



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

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- Regional Alignment.
 - a. Recommendation. That the following regional alignments be approved as presented in the attachment:
 - b. Rationale. The committee elected to place Emmanuel College (MA) to Region 1, Kean University (NJ) to Region 2, Eastern University (PA), Albright College (PA), & Arcadia University to Region 3, Bethany College to Region 4, and Lyon College to Region 5. All institutions are first year programs. In addition, Ferrum College and Fontbonne University are no longer a part of DIII Wrestling. No other institutions changed regions.
 - c. Effective date. September 1, 2025.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. Alignment changes will balance championship access to the championship and along with competitiveness among regions.
- **2025 regional site selection.**
 - 1. Recommendation. That Loras College host the Region VI regional tournament.
 - 2. Effective date. September 1, 2025.
 - 3. Rationale. The Division III Wrestling Committee recommended and voted unanimously to support the proposed regional host. The sites were reviewed to ensure adherence to equipment requirements and bid specifications. Loras college hosted in 2022
 - 4. Estimated budget impact. Loras College has proposed \$18,375 in expenses and \$12,500 in receipts.

5. Student-athlete impact. Regional site will be secured, and coaches and student-athletes will know where their regional will be hosted and will be able to prepare better knowing the location in advance.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report from the 2024 annual meeting as submitted.
2. **Governance update.** Staff updated the committee on gambling on campus and it's education, federated playing rules, championship enhancements, the emergence of women's flag football as an NCAA championship, and student-athlete mental health updates.
3. **NWCA Updates.** Jackie Paquette joined the committee to discuss updates, including bracketing and seeding practices and scheduling. The committee voted to consider adjusting the number of points to challenge depending on the numbers of teams competing in a regional but later rescinded the vote.
4. **Future sites and bid specifications.** The committee discussed the upcoming championship bid cycle along. The new bid cycle will include 2028-29 through 2029-30 academic years. The 2026 championships will be held March 13-14 in Cedar Rapids, IA. Regional sites remain open for potential hosts to submit bids. The committee will convene over the summer to award regional bids submitted.
5. **Selection Criteria.** The committee discussed the selection criteria and how it should be measured when preseeded/ranking wrestlers to assist regional coaches prioritize importance, but no changes were recommended.
6. **Regionals.**
 - a. **Bracket size (16 vs. 32).** The committee deliberated the 16 pigtail vs. 32 bracket formats. The committee elected to use the 32-wrestler bracket for regions with 17 or more teams, and the 16-wrestler bracket with pigtails for regions with 16 teams or fewer.
 - b. **Seeding meeting.** The committee clarified regional seeding meeting confusion by defining updating regional seeding documents, including defining seeding protocol to better help regional coaches conduct seeding meetings at regional sites.
 - c. **Video Review.** The committee asked that only mat side review be used at regionals and that regional tournament directors use identical procedures.

- d. **Regional tournament philosophy.** The committee discussed conducting uniform regional tournaments, specifically, all regionals will start at 10 a.m. local time on day one and day two. With that, regional tournaments will not use independent reviewers and only on mat officials shall review rule challenges. The number of mats shall be 4 or 6, based on host preference.

7. **Championship.**

- a. **Pre-seeding.** The committee elected to seed 11 and rank 12 student athletes during the national championship pre-seed meeting with the pre-seed committee. The ten unseeded wrestlers will have 1st round matches. The winners of those matches will feed into the round of 16. The committee would like to release preseed on Sunday following preseeding call.
 - b. **Championship Host.** Host Johnson & Wales University tournament staff joined the call to report on the success of the championship. Main talking points centered around improving check in, mat shutdown, venue times, more practice mats and better fan enforcement.
 - c. **Opening ceremonies.** The committee discussed the timing of opening ceremonies and how it affects warmup timing for the opening round of student-athletes competing in the first session during the championships. The group agreed it was important to recognize all competitors representing their institutions and will continue to present the slide deck introducing participants.
 - d. **Trackwrestling.** The committee met with the staff of timing partner Trackwrestling. Because Trackwrestling draws the championship brackets, the committee would like to see a greater effort with timeliness and proofreading when brackets are drawn after national preseeding. Staff and committee subcommittee will meet with Trackwrestling to develop expectations.
8. **Committee chair.** The committee recommended that Anthony Bonaventura, head wrestling coach at Stevens Institution of Technology, be reelected as chair of the committee for 2025-26.
9. **Annual meeting dates.** The committee discussed April 21-22, 2026. Staff will work to match meeting dates to fit in with joint Divisions I, II and III meetings.

Committee Chair: Anthony Bonaventura, Stevens Institute of Technology.
Staff Liaison: J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Wrestling Committee April 29-30, 2025, Meeting.	
Attendees:	
Anthony Bonaventura, Stevens Institute of Technology.	
Ron Beachler, Ohio Northern University.	
Hannah Halverson, American Rivers Conference.	
Josh Hardman, Manchester University.	
Jason McLean, Muhlenberg College (Videoconference).	
Scott Legacy, Castleton University.	
Tony Valek, Augsburg University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Shane Benitz, Trackwrestling (Videoconference).	
Eve Duncan, Trackwrestling (Videoconference).	
Dana Garfield, Johnson & Wales University (Videoconference).	
Kathy Kavanagh, Johnson & Wales University (Videoconference).	
Lonnie Morris, Johnson & Wales University (Videoconference).	
Jackie Pacquette, NWCA (Videoconference).	
Travis Peter, Trackwrestling (Videoconference).	
Matt Shannon, Trackwrestling (Videoconference).	
Johnathan Walker, Rhode Island Sports Commission, Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau (Videoconference).	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
CJ Soward, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Bill Regan, Division III Governance.	