



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WRESTLING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 29-30, 2025, ANNUAL MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Selection criteria.** The committee is recommending two changes to the selection criteria. (See action Item 2-a.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. Add earning a pre-allocated spot for their conference as an additional selection criteria and add recency of win as part of the selection criteria.
- (2) Effective date. The 2026 championships.
- (3) Rationale. While these changes are likely to have minimal impact on the actual selection and seeding process, both will help ensure accuracy. The wrestlers who earn a pre-allocated spot by hitting at least two of the three selection criteria thresholds (coaches' rank, RPI and winning percentage) should be rewarded for their work throughout the regular season, so adding that as part of the selection criteria will help give these student-athletes a boost in the at-large pool if they don't earn a spot at their respective conference tournament. Second, quality results late in the season are more impressive than earlier in the season, so if two wrestlers are very close in the criteria, the recency of the result would provide one more tool to determine who should be selected or seeded higher.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Both changes would be made to benefit the student-athlete and help ensure the most deserving student-athletes are selected and seeded in the appropriate places.

**b. Coaches' rank procedure.**

- (1) Recommendation. Implement a new procedure starting with the 2025-26 season in which 15 coaches are selected to rank wrestlers. The coaches will be placed in groups of three and each group will rank two of the weight classes. A national committee member will be assigned to oversee each of the weight classes on a ranking call, ensuring transparency of the rankings that will be released three times a year.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The old process had no accountability/transparency and therefore it was not accurately reflecting where wrestlers should have been ranked.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This new coaches' ranking process will help ensure a more accurate reflection of where each wrestler should rank and therefore make sure student-athletes are rewarded for performance on the mat as opposed to possible political motivations.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review and approval of the 2024 annual meeting report.** The NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as drafted.
2. **Review of the 2025 selections process.** The committee voted to add earned pre-allocated spot for the conference to the selection criteria and recency of win as part of the subjective criteria. (See Action Item 2-a above.)
3. **Championships format.** The committee affirmed having continuous wrestling with championship and consolation matches by weight classes during the second round. In addition, the committee reaffirmed having matches held by weight classes during the medal round, but they understand timing will continue to make that a challenge.
4. **Championships review.** The committee reviewed the feedback and felt that overall the championship went well with challenges due to the location of the hotels and the size of the floor space. For the next site selection process, the committee will focus on proximity of hotels to the arena, amount of back of house space for team camps and the size of the competition floor space. The committee voted to not have finalists participate in the Parade of All-Americans starting in 2026 to allow them to focus on their upcoming match. In addition, the committee discussed getting feedback from wrestlers on whether the parade should be continued at all.
5. **Coaches' rank.** The committee voted to establish a new coaches' rank policy as described in Action Item 2-b above. The coaches who are interested in participating in the new procedure

will apply through a national process and be selected by the national committee. Although conference spots will not be guaranteed, the national committee will use conference affiliation as a factor in determining the 15 coaches.

6. **Officials' report.** The committee received a report from Mike McCormick, the national coordinator of officials, and felt everything went well in 2024-25. The committee stressed making sure there were at least two active officials in the review room at nationals. While the committee felt like it was good to have new officials every year at nationals, they stressed the importance of making sure the best officials were being selected.
7. **ESPN.** The committee met with Mallory Kenny and Todd Kulis from ESPN to review the 2025 championship and discuss possible changes for the 2026 championship, including moving the start time for session six up 30 minutes. In addition, it was determined ESPN and the committee will discuss the different scenarios of order of finals matches following session three.
8. **RPI transparency.** The committee instructed staff to work with FloSports to be able to display the RPI rank for all wrestlers who are eligible.
9. **Educational materials.** The committee instructed staff to assemble educational materials for coaches that include what matches count and for what criteria, how the selection process works, what is included in the seeding/selection criteria and how the RPI is calculated.
10. **AMA update.** Staff updated the committee about various compliance items.
11. **Wrestling rules update.** The committee met with the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee and received an update about rules under consideration.
12. **Automatic qualification approvals.** The committee decided to delay a vote on eligible conferences until later this summer when there is more clarity with regard to Pac-12 membership.

*Committee Chair:* Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania.  
*Staff Liaison:* Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee April 29-30, 2025, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Tricia Turley Brandenburg, U.S. Military Academy.	
Damion Hahn, South Dakota State.	
Doug Tiedt, University of Wisconsin-Madison.	
Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania.	
Shawn Zeplin, Duke University.	

<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Mallory Kenny, ESPN.
Todd Kulis, ESPN.
Mike McCormick, National Coordinator of Officials.
Jackie Paquette, National Wrestling Coaches Association.
Pat Tocci, National Wrestling Coaches Association.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Mark Bedics and Jackie Kawamoto.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Travis Johnston and Kristen Jacob Smith.