



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S WRESTLING COMMITTEE
MARCH 23-24, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Playing Rules Book, Secretary-Rules Editor, National Coordinator of Officials additions.**
 - a. **Recommendation.** The National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Oversight Committee recommends adding an NCAA women's wrestling playing rules book, secretary-rules editor, and the formation of a rules committee.
 - b. **Effective date.** January 1, 2027.
 - c. **Rational.** With Division III Women's Wrestling coming on board in 2028, it is important the sport has its own playing rules book along with a formation of a playing rules committee. Currently an outside group (made up of various women's wrestling stakeholders) updates the playing rules book and the NCAA committee can make modification. The group has expressed interest in not continuing with the updating of the book for much longer as their initial intentions were to do until it became an NCAA sanctioned championship. The committee agreed this is a great time to take this in house. By taking this on, that also means the sport will need to reclassify the current rules interpreter role to a secretary rules editor (SRE) along with going from a national assignor to national coordinator of officials to be consistent with other sports in which the NCAA writes rules. The formation of a rules committee would need to be developed keeping in mind the Division III championship may have their own playing rules committee members.
 - d. **Estimated budget impact.** Increase costs associated with elevating the current rules interpreter to a secretary-rules editor (from \$7,500 to \$25,000) which also includes a weight management assignment of another \$10,000 along with elevating the national assignor to a national coordinator of officials (from \$7,500 to \$20,000).
 - e. **Student-athlete impact.** Student-athletes will benefit from this recommendation by receiving enhanced training and education for officials along with providing a better process for playing rules.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **Foreign tour discussion.** In preparation for the Cabinet's April 14-15 review of Proposal No. 2026-8 (Playing and Practice Seasons – Foreign Tour – Time Lapse Between Tours – Basketball – Once per Year), which would eliminate the once-in-four years timing limitation and permit an institution to take a foreign tour once per year, the committee discussed whether the proposal should apply to women's wrestling. The committee supports the proposal applying to women's wrestling and emphasized the importance of ensuring

consistency across sports.

- 2. Regional review.** The oversight committee reviewed the past year's regional daily schedule and would like to continue having standardized schedules across each region noting that if there were any special circumstances the committee would review those on a case-by-case basis. The committee confirmed continuing to allow for flexibility on the dates for the two-day regional format to be either Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday (keeping in mind if the respective regional has a no Sunday play institution).

The committee reviewed each of the regional sites and will look to make adjustments or provide reminders to all future regionals.

The committee reviewed a situation in one of the regions where a parent was able to get access close to the mats and confront an official. The parent was immediately escorted from the facility, which the committee felt was handled appropriately. Staff will work with each regional site to restrict access to the mat side.

Regional streaming was reported as being good. The committee would like to make sure communication is enhanced between FloWrestling and TrackWrestling on who does what as there was some minor confusion at some sites.

- 3. 2026 Championships review.** The committee reviewed the surveys submitted and noted any adjustments that need to be made. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and overall, it was very good. Slight adjustments will be made to the Wednesday night practices as not many teams registered in the later portion. The committee felt that the adjustment to move the weigh-ins to the main arena was good and should continue as it helps keep coaches out of the area and provides a great atmosphere for the student-athletes.

The committee reviewed comments made about the hardness of the mats and would like staff to explore using the same kind of mats as men's (classis) versus the flexi roll.

The committee enjoyed the virtual grand march and would like to see it continue. The committee would like to make sure an escort is with each champion as they head to post-match press conferences to make sure they get to the awards ceremony on time. The committee likes having the championship coach for that weight class hand out the awards but to have committee members ready in case they are needed to fill in.

The committee reviewed early information on hotels and would like to see more rooms available for Wednesday night. Otherwise, the hotels were great.

The committee would like to make sure the head official is not the national assignor as these should be two different people. The national assignor will strictly be for onsite leadership and evaluations. The committee would like to explore best placement for the video review group within the arena.

- 4. Championships and qualification structure review.** With sport sponsorship due later in the summer the committee will have staff put together initial updates and look to finalize in the summertime.

The committee would like to add to the seeding criteria, much like Division II and Division III have, and list "Previous year's NCAA All-American" to the listing along with adding in that "only respective regional representatives may challenge for their regions" during the finals seeding meeting.

The committee would like to add in, much like Division II and Division III, a bracket redraw policy for regional competition only. Staff will work on that and input it into the materials. This will allow the tournament committee to redraw the bracket should there be any missed weight, failed skin checks, injuries, etc.

The committee was pleased with the reveal show and would like to continue if possible.

- 5. Playing rules review.** With the Division III Women's Wrestling Championships starting up in 2028, the committee formally recommended adding an NCAA rules book, secretary-rules editor and national coordinator of officials. (See Action Item above.) The committee would still be the rules making group but would look at a format where a subcommittee would work on the playing rules updates and bring those back to the regular committee. Staff will begin to work with internal leadership on the steps to implement as there will be budget impact on elevating the current Rules Interpreter and National Assignor up to Secretary Rules Editor and National Coordinator of Officials, respectively. It is anticipated however that the funding for these increases will be realized in the current budget, especially when Division III begins its own championship.
- 6. Officiating review.** The national assigner provided a review of the championships and provided feedback for improvements.
- 7. 2027 regional bid specifications review.** The committee reviewed the process for soliciting for the 2027 regional bids. They would like to have staff initiate this in mid-April with the deadline to submit being June 3 with the hope of announcing the sites at the coaches association meeting in late July.
- 8. Division III championship update.** Staff provided an update on the solicitation for a new Division III-specific committee. Once the committee is formed, they will start to work out the details of the Division III-specific championships.

Committee Chair: Oscar Ramirez, Rutgers, Colorado Mesa University; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

Staff Liaisons: Jejuan Bowser, Governance and Member Services

Sara Thurber, Governance and Member Services
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances
Jerry Vaughn, Governance and Member Services

NCAA Women's Wrestling Committee March 23-24, 2026, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Clarissa Chun, University of Iowa; Big Ten Conference.	
Lisa Goddard McGuirk, Fort Hays State University; Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association	
Cody Griswold, Elmira College; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Mark Hawald, John Carrol University; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Jeff McGinness, Simpson College; American Rivers Conference.	
Oscar Ramirez, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Sammy Julian, NCAA Officials Assignor.	
Jackie Paquette, NCAA Rules Editor and NWCA.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jejuan Bowser and Ryan Tressel.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:	
Ashlee Follis, Leslie Havens and Autumn Monaghan.	