmosphere that is unique to the seven-point format. Additionally, the seven-point format ensures that no team is ever more than one point behind after doubles, keeping matches competitive, student-athletes engaged, and the overall excitement level consistent.

It also shortens competitive match duration, reducing missed class time and physical strain, which is especially important in the Division III context in which academic commitments are paramount. While not the primary reason, the shortened competitive match duration is also beneficial for support staff such as athletic trainers and directors of communications.

The “play/play” structure of the regular-season format aligns with Division III’s core philosophy of maximizing participation. Additionally, the format increases match efficiency through one-set doubles and no-ad scoring, which is particularly advantageous for institutions with limited court access, indoor scheduling constraints, or shared coaching responsibilities. Strategically, the format encourages coaches to develop deeper, more balanced lineups, as the single doubles point heightens the importance of both doubles and singles play. Finally, survey data supports the change, with many respondents noting that the format made matches more exciting, better aligned with the realities of Division III tennis, and more engaging for spectators.

6. **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 expressed the importance of NPI and the urgency to have the selection software operational for the 2025-26 season.

7. Preliminary-round sites.

- **Site selection.** The committees discussed the importance of communicating early with potential hosts regarding indoor facilities and their capabilities.

8. Championships Committee update. NCAA staff liaison Laura Peterson joined the committee to discuss topics related to the division, including information regarding budget changes, access ratio, NPI, web streaming, bench size, the coaches connect initiative, and the impact they will have on the membership.

9. AMA update. NCAA AMA liaison Corey Berg joined the committees to discuss sport sponsorship, a potential noncontroversial proposal to deregulate betting on professional sports, practice expenses, and the transfer portal.

10. Governance update. NCAA governance liaison Ali Spungen joined the committees to discuss per diem increases, funding for streaming, and the desire to create think tank opportunities for athletics directors and commissioners.

11. Officials. Head Official Darren Potkey joined the committees to provide feedback on the 2025 championships and areas that can be improved for officials at future championships.

12. Committee chair appointments. The committees approved committee members Jenn Dubow, commissioner at Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and Kevin Calhoun, head men's tennis coach and assistant athletics director at Transylvania University, as chairs of the women's committee and men's committee, respectively. Ms. Dubow will replace David Weiner, who has served for one year as chair of the women's committee and will be rotating off the committee. Mr. Calhoun will replace Mike Lynch who served as chair for three years and will be rotating off the committee.

13. Review of manuals. NCAA staff asked the committees to review the pre-championships, host operations and participant manuals and provide changes.

14. Annual meeting. The committees agreed to meet June 22-23, 2026.

Committee Chairs: David Weiner, Christopher Newport University.

Michael Lynch, Babson College

Staff Liaison: Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances

Raymon Gaddis, Championships and Alliances

Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees June 25-26, 2025, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Douglas Chapman, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.	
Jenn Dubow, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	
Justin Grube, Franklin & Marshall College.	
Tom Linhart, Rochester Institute of Technology.	
Jamie Scott, Denison University.	
David Weiner, Christopher Newport University.	
Chris Pier, Lake Forest College.	
Melynda Link, DePauw University.	
John Hirte, Covenant College.	
Mike Lynch, Babson College.	
Ryun Ferrell, Central College (Iowa).	
Erica Perkins Jasper, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Eric Spangler, Haverford College.	
Olivia Winkfield, Rochester Institute of Technology.	
Kevin Calhoun, Transylvania University.	
Absentees:	
Bill Carey, Transylvania University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Cory Brooks, International Tennis Association (ITA).	
Dave Mullins, International Tennis Association (ITA).	
Lizzie Conti, International Tennis Association (ITA).	
Darren Potkey, Head Official.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Victoria Lipscomb, Championships and Alliances.	
Raymon Gaddis, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jay Fitzwater, Playing Rules.	
Ali Spungen, Division III Governance.	
Corey Berg, AMA.	
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.	