



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I STRATEGIC VISION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 31, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Action Items.

a. Institutions Reclassifying from Division II or Division III to Division I Refund Schedule

- 1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division I Council introduce legislation into the June legislative cycle to amend NCAA Bylaw 20.6.3.2 (application fee) to specify that: (1) If an institution reclassifying from Division II to Division I withdraws from the reclassification process, the application fee shall be refunded to the institution on a prorated basis -- 50 percent through year one, 30 percent through year two and no refund thereafter; and (2) If an institution reclassifying from Division III to Division I withdraws from the reclassification process, the application fee shall be refunded to the institution on a prorated basis -- 75 percent through year one, 50 percent through year two, 30 percent through year three and no refund thereafter.
- 2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.
- 3) Rationale. In January, the Division I Council adopted legislation to revise the reclassification processes to establish a three-year process for an institution seeking to reclassify membership from Division II to Division I and a four-year process for an institution seeking to reclassify membership from Division III to Division I. This recommendation aligns with the newly adopted length of the reclassification periods.
- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Committees – Association-Wide Committees – Honors Committee – Name, Composition and Duties – Woman of the Year Award.

- 1) Recommendation. That the Division I Council introduce legislation into the June legislative cycle to modify the name, composition and duties of the NCAA Honors Committee, as follows: (a) Rename the Honors Committee to the Awards Committee; (b) Increase the composition of the committee from nine to 10 members specifying that one position shall be allocated for a former student-athlete who was a Woman of the Year nominee and to replace the position allocated for a current or former chancellor or president from a member institution with a senior-level athletics administrator at a member institution or conference; and (3) Expand the duties of the

committee to include oversight, management and selection of the Woman of the Year Award.

- 2) Effective Date. August 1, 2025.
- 3) Rationale. Currently, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics oversees, manages, and selects the Woman of the Year Award. In January 2025, the three divisions adopted legislation to consolidate the four existing DEI committees/task force (including the Committee on Women's Athletics) into one comprehensive committee. The duties of the new committee do not include oversight of the Woman of the Year Award. Instead, it was agreed that the Honors Committee would best manage the Woman of the Year Award to increase consistency with the administration of other awards, such as the NCAA Gerald R. Ford Award and the Pat Summit Award. Further, the staff that supports the Honors Committee is well-versed on the Woman of the Year Award and will streamline support. In addition, amending the committee's composition by adding a former student-athlete who was a Woman of the Year nominee will provide valuable insight and input when evaluating nominations. The committee also noted that its work requires a significant time commitment making it difficult to attract and retain presidents or chancellors. Allocating one position to a senior-level athletics administrator from a school or conference will provide the committee with the experience and perspective of a senior campus or conference leader. Finally, renaming the Honors Committee to the Awards Committee reflects the work of the committee.
- 4) Estimated Budget Impact. Costs associated with one additional committee member to attend the awards presentation at the NCAA Convention.
- 5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

c. Emerging Sports for Women – Women's Flag Football.

- 1) Recommendation. That the Division I Council introduce legislation into the June legislative cycle to add women's flag football as an emerging sport for women and establish legislation related to athletics personnel, amateurism, recruiting, financial aid, playing and practice seasons and membership, as specified.
- 2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- 3) Rationale. The continued growth in high school girl's flag football and the number of collegiate institutions sponsoring the sport demonstrate the rapid

growth of the sport and its potential to reach NCAA championship status at the collegiate level. Enough women's flag football teams met the prescribed guidelines of the Emerging Sports for Women Program application to demonstrate significant interest and sustainability within college. Additionally, the sport is relatively inexpensive to sponsor and attracts additional demographics of potential student-athletes. In addition, there is a shared commitment at the collegiate level to increase participation opportunities from institutions and conferences, as well as funding and resources from national governing bodies to further support the sport's growth. Finally, the immediate effective date will allow schools that sponsor the sport in the 2026 spring championship season to count towards the requirement of 40 institutions to establish a national collegiate championship in a women's sport.

- 4) Estimated Budget Impact. Will vary based on institutional decisions related to sponsorship.
- 5) Student-Athlete Impact. This recommended legislation will grow meaningful intercollegiate sport participation opportunities for female student-athletes.

2. Nonlegislative Action Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of the January 14, 2025, Report of the NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee.** The committee reviewed and approved the report of its January 14 in-person meeting.
2. **Membership Issues.**
 - a. **Membership Landscape.** The committee received an update on recent membership movement, other relevant issues and an update on institutions currently in the reclassifying process. Further, the committee received an update confirming the following institutions entrance into the newly adopted reclassification process: East Texas A&M University, Lindenwood University, Queens University, Stonehill College, University of Southern Indiana, and the University of St. Thomas.
 - b. **Reclassification Applications and Annual Report Teams.** The committee reviewed proposed individual and team assignments in preparation of the receipt of reclassification applications and annual reports.

3. Committee Reports. The committee reviewed the following reports:

- a. Honors Committee February report.
- b. Committee on Women's Athletics February meeting report.
- c. NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports December report.
- d. NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee February report.
- e. NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee February report.

4. Review of Future Meeting Schedule.

- June 16 (1 to 5 p.m. Eastern time) and June 17 (noon to 4 p.m. Eastern time); videoconference.

Committee Chair: Tim Coffey, Longwood University
Staff Liaisons: Troy Arthur, Academic and Membership Affairs
Geoff Bentzel, Division I Governance
Jenn Samble, Academic and Membership Affairs
Angela Tressel, Academic and Membership Affairs
Jerry Vaughn, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee March 31, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Nicole Arrighi, Tennessee State University.	
Tim Coffey, Longwood University.	
John Currie, Wake Forest University.	
Quinn Millerd, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Jennifer Phillips, James Madison University.	
Kristin Williams, Mid-American Conference.	
Absentees:	
Jason Cable, Alabama State University.	
Robin Harris, The Ivy League.	
Lisa Liotta, Canisius University.	
Jennifer Strawley, Elon University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Troy Arthur, Geoff Bentzel, Angela Tressel, and Jerry Vaughn.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	