



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S WRESTLING COMMITTEE
APRIL 14-15, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Regional pre-seed committee.** The committee elected to have a regional pre-seed committee due to the inconsistent preparation by the participating coaches. The pre-seed committee will be composed of 11 members based on the team results from the previous season's regional tournaments. The institutions will carry the position on the pre-seed committee, and the active head coach shall be the representative. There is no opting out of the obligation. If a team placed in the top 11 and the committee moves the institution to another region for the following year, they will retain their voting privileges for the next year in their new region.
- 2. Regional and national championships seeding criteria.** The committee voted to tier the seeding criteria. Consideration for seeding wrestlers is given, in order, by: Tier 1 – head-to-head competition and common opponents; and Tier 2 – a contestant's in-season results on an individual record form (NOT winning percentage) – evaluation, and NCAA championship All-Americans from any previous year(s).
- 3. Seeding procedures.** The committee voted to adjust the points differential to eight points to be able to challenge a wrestler's regional seed. The point differential for the national championships was not changed.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Regional alignment.

- (1) Recommendation. The committee recommends moving New York University and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy into Region II, move Shenandoah University and place Chatham College (Pennsylvania) into Region III, move Case Western Reserve University and place Lynchburg University (Virginia) into Region IV, move Westminster College and place Wittenberg University into Region V, move Illinois Wesleyan University into Region VII and remove New Jersey City University from the regional list due to the school's closure.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. The committee placed and moved institutions based on geographic proximity to their respective region, considering balancing championship access based on the number of institutions in a region, competitive balance, as well as conference affiliation.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Alignment changes will balance championship access to the championship and competitiveness among the regions.

b. Approve 2027 NCAA Men's Wrestling Regional hosted by Wabash College.

(1) Recommendation. The committee recommended that Wabash College host Region V tournament.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The Division III Men's Wrestling Committee recommended and voted unanimously to support the proposed regional host. Sites were reviewed to ensure adherence to equipment requirements and bid specifications. Wabash College hosted in 2025 and was solicited to submit a bid by a member from their region.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Wabash College has proposed \$14,600 in expenses and \$6,175 in receipts.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The regional site will be secured, and coaches and student-athletes will know where their regional will be conducted and will be able to prepare in advance.

c. Approve 2027 NCAA Men's Wrestling Regional hosted by Loras College.

(1) Recommendation. The committee recommended that Loras College host the Region VI tournament.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The Division III Men's Wrestling Committee recommended and voted unanimously to support the proposed regional host. Sites were reviewed to ensure adherence to equipment requirements and bid specifications. Loras College hosted in 2022 and 2026.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Loras College has proposed \$17,310 in expenses and \$19,325 in receipts.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The regional site will be secured, and coaches and student-athletes will know where their regional will be conducted and will be able to prepare in advance.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of meeting agenda and schedule.** The committee began the meeting by reviewing the agenda and meeting schedule.
- 2. Approval of the 2025 annual meeting report.** The committee voted to approve the 2025 annual meeting report with one edit to section 7.a, noting the committee elected to rank 13 student-athletes.
- 3. 2027 regional bids.** The committee reviewed submitted regional bids for the 2027 championships.
- 4. Officials.** The committee discussed adding independent reviewers for future regionals.
- 5. Review of regional alignment.** The committee reviewed regional alignment, basing decisions on location in relation to region institutions, number of institutions in a region and balancing regional strength.
- 6. Bracket format for national championships.** The committee discussed potential changes to the national championships brackets and reaffirmed their decision to use the 32-wrestler bracket and continuing to seed 11 wrestlers per weight class.
- 7. NWCA updates.** Jackie Paquette joined the committee to discuss updates, including bracketing and seeding practices and scheduling.
- 8. Championships financials.** The committee requested that three-year averages for ticket sales and expenditure averages be communicated to the membership to support the submission of bids.
- 9. 2026 championships review.** The committee met with the American Rivers Conference to discuss the 2026 championships. The committee voted to announce the statistical season awards the week following the championships.
- 10. Schedule of events.** Changes to the bracketing release timeline received positive feedback from the membership. The committee discussed ways to improve attendance of the media day press conference.
- 11. Surveys.** The committee reviewed the survey responses and compared them to the 2025 championships written responses and discussed ways to improve the student-athlete experience for the future.
- 12. 2026 regionals review.** The committee discussed moving the start time for regionals and the championships to a later time but no motion made to change from the current schedule.

- 13. Rules update.** The NCAA secretary-rules editor and NCAA Men's Wrestling Rules Committee liaison updated the committee regarding topics for the upcoming rules committee meeting and rules survey.
- 14. Regionals pre-seed committee.** The committee elected to have a regional pre-seeding committee. The regional pre-seed committee will be composed of 11 members based on the team results from the previous season's regional tournaments. The institutions will carry the position for the pre-seed committee, and the active head coach shall be the representative. There is no opting out of the obligation. In the event a team places in the top 11 and the committee moves the institution to another region for the following year, they will retain their seeding privileges for the next year in their new region.
- 15. Regional and national championships seeding criteria.** The committee voted to tier the seeding criteria. Consideration for seeding wrestlers is given, in order, by: Tier 1 – head-to-head competition and common opponents; and (Tier 2) – a contestant's in-season results on an individual record form (NOT winning percentage) – evaluation, and NCAA championship All-Americans from any previous year(s).
- 16. Seeding procedures.** The committee voted to adjust the points differential to 8 points to be able to challenge a wrestler's regional seed. The point differential for the national championships was not changed.
- 17. Governance and member services and Championships Committee Updates.** NCAA staff from governance and member services and the Division III Championships Committee liaison updated the men's wrestling committee on budget requests, Division III governance priorities and legislative proposals.
- 18. Manuals.** The committee discussed a review of the committee operations, prechampionships, host operations and site representative manuals before the 2026-27 academic year.
- 19. Committee chair.** The committee recommended Hannah Halverson, deputy commissioner at the American Rivers Conference, to serve as the chair for 2026-27

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

Division III Men's Wrestling Committee April 14-15, 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 University (Videoconference).
	Scott Legacy, Vermont State University Castleton.
	Tony Valek, Augsburg University.
Absentees:	
	None.
Guests in Attendance:	
	Jimmy Chung, Eve Duncan, Jackie Paquette, Matthew Shannon, Dick Simmons, Marie Stroman, Ali Wilson.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
	J.P. Williams.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
	Malik Henry, Connor Lancashire, Jeff Meyers, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Bill Regan, CJ Sowards.