

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

ACTION ITEMS.

- 1. Legislative items.
 - None.
- 2. Nonlegislative items.
 - a. 2027 super regional site selections.
 - 1) Recommendation. Approve the following sites to host super regionals in 2027:

Super Region	Host	Facility			
One	Millersville	Pucillo Gym			
Two	Montevallo	Central State Bank Arena			
Three	Grand Valley State	GVSU Fieldhouse Arena			
Four	UIndy	Nicoson Hall			
Five	Northern State	Barnett Center			
Six	Nebraska-Kearney	UNK Health & Sports Center			

- 2) <u>Effective date</u>. Immediate.
- 3) <u>Rationale</u>. The committee believes these hosts will provide participants with an outstanding championships experience.
- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Super regional alignment.

- 1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Place two newly sponsoring institutions (University of Bridgeport and Thomas More University) into super regions as noted in the attachment.
- 2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- 3) <u>Rationale</u>. These assignments are consistent with the committee's stated priorities, including, in order: 1) balanced number of teams per region; 2) geographic proximity and financial feasibility; and 3) conference affiliation.
- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.

5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. The placements continue to maintain a balance of teams in each super region.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **1. Annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its 2024 annual meeting in April.
- **2. Championship recap.** The committee reviewed the championship recap form and noted categories in need of improvement and those categories that went well at the regional and final sites.
- **3. Governance updates.** Maritza Jones, managing director of governance and policy, and Ryan Jones, director of governance and policy, joined the meeting to review Division II priorities.
- **4. Legislation updates.** Jeremy Christoffels, assistant director of academic and membership affairs, provided an update of upcoming legislation changes.
- **5. Coaches Connection update.** The committee discussed the Coaches Connection program with Miles VanHee, Coaches Connection liaison, noting how the program enhances communication with coaches. Recommendations for the upcoming triennial budget were also discussed, and the committee noted its appreciation for the coaches' feedback on their top priority.
- **6. Championships Committee updates.** Micaela Liddane, associate director of championships and alliances, provided an update of items that the Championships Committee will be reviewing in the upcoming academic year. Budget requests for the 2027-2030 triennial cycle will be reviewed at the February 2026 meeting.
- **7. NWCA update.** The committee discussed feedback from Jackie Paquette on behalf of the coaches and received updates from the NWCA on the state of the sport.
- **8. 2025 championships review.** The committee reviewed the 2025 championships and addressed the following items:
 - **a. Schedule of events**. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and agreed that no changes are needed for next year.
 - **b. Selections, seeding and bracketing**. The committee reviewed the regional and finals site seeding procedures and made updates as needed.
 - **c. Medical checks/weigh-ins**. The committee was pleased with the skin check and weighin procedures this year.

- **d. Flo/Trackwrestling operations (scoring and video**). The committee was pleased with Flo/Trackwrestling operations at the finals.
- **e. Resilite (mats and mat brackets)/Tanita, Trackwrestling agreements**. The committee was pleased with all the providers for the championships.
- **f. Opening ceremonies/Grand March/awards ceremony/awards presenters.** The committee was pleased with the ceremonies that took place in Indianapolis.
- **g. Selection of officials/evaluation process**. The committee discussed the evaluation process and possibly eliminating the committee's evaluation of officials, as Mike McCormick, NCAA head of officials, sends evaluators throughout the season.
- **h. Lodging.** The committee discussed concerns around the hotels with regards to the distance from the venue, parking charges and lack of valet personnel.
- **i. Video/web streaming.** Staff should continue to work closely with the streaming and video review team to ensure smooth operations.
- **j. Format of each session.** The committee agreed that no changes were necessary.
- **k. Surveys.** The committee reviewed and discussed feedback from participant surveys.
- **l. Head table (announcers).** The committee is pleased with both PA announcers' performance during the past number of championships and wants to retain them for the 2026 championships.
- **m. Signage.** The committee noted that the signage made for a great championship feel for the student-athletes.
- 9. 2025 super regional review.
 - **Seeding protocol**. The committee amended the seeding procedures to include repercussion for seeding committee misconduct.
- **10. 2026 super regional alignment review.** The committee reviewed the regional alignment for 2026, noting additions of two programs including Bridgeport University and Thomas More University (see Action Item 2-b). Additionally, the committee established three primary criteria by which they evaluate regional alignment for wrestling, including, in order: 1) balanced number of teams per region; 2) geographic proximity and financial feasibility; and 3) conference affiliation.

11. Triennial budget priorities.

- **a. Increase the field by 20 student-athletes as first priority.** The committee supports adding 20 additional student-athletes (two per weight class) to the wrestling field. The sport has grown from 38 teams in 2003 to 70 teams in 2025.
- **b. Increase the field by 10 student-athletes as second priority.** The committee also supports adding 10 additional student-athletes (one per weight class) to the wrestling field. The sport has grown from 38 teams in 2003 to 70 teams in 2025.
- **c. Two-day super regional as third priority.** The committee supports making all super regionals two-day events with Session I scheduled for day of arrival and Sessions II-IV scheduled on day two. Currently the number of teams at each regional (minimum of 13) requires extended days to complete the event, and in some cases wrestlers are on site at the competition venue for 12 or more hours. The two-day event would also be consistent with the national championship format. The NCAA does not reimburse travel for super regionals, so this change would only add some operational costs.
- **d. DVSport Replay at the final site.** All three divisions use DVSport Replay at the national championships but there is not enough money in the current budget to cover the costs.

12. Future sites.

- a. The 2026 championships will be held March 13-14 at Danny Sandford PREMIER Center, hosted by Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and Sioux Falls Sports Authority in Sioux Falls.
- b. The 2027 championships will be held March 12-13 at The Alliant Powerhouse hosted by Upper Iowa and Cedar Rapids Tourism.
- **13. Manual review.** Staff asked the committee to submit revisions for the manuals, as necessary.
- **14. Criteria for additional at-large selections.** If the field increases with the triennial budget, the committee discussed considering the following metrics from TrackWrestling (not in any order) for at large selections:
 - Wins against opponents in the field at the weight class.
 - Overall win percentage.
 - Win percentage against DII opponents at the weight class.
- **15. Election of chair.** The committee approved Ryan Courtney, deputy director of athletics at Fairmont State University, to serve as chair through the 2025-26 academic year. He will replace Cy Wainwright, whose term will expire August 31, 2025.
- **16. Other business.** The tentative dates for the annual meeting in 2026 are April 27-28.

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Committee Chair: Cy Wainwright, Newberry College.

Staff Liaison(s): Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division II Wrestling Committee April 29-30, 2025, Meeting

Attendees:

Marc Bauer, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Rocky Burkett, Northern State University.

Ryan Courtney, Fairmont State University.

Brandon Crawford, Kentucky Wesleyan University.

Shawn Nelson, University of Findlay.

Cy Wainwright, Newberry College.

Absentees:

None.

Guests in Attendance:

Jackie Paquette, National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Miles VanHee, Coaches Connection Liaison.

NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:

Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Jeremy Christoffels, Leslie Havens, Martiza Jones, Ryan Jones and Micaela Liddane.

2025-26 DII Wrestling Super Region Alignment

Super Region One (Yellow on map)		Super Region Two (Blue on map)		Super Region Three (Purple on map)		Super Region Four (Orange on map)		Super Region Five (Green on map)		Super Region Six (Red on map)	
Alderson Broaddus	MEC	Allen	C.Carolinas	Ashland	GMAC	Central Mo.	MIAA	Augustana	NSIC	Adams State	RMAC
Bridgeport	CACC	Belmont Abbey	C. Carolinas	Bluefield St.	C. Carolinas	Central Okla.	MIAA	Mary	NSIC	Cal Poly Humbolt	GNAC
East Stroudsburg	PSAC	Coker	C. Carolinas	Davenport	GLVC	Drury	GLVC	Mankato	NSIC	Chadron State	RMAC
Fairmont St.	MEC	Emmanuel (GA)	C. Carolinas	Davis & Elkins	MEC	UIndy	GLVC	Moorhead	NSIC	Colorado Mesa	RMAC
Frostburg St.	MEC	King (TN)	C. Carolinas	Emory & Henry	C. Carolinas	Ky. Wesleyan	GMAC	Minot State	NSIC	Colorado Mines	RMAC
Gannon	PSAC	Lander	C. Carolinas	Findlay	GMAC	Maryville (MO)	GLVC	Northern State	NSIC	CSU-Pueblo	RMAC
Kutztown	PSAC	Lincoln Memorial	C. Carolinas	Glenville St.	MEC	McKendree	GLVC	Southwest MN	NSIC	Fort Hays State	MIAA
Millersville	PSAC	Montevallo	C. Carolinas	Grand Valley St.	Ind.	Newman	MIAA	St. Cloud St.	NSIC	Nebraska-Kearney	MIAA
Pitt-Johnstown	PSAC	Mount Olive	C. Carolinas	Lake Erie	GMAC	Ouachita Baptist	GLVC	Sioux Falls	NSIC	New Mexico Highland	s RMAC
Seton Hill	PSAC	Newberry	C. Carolinas	Salem	Ind.	Quincy	GLVC	Upper Iowa	GLVC	San Francisco State	RMAC
Shippensburg	PSAC	Shorter	C. Carolinas	Tiffin	GMAC	Thomas More	GMAC	UW-Parkside	NSIC	Simon Fraser	GNAC
Wheeling	MEC	UNC-Pembroke	C.Carolinas	West Liberty	MEC					Western State	RMAC

