



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S WRESTLING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
APRIL 15, MAY 13 AND JUNE 2, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

• **Playing and Practice Seasons – Men's Wrestling – First Permissible Contest Date and 20-Week Playing Season.**

(1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Oversight Committee introduced legislation to establish the first date of competition in men's wrestling as the Friday of the 20<sup>th</sup> week prior to the Division I Men's Wrestling Championship. The oversight committee requests the Division I Cabinet adopt the proposed change as expedited legislation at its June 23-24, 2026, meeting.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. Standardizing the playing and practice season to 20 weeks given the calendar day for the first date of competition fluctuates depending on when the wrestling championship falls. This proposal provides institutions with the opportunity to begin competition during the weekend, which allows more travel flexibility and minimizes academic disruptions. This modest change to the first permissible contest date would advance the start date by two or three calendar days over the next two years. The oversight committee requests the Division I Cabinet adopt the proposed change as expedited legislation to provide institutions with sufficient time to finalize schedules for 2026-27 academic year.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): Minimizes academic disruptions associated with midweek travel when November 1 falls during the school week.

**2. Informational Action items.**

**a. Selection criteria change.**

(1) Action. The NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Oversight Committee approved a change in the percentage impact of conference tournament finish and coach rank for the selection process. The coach rank will increase from 10 percent to 12.5 percent, while conference tournament finish will decrease from 15 percent to 12.5 percent.

(2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The committee felt the new coach rank process was very effective and warranted an increase in value for selections. In addition, while the committee continues to place a high value on conference tournament finish, the previous percentage tended to cause an occasional outlier in the selections process.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact: The committee feels this change will help ensure the student-athletes are more accurately seeded.

**b. Final ranking minimum criteria.**

(1) Action. The NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Oversight Committee approved a change to allow any wrestler that has qualified for the NCAA championship to be ranked in the final ranking.

(2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The committee feels that removing the minimum number of matches necessary to be ranked after they have qualified for the NCAA championships will allow for a more accurate ranking.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact: The committee feels this change will help ensure the student-athletes are more accurately seeded.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Approval of 2025 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2025 annual meeting report.

2. **Selections.** The committee reviewed the current selection criteria and made two changes: to increase coach rank from 10 percent to 12.5 percent and decrease conference tournament finish from 15 percent to 12.5 percent. The committee also discussed moving the regular-season event submission deadline from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 and charged staff with minimizing logistical concerns accordingly.

3. **Championship format.** The committee discussed the current format of each of the rounds. The committee discussed the format of the Saturday morning session and wants to hold

matches between seventh-, fifth- and third-place matches but understands the timing challenge with building the stage for session six. The committee directed staff to explore that potential.

4. **Championship review.** The committee reviewed the championship, including feedback from the student-athletes and coaches. Overall, the committee felt the event went very well with the main concern being the ability for the participants to gain access to the event level from their team camps without having to interact with fans.
5. **Coaches rank.** The committee felt the new coach rank program was a success. The committee will reopen the process to add rankers but will prioritize those rankers from last year who did a good job and want to continue. With it being only the first year for the program, the committee wanted to keep changes minor, so there will continue being the same number of rankings along with the same number of rankers doing the same number of weight classes. The one change for next year is the ability for rankers to rank anyone in the final ranking who qualified for nationals regardless of how many matches they competed in at the weight class.
6. **National coordinator of officials report.** The committee received a report from Mike McCormick, the national coordinator of officials, who discussed numerous items, including video replay and selection of officials for the championships.
7. **ESPN.** The committee received a report from ESPN staff, which included numerous positive items, including increased marketing of the championship and increased ratings across the board for virtually every session.
8. **Review of RPI formula.** Staff informed the committee regarding the current percentages of the RPI for each category, in addition to an initial discussion on the NCAA Power Index (NPI). The committee will continue this discussion in the summer and directed staff to gather more information.
9. **Team ticket policy.** The committee approved a change to the policy for teams to be assigned allotments based on a three-year average of where the team finished at nationals, as opposed to the previous method of being strictly based on the previous year's finish.
10. **Legislative update.** The oversight committee was informed that Proposal 2026-12 (First Date for Correspondence, Telephone Calls, Evaluations and Contacts and Campus Visits) was adopted and effective immediately for high school prospective student-athletes who will initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution on or after Aug. 1, 2028. The oversight committee also received an update on Proposal 2026-10 (Transfer Outside of the Notification of Transfer Process).
11. **Bylaw 17 Decentralization.** The oversight committee received an update on the Division I Cabinet's Bylaw 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons) decentralization review and discussed first

practice date, first competition date, end of the playing season, maximum competition dates, summer athletics activities and health and safety for men's wrestling.

- 12. Regional training center discussion.** The oversight committee discussed current legislation and issues surrounding regional training centers (RTCs). The oversight committee noted the inherent recruiting concerns associated with RTCs and prospective student-athletes, while recognizing benefits RTCs provide (e.g., freestyle training). The oversight committee encouraged staff to develop educational materials specific to current legislation and scenarios. The National Wrestling Coaches Association will also provide feedback to the oversight committee, and the oversight committee will continue RTC discussions at future meetings.
- 13. Rules update.** The committee received a report from Jimmy Chung, the secretary-rules editor, who recapped the recent rules subcommittee meeting. There was limited discussion as this is not a rules change year.
- 14. Automatic qualification.** The committee approved automatic qualification for the eight eligible conferences: Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association; The Ivy League, Mid-American Conference; Pac-12 Conference and Southern Conference.
- 15. NWCA leadership group updates.** Jim Fallis gave the committee updates from the NWCA leadership group.
- 16. 2029-31 site selection process.** Staff updated the committee received regarding the site selection process that will start in August to select the 2029, 2030 and 2031 finals sites.
- 17. Election of 2026-27 oversight committee chair.** The committee elected Tricia Brandenburg to serve as chair, starting Sept. 1, 2026.
- 18. Election of committee members.** The committee selected Jay Weiss, head coach Harvard University, to the committee to replace Matt Valenti, effective Sept. 1, 2026. In addition, Noah Mulvaney was reappointed as the student-athlete representative.
- 19. Future meeting schedule.**
  - a. July 7, 2026, videoconference.
  - b. TBD.

*Committee Chair:* Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania.  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.  
Connor Bush, Division I Governance and Member Services.  
Jerry Vaughn, Division I Governance and Member Services.

<b>NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Oversight Committee April 15, May 13, June 2, 2026, Annual Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Tricia Brandenburg, United States Military Academy.	
Jimmy Chung, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Tim Day, Iowa State University.	
Neil Erisman, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.	
Jim Fallis, National Wrestling Coaches Association.	
John Hangey, Rider University.	
Chris Helms, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.	
Noah Mulvaney, Bucknell University.	
Doug Tiedt, University of Wisconsin, Madison.	
Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Mike McCormick, National Coordinator of Officials.	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Damion Hahn, South Dakota State University.	
Pat Tocci, wrestling contractor.	
Evan Cohen, ESPN.	
Mallory Kenny, ESPN.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Mark Bedics and Connor Bush.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Jackie Kawamoto, Connor Lancashire and Kristen Jacob Smith.	