



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
JULY 7-9, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Guest speakers.** The NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee welcomed several guest speakers from the NCAA national office staff and external stakeholders.
 - Michelle Bartelson, Federal Bureau of Investigation, special agent.
 - Lydia Bell, NCAA, managing director of research.
 - Dawn Buth, NCAA, managing director in the office of government relations.
 - Audrey Capannari, NCAA, assistant director of Division I governance and member services.
 - Brian Higgins, NCAA, chief of staff.
 - Leilyn Miles, NCAA, associate director of legal affairs.
 - Greg Pottorff, NCAA, vice president of legal affairs.
 - Tim O'Malley, FBI, special agent in charge of the Indianapolis field office.
 - Carey Wheelhouse, NCAA, director of health promotion, Sports Science Institute.
 - Janell Zimmer, NCAA, director of business performance.
2. **NCAA national office updates.** The committee received updates from NCAA staff on the current state of Division I, including updates on NCAA Transfer Portal resources, congressional engagement related to the Protect College Sports Act, the current legal landscape and the review of legislation for decentralization and deregulation.
3. **Legislative updates.** The committee received an update on recently adopted legislation as well as a current legislative proposal ([NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-45](#)) that would provide the Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee with specific legislative authority to introduce proposals. Additionally, the group discussed a policy recommendation from the NCAA Division I Cabinet Legislative Processes Subgroup that would require student-athlete attendance for legislative action. The committee offered feedback on how these concepts could be implemented effectively to increase student-athlete voice and representation.

4. **Student-athlete mental wellness discussion.** The committee participated in a feedback session with the NCAA Sports Science Institute and research staff to share perspectives on student-athlete mental wellness in the current collegiate environment.
5. **NCAA research surveys update.** The committee received an update on recent NCAA surveys including the Student-Athlete Needs, Aspirations and Perspectives (SNAP) Study. The committee shared feedback regarding the reach and effectiveness of these surveys.
6. **NCAA student-athlete committee service.** The committee gave feedback on their experiences of serving on governance and sport oversight committees and recommended strategies to increase awareness of these opportunities among Division I student-athletes.
7. **Election of the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee executive team.** The committee elected three individuals to serve on the Executive Team for the upcoming year. The new executive team will be Diego Diaz (chair), Abby Lynch (co-vice chair) and Caemon Scott (co-vice chair).
8. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee subcommittee breakout.** Division I SAAC subcommittees discussed priorities and action items to support the committee's initiatives in the coming months.
9. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee conference updates.** The committee received reports from each Division I conference representative outlining current initiatives and other notable highlights.
10. **Approval of the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee, January 14-16, 2026, meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its January 14-16 in-person meeting.
11. **Future meeting dates.**
 - Videoconference, 8 to 9:30 p.m. ET, Sunday, August 2.

<i>Committee Chair:</i>	<i>Meredith Page, Big South Conference</i>
<i>Committee Vice Chair(s):</i>	<i>Scott McKenzie, Ad hoc member</i> <i>Braedon Pratt, Big East Conference</i>
<i>Staff Liaisons:</i>	<i>Haydyn Makins, NCAA Governance and Member Services</i> <i>Shelby Sonnefeldt, NCAA Governance and Member Services</i> <i>Asia Thompson, NCAA Championships</i> <i>Quintin Wright, NCAA Governance and Member Services</i>

NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee July 7-9, 2026, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Amaya Andrews, Jackson State University; Southwestern Athletic Conference.	
Brendan Belz, University of Utah; Big 12 Conference.	
Kadence Berry, Lindenwood University; Ohio Valley Conference (alternate).	
Sara Bower, University of Akron; Mid-American Conference.	
Aubrey Brown, Southern Methodist University; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Kyla Bruhn, University of California at San Diego; Big West Conference.	
Grace Clark, Eastern Kentucky University; United Athletic Conference.	
Ally Cordes, Samford University; Southern Conference.	
Rhiannon Davies, Eastern Washington University; Big Sky Conference.	
Devyn Demchak, Drexel University; Coastal Athletic Association.	
Diego Diaz, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus; Northeast Conference.	
Riley Donahue, University of Maryland Baltimore County; America East Conference.	
Barry Evans, University of Alabama; Southeastern Conference.	
Cassidy Garcia, Loyola University, Maryland; Patriot League.	
Clay Green, North Carolina Central University; Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference.	
Jasmine Harris, University of Nevada, Reno; Mountain West Conference.	
Reid Headrick, University of San Francisco; West Coast Conference (alternate).	
Daniella Henderson, Yale University; The Ivy League.	
Daniel Jekov, Saint Louis University; Atlantic 10 Conference.	
Rebecca Kim, Oregon State University; Pac-12 Conference (alternate).	
Abby Lynch, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Big Ten Conference.	
Andrew Marelo, University of South Florida; American Conference (alternate).	
Jahi McDonald, Wright State University; Horizon League.	
Quinn Millerd, Drake University; Missouri Valley Conference.	
Emily Moon, Lamar University; Southland Conference.	
Meredith Page, Radford University; Big South Conference.	
Jaylen Phillips, Sam Houston State University; Conference USA.	
Braeden Pratt, St. John's University, New York; Big East Conference.	
Caemon Scott, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Sun Belt Conference.	
Jaylyn Simon, Iona University; Metro Conference.	
Matthew Carson Sorbe, University of South Dakota; The Summit League.	
Brady Yingst, Lipscomb University; Atlantic Sun Conference.	
Ad Hoc Representatives:	
Scott McKenzie and Betsey Walkowiak.	

Absentees:
Elizabeth Galvin, Eastern Illinois University; Ohio Valley Conference.
Joy Graziano, University of North Texas; American Conference.
Eloise McGibben, University of San Diego; West Coast Conference.
Jennifer McMillan, Oregon State University; Pac-12 Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Michelle Bartelson, Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Tim O'Malley, Federal Bureau of Investigation.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Haydyn Makins, Shelby Sonnefeldt, Asia Thompson and Quintin Wright.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Lydia Bell, Keisha Burnette, Dawn Buth, Audrey Capannari, Claire Cummings, Judy Delp, Matthew Dennis, Alicia Fine, Peyton Frisby, Kelsey Gurganis-Wright, Brian Higgins, Leilyn Miles, Breanna Oakey, Kaylen Overway, Greg Pottorff, Kenndi Rutherford, Jake Serra, Angela Tressel, Carey Wheelhouse and Janell Zimmer.